



# MARATHON COUNTY EXTENSION, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

Date & Time of Meeting: **Thursday, April 6, 2023, at 3:00pm**

Meeting Location: **Courthouse Assembly Room, Courthouse, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI 54403**

Committee Members: Rick Seefeldt, Chair; Becky Buch, Vice-Chair; Bobby Niemeyer, Crystal Bushman  
Kim Ungerer, David Baker, Tom Rosenberg

**Marathon County Mission Statement:** Marathon County Government serves people by leading, coordinating, and providing county, regional, and statewide initiatives. It directly or in cooperation with other public and private partners provides services and creates opportunities that make Marathon County and the surrounding area a preferred place to live, work, visit, and do business. (Last updated: 12-20-05)

**Committee Mission Statement:** Provide the leadership for implementation of the Strategic Plan, monitoring outcomes, reviewing, and recommending to the County Board all policies related to educational and economic development initiatives of Marathon County.

Persons wishing to attend the meeting by phone may call into the **telephone conference beginning five (5) minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following number:**

**Phone#: 1-408-418-9388      Access Code: 146 235 4571**

When you enter the telephone conference, **PLEASE PUT YOUR PHONE ON MUTE!**

The meeting will also be broadcasted on Public Access or at <https://tinyurl.com/MarathonCountyBoard>

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Public Comment (15 Minutes)** (Any person who wishes to address the committee during the "Public Comment" portion of the meetings, must provide his or her name, address, and the topic he or she wishes to present to the Marathon County Clerk, or chair of the committee, no later the five minutes before the start of the meeting. All comments must be germane to the jurisdiction of the committee.)
4. **Approval of the March 2, 2023, Extension, Education and Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes**
5. **Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination**
6. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance, Resolution, or Policy**
7. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**
  - A. National Science Foundation (NSF) ReTool Project Grant
  - B. 4H Volunteer Appreciation Week April 16- 22, 2023
  - C. MCDEVCO'S Monthly Report
  - D. Library Monthly Report
  - E. UW-Extension Monthly Report
  - F. UWSP-Wausau Report
8. **Next Meeting Date & Time, Announcements and Future Agenda Items**
  - A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion.
  - B. Next meeting: Thursday, May 4, 2023, at 3:00pm
9. **Adjournment**

\*Any Person planning to attend this meeting who needs some type of special accommodation in order to participate should call the County Clerk's Office at 261.1500 or email [countyclerk@co.marathon.wi.us](mailto:countyclerk@co.marathon.wi.us) one business day before the meeting.

**SIGNED** \_\_\_\_\_ s/s Rick Seefeldt  
Presiding Officer or Designee

EMAILED TO: Wausau Daily Herald, City Pages, and other Media Groups

EMAILED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE & TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTICE POSTED AT THE COURTHOUSE**

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE & TIME: \_\_\_\_\_



# MARATHON COUNTY EXTENSION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA WITH MINUTES

Date & Time of Meeting: **Thursday, March 2, 2023 Day, 2023 at 3:00pm**

Meeting Location: **Courthouse Assembly Room, Courthouse, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI 54403**

Rick Seefeldt	Present
Becky Buch	Present (W)
David Baker	Present (W)
Bobby Niemeyer	Present
Tom Rosenberg	Present
Kim Ungerer	Present
Crystal Bushman	Present (W)

Staff Present: Lance Leonhard, Chris Holman, Mike Pruener, Kurt Gibbs (3:50 pm), Kelley Blume, Laura Scudiere, Jeremy Solin, Leah Giordano, Dr. Ozalle Toms, Aaron Ruff

Others Present: Supervisor Robinson, Kimm Weber, Kelly Borchardt, Elsa Duranceau

1. **Call Meeting to Order** – Chair Seefeldt called the meeting to order at Time
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Public Comment** - None
4. **Approval of the January 5, 2023, Extension, Education & Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes** – Motion by Rosenberg second by Niemeyer to approve the minutes. Motion carried on voice vote, unanimously.
5. **Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination**
  - A. Update to Strategic Plan – Supervisor Rosenberg would like to change wording of 10.6 to “pro-actively supporting” instead of “supporting”. Motion made by Baker second by Ungerer to adopt as drafted with wording supporting. Motion carried on a voice vote, but not unanimously. Motion made by Niemeyer, second by Ungerer to approve the updated strategic plan as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote, but not unanimously.
6. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance, Resolution, or Policy** - None
7. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**
  - A. MCDEVCO’s Monthly Report – Kimm Weber gave a summary of the MCDEVCO report as provided in the packet.
  - B. Library Monthly Report – Leah Giordano gave a summary of the library report as provided in the packet.
  - C. UW-Extension Monthly Report – Jeremy Solin gave an update on the UW-Extension report as provided in the packet.
  - D. UWSP – Extension Report – Dr. Ozalle Toms gave a summary of the UWSP-Extension report as provided in the packet.
  - E. Housing and Childcare Review – Jeremy Solin spoke about the research they are doing with childcare / lack of childcare. Aaron Ruff along with Kelly Borchardt and Elsa Duranceau gave a presentation on Dream Up!. Questions were asked and answered.
  - F. Discussion of the Chamber’s new branding – Administrator Leonhard talked about the Wausau Area Chamber rebranding, and if Marathon County should rebrand as well. Discussion was had questions were asked and answered.
8. **Next Meeting Date & Time, Announcements and Future Agenda Items**
  - A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion.
  - B. Next meeting: Thursday, April 6, 2023, at 3:00pm
9. **Adjournment**

Motion by Rosenberg, second by Niemeyer to adjourn. Motion Carried on voice vote, unanimously.  
Meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by Kelley Blume, Marathon County Assistant Clerk

## MCDEVCO, Inc. – March 2023 Report

### GAP FINANCING

MCDEVCO continues to work with businesses throughout Marathon County to provide *GAP* financing.

### COVID-19 GRANTS

MCDEVCO administrated the Marathon County Microbusiness Grant.

- Total Grantees Awarded (as of March 22, 2023): 42
- Total Amount Disbursed to Marathon County Businesses: \$210,000.00



### ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT

#### **2023 PROGRAMMING:**

- **March 14, 2023:** Business Start Up Information Session hosted by MCDEVCO.
- **March 28, 2023:** MCDEVCO *GAP* Financing Information Session for Financial Institutions.
- **March 29, 2023:** MCDEVCO will teach an entrepreneurship segment to the DC Everest Youth Entrepreneurs.
- **April 3, 2023:** MCDEVCO will be a guest judge at the DC Everest Youth Entrepreneur Shark Tank.
- **April 4, 2023 & April 11, 2023:** Strategic Planning Workshop hosted by MCDEVCO.
- **April 20, 2023:** MCDEVCO will have a booth at the Chamber Expo.
- **April 26, 2023:** MCDEVCO will have a booth at the CWIMMA Expo.
- **April 25, 2023:** MCDEVCO Lunch & Learn in partnership with Prevail Bank.
- **May 16, 2023:** Business Networking hosted by MCDEVCO.
- **June 20 & 23 and June 27 & 28, 2023:** Quickbooks for Business hosted by MCDEVCO.
- **September 12, 2023 through December 5, 2023:** *GEARS* Certificate of Entrepreneurial Excellence.

- MCDEVCO continues to partner with the DC Everest Junior High School Youth Entrepreneur Program to enhance the curriculum as it relates to business start-up and expansion for youth entrepreneurs.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

Now is the time for you to start planning the business you want to grow and succeed.



TUESDAYS:  
APRIL 4 & 11, 2023



6:00-7:30PM



Entrepreneurial & Education Center  
100 N 72nd Avenue  
Wausau, WI

Scholarships Available

[www.mcdevco.org](http://www.mcdevco.org)  
715.298.0084



TIM MCKEOUGH  
Q Up Success



Tuesday, May 16, 2023  
6:00 - 7:30PM

MCDEVCO, Inc.  
Entrepreneurial & Education Center  
100 N 72nd Avenue, Wausau, WI

715.298.0084

[www.mcdevco.org](http://www.mcdevco.org)

Scholarships Available



Amy Plier  
Wausau Container Corp  
Co-Founder



## QuickBooks Online Workshop

MCDEVCO, Inc.  
Entrepreneurial & Education Center  
100 N 72nd Avenue, Wausau, WI

Wednesdays, June 21 & 28, 2023  
6:00-8:00PM

715.298.0084  
[www.mcdevco.org](http://www.mcdevco.org)



Instructor  
Sydney Fritzel, CPA  
Owner - Summit Tax & Accounting

## Municipalities

MCDEVCO hosts quarterly municipality meetings.

## EEC Management

Occupancy Update:

- February 2023 Occupancy: 86%

**Kimm Weber**, Executive Director - MCDEVCO

## Monthly Summary of the Marathon County Public Library for the Marathon County Extension, Education, and Economic Development Committee

April 2023

### Library Services

Although February is a short month, Library Services filled every week with activity. Our Local Leader Chat with the Wausau Police Department was a highlight for the Adult Services team. We had 21 attendees join us in the library for a discussion with Police Chief Bliven and Deputy Chief Barnes. One very young attendee was given a toy badge, and all attendees enjoyed the opportunity to hear about local issues and ask questions.



Our Library Services team was also out in the community this month. Outreach efforts included staff-led library presentations at the Golden Kiwanis and Shriner's Auxiliary meetings, attending the Community Partners Campus open house and tour, and leading an afterschool group at the Wausau School District's G2M program. In addition to the G2M program, the Youth Services team partnered with Wausau schools by hosting a Book Bowl event in the library for participating 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Mount Olive 3K and 4K classrooms visited the library for their very own Elephant and Piggie party, complete with a fun skit acted out by our Youth librarians and library specialist and character headbands and

puppets. Our Elephant and Piggie programs for the public were also well-received and popular. Regular story times and Pokémon Club continued to be popular with healthy groups participating regularly. Another big focus of February for Youth Services was planning for the future; we continue to prepare for this year's exciting Summer Library Program.

## Branches

Grab and Go craft kits continue to be popular at all locations. In February, we continued to hand out numerous shattering boomerang craft kits for kids and thimble bouquet pendant craft kits for adults. Creative book displays were featured at all locations including ones like "Love Gone Wrong," "Valentine's Day," "Woodland Creatures," and "I Googled my symptoms and it turns out I just need more books". Story time was also held at many branches, scheduled either weekly, biweekly, or monthly. We hope to welcome more friends to story time as the year continues.

Our Spencer branch has been busy with class visits. On February 6th, Audrey was invited to the Spencer Elementary School to be presented with 200 bookmarks that were made by the elementary school students. This project was led by Leah Boone the advisor for the Fifth Grade Leadership Program. They are now handed out to patrons checking out items. We have received many compliments on them. On February 8th, the 2nd and 3rd grade classes from the Spencer Mennonite School came to the library for a visit. Audrey read them two stories and the children were able to check out books.



Athens held a week-long event titled Solar Week. This included a large display of books about the sun; make-at-home activity directions for Crystal Sun Catchers, Sun Prints, and Sunspot Cookies; and an in-house craft that allowed patrons to make their own sun dials with straws and paper plates. One of the area schools brought their 1st/2nd grade class over and Nikki led a short lesson on sun dials and helped students each make one. We then took our sun dials outside in the sunshine to test them!

Julie G. from Rothschild attended the 2023 Child, Student, and Family Disability Resource Day at DC Everest to promote the library.

All branch staff members attended Teller training with Stephanie M. in preparation for the Teller rollout on 2/13. Branch coordinators attended a SLP planning meeting with Taylor, Rose, and Katelyn on 2/17.

Athens experienced multiple leaks in the roof and window sashes this month. Originally leaking in only one spot, the incoming melt water spread to 8 different ceiling tiles. Kulp's in Stratford came out to assess and patch the roof. They will be doing a larger repair/replace job once the snow is melted from the roof. No books were damaged during the leak. Julie K. from Wausau came out to bring fans and buckets, and to help Nikki in moving a large number of materials away from the area most concerning. Many items have been returned to their respective places, but several bins of picture books still remain behind the desk in case the leak should reoccur in an area that could cause damage to the books.



**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
MARATHON COUNTY

# March 2023 Report

*We teach, learn, lead, and serve,  
connecting people with the University of Wisconsin, and engaging with  
them in transforming lives and communities.*

## **4-H – Positive Youth Development**

Holly Luerksen, 4-H Program Educator

Jasmine Carbajal, 4-H Associate Educator

**Marathon County 4-H celebrates 2023 AmeriCorp Week.** Our AmeriCorp/4-H Program Assistants, Jade Betts and Kate Loucks visited the Capitol in Madison on March 15, 2023. The visit was part of a celebration of the service they have done with Wisconsin AmeriCorps program. Part of the experience included visits to Congressional men and women to advocate about how much we appreciate their support with AmeriCorps. Several years ago, Congress passed a law that the education award we receive for our service cannot be taxed. This has been a benefit for our AmeriCorp members when it comes to paying off school debt. We are grateful to be part of an AmeriCorps program and support two members. Jade and Kate enjoyed talking to the members of Congress about what AmeriCorps helps our local programs achieve through host sites like Marathon County 4-H/Extension.



- H2N (Hmong Hispanic Communication Network) invited Marathon County Extension to participate in a health fair at a local church in Abbotsford, WI to help increase the Latinx community's knowledge about resources around them. FoodWise nutrition educator, Thalia Mauer, and 4-H educator, Jasmine Carbajal, provided information on upcoming events like nutrition classes and Juntos programming as well as provided families with calendars with healthy meal recipes. Jasmine led straw rockets with 10 youth at the event and was able to connect with Latinx community members and possibly secure a location for a future Juntos program. Thalia was also able to collect information on families interested in nutrition or exercise classes in the future. Overall, the event had around 300 adults and about 50 adults stopped by the Extension table and received information about Extension services in the area.

## **Agriculture**

Heather Schlessler, Dairy Agent

- A live, on-line meeting series, for farmers and dairy industry professionals, where participants learned the latest research and applications regarding automated milking systems economics, foot health, and milk quality. The goal of this effort was to increase knowledge of the latest UW-Madison research on automatic milking systems, and how farmers can implement changes to management practices to help their farms become more profitable. An event for farm women, where participants learned about strategic thinking/ diversification ideas. This effort is designed to educate farm women about other business opportunities for their farm, so they can be sustainable.



- A research-based educational article for dairy farmers, and agri-business professionals, where participants will learn about current ventilation recommendations for dairy cattle, resources for identifying the most energy efficient fans for their facilities, and how proper ventilation and fan selection can help improve Dairy's carbon footprint.

## FoodWise

Mallory McGivern, FoodWise Administrator  
Gaonou Thao, FoodWise Educator

- Taught a monthly nutrition education series for Hmong women participating in a domestic abuse support group where participants taste new foods and learn healthy ways to prepare them. The purpose of this program is to improve the quality of their families' diet and increase their ability to manage their food resources.
- Served as leadership for Marathon County Hunger Coalition, where the local United Way coalition works toward increasing fresh fruits and vegetable donations to food pantries and low-income families through gleaning, pantry partnership and fresh produce purchases.
- 8-week series of strength training sessions (StrongBodies), where older adults also receive nutrition and health education. Participants engage in regular strength training exercises to improve muscle strength, balance, and flexibility so they can stay healthy and socially connected.
- Taught a monthly nutrition education series offered to SNAP-eligible residents, where participants learn healthy lifestyle choices, food preparation, food safety, food resource management and physical activity. The goal of the series is to improve healthy eating and physical activity habits for Marathon County residents – this class was about cooking healthy for 1 or 2. One participant said, "We tried foods that I had not ever eaten before. She showed how to cook things I would not have put together on my own – but were good."

## Horticulture

Janell Wehr, Horticulture Educator

**Awesome Orchids** - Lifelong learning is beneficial for Marathon County's aging population because it supports overall cognitive function, sense of accomplishment and personal growth, positive social engagement that combats social isolation (common in older adults) and develops technology skills. In "Awesome Orchids", 15 participants from The Landing, a community for adults over 55, learned how to provide the conditions in which orchids need to thrive indoors including: Water, Fertilizer, Light, Temperature, and Reflowering requirements.

- A presentation for the general public (Garden Dreams symposium) where participants learned about herbaceous ornamentals, their uses in the landscape, and how to incorporate them so they thrive in personal landscapes. The goal of this effort was to empower individuals by increasing awareness and knowledge of resources to address environmental contamination and pollution.
- A community of practice for horticulture educators where we explore strategies and resources to expand horticulture education and outreach to underrepresented audiences. The goal of participating in this group is to



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
MARATHON COUNTY

# March 2023 Report

dig into ways we can locally continue to grow and enhance our horticulture programs to reach more diverse audiences.

- Planning for the creation of a repository of existing horticultural resources in multiple languages for home/community gardeners of all abilities. The goal of this effort is to make this repository accessible on the Horticulture Topic Hub.
- Developing informal learning communities utilizing the Horticulture Program's social media for all Wisconsin gardeners, including underserved populations. The goal of this effort is to provide accurate, practical and up-to-date information to the public primarily through the topic hub in order to bolster educational outreach efforts in support of addressing the Horticulture Program objectives.

## *Natural Resources*

Kris Tiles, NRI Program Manager

Anna James, Regional Natural Resources Educator

- A hybrid event for farmers, conservation professionals, agriculture industry professionals, watershed groups, and concerned citizens where they learn about new conservation practices and how to implement them in an agricultural setting. The goal of is to encourage profitable farming by building resiliency, diversifying farming operations, reducing inputs, and increasing farmers' return on investment.
- An in-person workshop for foresters and other natural resources professionals where participants learned about managing forests for maple syrup production. The goals of this workshop are to increase the ability of foresters to successfully manage woodlands to maximize maple sap production, meet the landowners goals, and do so in a way to maintain the long-term sustainability of the forest resources.



## Upcoming Programs

- **4-H Programming** – Information at [marathon.extension.wisc.edu/projects/programs/](https://marathon.extension.wisc.edu/projects/programs/)
- **StrongBodies** – StrongBodies Spring 2023 Session – Register at <https://go.wisc.edu/71ptii>
- **Horticultural Programs** – Information at <https://marathon.extension.wisc.edu/horticulture/programs/>
- **FoodWise Healthy Eating Series** – For SNAP eligible residents. Register at <https://marathon.extension.wisc.edu/foodwise-program/>.

Jeremy Solin  
*Area Extension Director*

Janell Wehr  
*Horticulture Educator*

Kathy Johnson  
*Administrative  
Assistant*

Heather Schlessner  
*Dairy Agent*

Mallory McGivern  
*FoodWise Administrator*

Holly Luerssen  
*4-H Program Educator*

Gaonou Thao  
*FoodWise Educator*

Jasmine Carbajal  
*4-H Associate Educator*

Kris Tiles  
*NRI Program Manager*



# Wausau UW-Stevens Point

## Report to the Extension, Education, and Economic Development Committee

April 2023

1. **Taste of Jamaica-** Taste of Jamaica is open Monday-Thursday (11am-2pm) and Friday (11am-7pm)
2. **Fall 2023 Enrollment** -Our fall 2023 applications and admits continue to be up from this time last year.
  - a. Working on a “finish up” campaign.
    - i. The first week of April, we will call almost one hundred students who have stopped out of college to gauge their interest in completing their associate degree. These students have at least 45 or 60 credits needed for completion. Academic plans will be developed to help them finish.
  - b. Currently working with local K-12 administrators to secure concurrent enrollment courses for the 2023-2024 academic year.
3. **December 5, Campus Visioning Session**
  - a. Intentional efforts need to be put into campus branding and community awareness.
    - i. Three surveys for various UWSP Wausau audiences (community members/alum, current students, current faculty/staff) have been created to gain some insight into stakeholder perceptions. The surveys will be disseminated in April.
4. **The Community’s Campus-** we want to be a resource to the community. Because of this, we have hosted several events recently that were opened to the public. These events included: The Candidate Forum, Mosaic’s Connecting Communities Conference, Hank Talks, Women Trailblazers and Entrepreneurs Conference, etc. We hosted a community MLK event, 167 people attended.
5. **Hank Talks-** Please join us for our spring Hank Talks (Tuesday evenings at 7pm in the Veninga Theater) or join us on YouTube.  
[https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLrf0uW\\_FWYWdfbSSSwEUI16g9c0UaptcQ](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLrf0uW_FWYWdfbSSSwEUI16g9c0UaptcQ)
  - a. 4/18/23 Kristine Prah “Genetic Engineering and Biofuel Production: Making Better Yeast”

## 6. Upcoming Events

### a. Career Expo, April 21

Our Career Exploration Day is being organized around the ACP Career Clusters. Spread across the UW-Stevens Point at Wausau campus, spaces will be dedicated to each Career Cluster. Each space will feature:

- Hands-on demos from area employers to illustrate careers in the cluster
- Information from regional higher ed providers for the pathways to careers in the cluster

Other fun activities will focus on college and career readiness.

This event is organized for smaller high schools and will focus more heavily on careers involving post-secondary education.

- We currently have 700 high school students registered for the event.

### b. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Day, April 28

UWSP at Wausau will host the 8<sup>th</sup> graders from John Muir and Horace Mann middle schools. Students will learn about the basics for getting ready for college, experience a mock lesson and hear from a current student panel.

### c. Scholar's Eve (May 2 @ 6:30pm) in the CCE.

Acknowledgement of our foundation scholarship recipients. Refreshments will be served.

## 7. Degree Programs Offered – Below is a list of the degree programs we offer on the Wausau campus.

### a. Associate Degrees

Associate of Arts and Sciences Degree  
Human Services  
Leadership and Project Mgt  
Pre-Engineering

### b. Bachelors programs

Business Administration  
Nursing  
Social Work  
Sociology  
Engineering (UW-Platteville Partnership)

### c. Master's Degrees

Business Administration (Main Campus)  
Physician Assistant Program (UW-Madison Partnership)  
Social Work (UW-Green Bay Partnership)

Submitted by Ozalle Toms, Campus Executive