



MARATHON COUNTY RULES REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date & Time of Meeting: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 8:00 a.m.

Meeting Location: Courthouse Assembly Room, B-105, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI or WebEx

Committee Members Present: Kurt Gibbs (Temporary Chair), David Baker, Chris Dickinson, Kody Hart, Jacob Langenhahn, John Robinson, Rick Seefeldt.

Supporting Staff present: Lance Leonhard, Dejan Adzic, Kim Trueblood, Toshia Ranallo

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Gibbs called the meeting to order at 8am.

2. Public Comment (not to exceed 15 minutes) - None

3. Approval of the Minutes of the September 26, 2023 Rules Review Committee Meeting

MOTION BY SEEFELDT; SECOND BY ROBINSON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRINTED. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Topics for Discussion and Possible Action

A. Discussion on Recording and Televising Meetings

Discussion/Comments

- Public Access can upload meeting recordings to the County's YouTube Channel for \$30 per hour; Estimated cost of \$3,600 a year.
- Suggestion to send recordings to County Clerk to upload instead of using a third party.
- Need to create a policy for recordings uploaded to YouTube channel.
- YouTube channel has no retention period issues, but searchability might be a challenge for public records requests.
- Noted: Public records only include existing records, not creating new ones for fulfilling a request.
- Mention of Lakeview Conference Center having Webex capabilities.
- Consideration of which meetings should be recorded, possibly those listed in the ordinance.
- The initial request for recording was related to NCHC meetings.
- Suggestion not to require subcommittee meetings to be recorded, but request NCHC to record their meetings.
- General support for recording meetings for transparency.

Challenges Identified:

- Potential transition from Webex to other virtual platforms and ensuring meeting locations have the necessary capabilities.
- Some Task Forces/Committees/Boards etc. lack the capabilities to record meetings despite being partnering members. Ex. AirPort and Solid Waste Boards.
- Acknowledgment that recording all meetings adds to the workload for the Records Custodian and staff.
- No control over outside entities or the use of different recording platforms. Ex. NCHC
- Concern that other meetings may gain more interest and they were not chosen to record meetings.
- Some members do not see the value in recording all meetings. Example: (BOR) Board of Review meeting.
- Disagreement on whether to record meetings; some believe it's a government responsibility to be as transparent as possible.
- The need for consistency, either record all meetings or none.
- Acknowledgment that there are unaddressed challenges.

**** The Rules Review recommendation advises maintaining the existing structure, which entails recording solely the meetings of Standing Committees, although it did not receive unanimous support.**

B. County Board Meeting Time (12 survey responses received)

Discussion/Comments:

- City, Town, Board Supervisor(s) have other meeting conflicts with switching to 6pm
- 6 Supervisors in favor to move to 6pm; other respondents indicated keeping it the same

****Recommend leave it at 7pm and continue to debate at the Organizational meeting in April.**

C. Combine the Educational and Voter Meeting

Discussion/Comments:

- Favoring keeping meetings separate to allow supervisors time for research between them.
- Recognition of critical areas within the current structure, particularly the importance of educational presentations for the benefit of the board.

**** Recommend no changes.**

D. Virtual for Educational/ and In-person for voters meeting 5/2 at last meeting

Discussion/Comments:

- Increased Webex engagement during winter
- Support for virtual voter meeting attendance
- Support for in-person Standing Committee meeting attendance
- Concerns about travel hindering in-person attendance, but valuing virtual for business-related travel
- Apprehensions about public perception with virtual majority
- Addressing technological challenges, including the mention of the Open Meeting App, and past issues with incorrect agenda notices
- Acknowledgment of the current virtual norm as an expected option
- Strong emphasis on fostering in-person participation

****Recommendation: 5/2 virtual for educational and standing committee meetings, in-person for voter meetings, not unanimous.**

E. Guidelines and Expectations of the Chair

Discussion/Comments:

- Office hours should be voluntary
- History: Past Chairs were not accessible to staff, staff perspective values regular Chair presence
- Elected position, suggesting some distance from staff; not an employee role
- Suggest using phone calls for efficiency instead of in-person hours
- Chair's role has more responsibility, mandatory office hours might deter Chair candidates
- Higher salary expectations for the Chair due to increased responsibilities
- History on salary research compared to other county boards in the state
- Any changes in responsibilities should adjust the salary accordingly
- Should the Executive Committee discuss these responsibilities?
- Challenge: New members understanding statutory and meeting requirements
- Suggest Rules Review Committee define the Chair Guidelines, with Executive Committee review and County Board approval
- Chair expectations should be added to the Rules
- Guidelines and expectations are not a Chair requirement.

****Recommendations below:**

- 1) Change the word "Lobby" to "Advocate"
- 2) Recommend striking: 1. F) "Be accessible to Supervisors and Department Heads. (Hold regular office hours at Courthouse to facilitate face-to-face discussions)"
- 3) Add "or designee" to 2) 6. In Chair Recommendations document; Add "or designee" in Chapter 2 (6)(o)

F. Should the County Board Chair serve as the Chair of the NCHC Board?

Discussion/Comments:

- NCHC Board elects its own Chair

****Recommendation: No changes needed.**

5. Adjournment

MOTION BY DICKINSIN; SECOND BY LANGENHAHN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:36AM. MOTION CARRIED.

***Marathon County Code of Ordinances can be found online at the link below:**

https://www.municode.com/library/wi/marathon_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeld=12551