



MARATHON COUNTY
RULES REVIEW COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES

Date & Time of Meeting: Wednesday, November 8, 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 (WebEx), Jacob Langenhahn, John Robinson, Rick Seefeldt.

Also Present: Supervisor Jean Maszk (WebEx)

Supporting Staff: Lance Leonhard, Michael Puerner, 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 October 24, 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. Review and consideration of existing Marathon County Board Rules*, discussion of potential revisions, and next steps for the Committee

(Committee members are asked to review all sections of Chapter 2 and Section 4.20 of the Marathon County Code of Ordinances prior to the meeting to bring ideas for future discussion – see below for link to rules)

Discussion:

1) Agenda Item Placement

The discussion delved into addressing concerns about item relevance, the authority to determine agenda items, and the efficiency versus thorough consideration of important matters. It involved debate over empowering individuals versus committee chairs in setting agendas, potential conflicts arising from multiple requests to different committees, and the need for clarity in decision-making processes. Supervisors sought to balance expediting processes while ensuring proper consideration of items within committee jurisdiction, with a focus on aligning solutions with both committee goals and broader board interests. There were queries regarding the pathway for considering items, caution against venturing beyond the county board's jurisdiction, and a call for revisiting rules to clarify agenda item placement and committee authorities.

Discussion:

2) Virtual Meeting Attendance

Concerns included opposition to virtual meetings except for inclement weather, challenges defining attendance rules, and uncertainties about quorum issues. With no clear consensus, the suggestion arose to leave the decision to the incoming board due to differing perspectives and complexity in resolving the matter.

3) Committee Appointments

The discussion centered on posting meeting appointments earlier for more review time. Concerns were raised about the tight timeline between elections, chair selection, and subsequent meetings, especially regarding Standing Committee appointments. Committee structuring within limited timeframes was highlighted. The importance of committee selection for board functionality was

emphasized. Acknowledgment of statutory deadlines and managing time constraints concluded the discussion. There's a need to decide on the 2024 calendar soon for potential candidates.

4) Executive Committee Membership

Discussions centered on the executive committee's size and its impact on decision-making, raising concerns about a larger committee leading to potential quorum issues and unwieldiness. Views varied between preferring a committee of nine or ten members. Eventually, a consensus leaned toward a nine-member committee, including the vice chair of the board who chairs a standing committee and an extra at-large member, totaling eleven members in that setup, pending consensus changes. Corporate counsel was tasked with drafting the committee structure based on this agreement.

5) ERC Membership

Discussions revolved around revising rules for the Environmental Resources Committee (ERC) due to a statutory change that permits a non-Farm Service Agency (FSA) member to represent agriculture in production. The suggestion arose to expedite filling an open position on the ERC before the next term. To address this, a potential rule amendment was proposed to permit a non-FSA member to serve in the role. The conversation shifted to whether the matter should go through the Executive Committee or directly to the full board. The debate expanded to include the representation of townships on the ERC and whether the individual's affiliation with the Towns Association Board was necessary to fulfill the role. The discussion concluded with plans to seek clarity on the representation of townships by consulting the CPZ Director before making any decisions.

1. Adjournment

MOTION BY SEEFELDT; SECOND BY LANGENHAHN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:38AM. 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?nodeId=12551