



# MARATHON COUNTY EXTENSION, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

Date & Time of Meeting: **Thursday, December 7, 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 than five minutes before the start of the meeting. All comments must be germane to a topic within the jurisdiction of the committee.)
4. **Approval of the November 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**
  - A. Marathon County's Role in Providing Affordable Housing
    1. 2023 Housing Resolution
  - B. Consideration of Initial Resolution Digester Project
7. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**
  - A. MCDEVCO'S Monthly Report
  - B. Library Monthly Report
  - C. UW - Extension Monthly Report
  - D. 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, January 4, 2024, 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, November 2, 2023, at 3:00pm**

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

Rick Seefeldt	Excused
Becky Buch	Present
David Baker	WebEx
Bobby Niemeyer	Absent
Tom Rosenberg	Present
Kim Ungerer	Excused
Crystal Bushman	WebEx

Staff Present: Administrator Leonhard, Chris Holman, Kurt Gibbs, Mike Puerner. WebEx: Kristie Heidenreich, Laurie Miskimins, Jeremy Solin

Others Present: Getel Stock, Kimm Weber, Reed Rayome, Supervisors Robinson, Aarrestad, Morache, Lemmer

[Meeting Recording](#)

1. **Call Meeting to Order** – Vice Chair Buch called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** – (00:01)
3. **Public Comment** - None
4. **Approval of the October 5, 2023, Extension, Education & Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes** – (00:01.34)  
Motion by Rosenberg, Second by Buch to approve the minutes. Motion carried on voice vote, unanimously.
5. **Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination**
  - A. Consideration of Request from WI RNG VDG LLC for Adoption of Initial Resolution Regarding Solid Waste Disposal Revenue Bond Financing for Renewable Natural Gas Production Plant Project – (00:02.5)
  - B. Marathon County Government’s Role in Providing Affordable High-Quality External Child Care – (00:17.5)
6. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance, Resolution, or Policy**
  - A. Discussion of Human Resources, Finance, and Property Committee’s 2024 Proposed Budget and Possible Recommendations Regarding Modifications – (00:19.34)  
No action taken.
  - B. 2023 Housing Resolution – (00:36.25)  
No Action taken.
7. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**
  - A. UWSP Campus Status – (00:57.27)
  - B. MCDEVCO’s Monthly Report – (01:07)
  - C. Library Monthly Report – (1:11)
  - D. UW – Extension Monthly Report – (1:12)
  - E. UWSP – Wausau Report – (1:13)
8. **Next Meeting Date & Time, Announcements and Future Agenda Items** – (1:14)
  - A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion.
  - B. Next meeting: Thursday, December 7, 2023, at 3:00pm
9. **Adjournment**  
Motion by Rosenberg, Second by Buch to adjourn. Motion Carried on voice vote, unanimously.  
Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by Kelley Blume

RESOLUTION #R-\_\_\_\_-23

Marathon County Government's Response to Housing

- WHEREAS,** a shortage of affordable, safe, accessible housing is impacting Marathon County citizens, businesses, and economy; and
- WHEREAS,** according to national guidelines, a family should spend less than 30% of their income on housing for it to be considered affordable; and
- WHEREAS,** an aging population will lead to a greater need for senior and supportive housing; housing costs are rising, increasing the need for more affordable housing options for the population; a growing number of families are homeless or are facing the threat of being homeless; and the large percentage of older housing stock may need to be rehabilitated to remain viable, and
- WHEREAS,** housing affordability affects the region's quality of life and ability to compete economically, and it affects the health, safety, and happiness of the region's residents; and
- WHEREAS,** the need for single-family and multi-family housing is large, but the rising costs to build this type of housing is often prohibitive to developers; and
- WHEREAS,** within Marathon County's Strategic Plan, the Marathon County Board of Supervisors has identified as objectives to "Develop a comprehensive approach to redevelopment and revitalization of older housing stock and older buildings" and to "Develop policies that promote a variety of safe and affordable housing options to enhance workforce availability"; and
- WHEREAS,** within Marathon County's Strategic Plan, the Marathon County Board of Supervisors has identified as an outcome measure in Marathon County that "by August 31, 2023, with input from non-EEED Supervisors and other Marathon County Stakeholders, prepare recommendations for Marathon County Government's role in supporting safe and affordable housing options."

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** the Marathon County Board of Supervisors does hereby resolve and ordain the following responses to housing:

1. Marathon County staff shall identify current initiatives to address housing in Marathon County and identify opportunities for Marathon County to support ongoing efforts.
2. Marathon County staff shall identify county-owned properties with significant potential for residential housing development and create plans to facilitate the development of housing on each property.
3. Marathon County shall prioritize the return of tax delinquent residential properties to the tax rolls and consider the efficacy of including a deed restriction on tax foreclosed property requiring that the property be owner-occupied.
4. Marathon County officials shall participate in discussions with local municipal leaders, zoning officials, and developers about how existing zoning regulations impact the ability of new housing developments.
5. County staff shall provide resources to delinquent property owners relative to grant programs, financial programs, and available renter and homebuyer programs and financial programs

Sources:

February 21, 23 Housing Study Presentation ([Packet](#)) ([Video @ the beginning of the meeting](#)) ([Transcript of the Housing Presentation](#)) ([PDF of Study](#))

Life Report via Marathon Co. Pulse ([Housing Needs](#))

Marathon County Pulse ([Homelessness](#))  
[Marathon County Health Department CHIP Report](#)

Indicator: Renters spending 30% or more of household income on rent: The percentage of renters who are spending 30% or more of their household income on rent. Rental costs are comprised of rent and utilities (electricity, gas, other fuels, water, and sewer).

Strategies: Educate community stakeholders about the connection between safe and affordable housing and positive health outcomes. Advance local housing initiatives, including those of the Marathon County Housing Task Force, an initiative of the United Way of Marathon County.

Marathon County Strategic Plan ([04/25/23 Marathon Co Board Packet p. 111-118](#)—R #16-23)

Workforce Housing (Forward Analytics [A Housing Hurdle](#))

Wisconsin Counties Magazine June 22 article, "[Affordability in a Hot Housing Market](#)" Future Reading:

[WHEDA Rural Housing Initiative Report](#)

[Legislative Council Symposia Series](#) (note—disclaimer on first slide is sketchy)

[MJS article on Wi Bill 43](#)

Washington Co Next Gen Housing ([Executive Summary](#)) ([Workforce Housing Analysis](#))

[The Oaks of the Village of Jackson](#) (see page 21+)

# Projected Demand through 2040

**Table 6: Projected Housing Unit Demand 2020-2040**

	2025	2030	2035	2040	Total
T Rib Mountain	15	45	25	-6	80
V Kronenwetter	398	236	211	171	1,016
V. Maine	90	28	24	9	152
V Marathon City	99	2	-3	-11	87
V Rothschild	212	65	46	20	343
V Weston	775	476	414	330	1,995
C Schofield	-37	8	1	-11	-39
C Wausau	525	293	135	-56	898
<b>Total, region</b>	<b>2,077</b>	<b>1,153</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>4,531</b>

Source for following chart: [NGH Zoning Guidelines](#)

Barrier Type	Issue It Presents
<b>Bulk Requirements</b>	
Requirements for front-loaded garages	Doesn't allow for rear, alley-loaded development
Minimum garage sizes	Only allows 2+ car garages, which aren't always desired or needed
Minimum dwelling unit sizes	Requires development of larger homes; does not allow for smaller house formats
Minimum lot size	Large lot size minimums increase housing costs by requiring more land per housing unit
Minimum lot width	Large minimum lot widths increase housing costs by requiring more land per housing unit
Minimum front, rear, and side setbacks	Large setbacks increase housing costs by requiring more land per housing unit
Maximum Floor Area Ratios (FAR)	Reduces the developable potential of the lot by limiting the size of the home based on the lot size without consideration for other factors such as setbacks, architectural design, or site layout; more cumbersome to calculate and administer
Maximum Building Coverage Ratios (BCR)	Reduces the developable potential of the lot by limiting the size of the home based on the lot size without consideration for other factors such as setbacks, architectural design, or site layout; more cumbersome to calculate and administer; the model zoning districts instead utilize an Impervious Surface Ratio (ISR), which more flexible.
Maximum Density Requirements	Density standards are difficult to calculate and administer, are easily politicized, and unreasonably restrict housing development. Setbacks and height requirements create more predictable outcomes than density standards.

Land Uses	
Missing land use: mixed use	Doesn't allow for mixed use buildings (commercial and residential) outside of downtown
Missing land use: accessory dwelling units	Doesn't allow accessory dwelling units, which can provide infill housing options
Missing land use: housing unit types	Doesn't facilitate diverse housing unit types (two-flat, twin home, townhouse, etc.); single family and multi-family become the only housing options available

Parking	
Significant minimum parking requirements	Requires more on-site parking than is needed, which drives up development costs for construction and land needed
Missing maximum parking requirements	Doesn't limit on-site parking, which drives up development costs for construction and land needed
<b>Design Standards</b>	
Missing residential design standards	Doesn't ensure high-quality and long-lasting residential development
Restrictive residential design standards, e.g., requirements for stone or brick on building façades	Adds significant cost to homes unnecessarily; exclusionary policy
<b>Zoning Districts</b>	
One type of single family zoning district	Only enables development of medium or large lot development types/formats
One type of two family zoning district	Only enables development of suburban duplex development
Missing two family zoning districts	Doesn't allow for zero lot line development (twin homes) or upper/lower unit development (two-flats)
One type of multi-family zoning district	Only enables development of medium or large developments
Missing multi-family zoning districts	Doesn't allow for small multi-family developments (townhomes, 3-unit buildings, etc.)
Commercial zoning districts oriented to single land use	Doesn't facilitate mixed use buildings (commercial and residential)

Definitions	
Outdated definition of "family"	Doesn't accommodate modern family types
Outdated or missing definitions of housing unit types	Doesn't define diverse housing unit types (two-flat, twin home, townhouse, etc.)
Outdated or missing bulk dimension definitions	Doesn't promote user-friendliness or consistent administration of standards

RESOLUTION #R-\_\_\_\_-23 (Proposed Amendments 12/7/23)

Marathon County Government's Response to Housing

**WHEREAS**, a shortage of affordable, safe, accessible housing is impacting Marathon County citizens, businesses, and economy; and

**WHEREAS**, an aging population will lead to a greater need for senior and supportive housing; housing costs are rising, increasing the need for more affordable housing options for the population; and the large percentage of older housing stock may need to be rehabilitated to remain viable, and

**WHEREAS**, housing affordability affects the region's quality of life and ability to compete economically, and it affects the health, safety, and happiness of the region's residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the need for single-family and multi-family housing is large, but the rising costs to build this type of housing is often prohibitive to developers; and

**WHEREAS**, within Marathon County's Strategic Plan, the Marathon County Board of Supervisors has identified as objectives to "Develop a comprehensive approach to redevelopment and revitalization of older housing stock and older buildings" and to "Develop policies that promote a variety of safe and affordable housing options to enhance workforce availability"; and

**WHEREAS**, within Marathon County's Strategic Plan, the Marathon County Board of Supervisors has identified as an outcome measure in Marathon County that "by August 31, 2023, with input from non-EEED Supervisors and other Marathon County Stakeholders, prepare recommendations for Marathon County Government's role in supporting safe and affordable housing options."

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Marathon County Board of Supervisors does hereby resolve and ordain the following responses to housing:

1. Marathon County staff shall identify county-owned properties with significant potential for residential housing development and promote the development of housing on these high potential properties.
2. Marathon County shall prioritize the return of tax delinquent residential properties to the tax rolls in order to enhance the availability of affordable housing stock.
3. Marathon County officials shall participate in discussions with local municipal leaders, zoning officials, and developers about how existing zoning regulations impact the ability of new housing developments.
4. County staff shall provide resources to delinquent property owners relative to grant programs, financial programs, and available renter and homebuyer programs and financial programs.

# HUSCH BLACKWELL

Lynda R. Templen  
Senior Counsel

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Lynda.Templen@huschblackwell.com

September 5, 2023

TO THE ATTACHED DISTRIBUTION LIST

**RE: Not to Exceed \$45,000,000 Marathon County, Wisconsin  
Solid Waste Disposal Revenue Bonds, Series 2023  
(WI RNG VDG LLC Renewable Natural Gas Production Plant Project)**

Greetings:

At the request of WI RNG VDG LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, and/or a related entity, and/or a limited liability entity to be formed (collectively, the “Borrower”), we have prepared drafts of documents necessary for the consideration and adoption of an Initial Resolution Regarding Solid Waste Disposal Revenue Bond Financing for WI RNG VDG LLC Renewable Natural Gas Production Plant Project (the “Initial Resolution”) by the Board of Supervisors of Marathon County, Wisconsin (the “County”) on October 24, 2023. The Borrower’s project consists of financing the (i) design, development, construction and operation of a solid waste disposal facility for the purpose of converting dairy cattle waste to natural gas for sale on property owned by Van Der Geest Dairy Cattle, Inc., a Wisconsin corporation, at 5555 County Road A in the Village of Maine, Marathon County, Wisconsin (the “Project Site”), (ii) the lease of the Project Site to the Borrower for the production of renewable natural gas, (iii) acquisition and installation of an anaerobic digester and related equipment at the Project Site, (iv) capitalized interest during the construction period, (v) funding of a Debt Service Reserve Fund and other funds, if necessary, and (vi) payment of certain professional fees and costs of issuance (collectively, the “Project”).

Federal and state law requires that the authorization for such an industrial development revenue bond be done in two stages (first, the consideration of an Initial Resolution by the County Board, and second, the consideration of a final resolution (the “Final Resolution”) by the County Board).

The Initial Resolution is not a commitment to issue bonds, but merely evidences the County's “official intent” to issue bonds pending satisfactory negotiation of the terms.

The Final Resolution to be considered by the County Board at a future meeting will be drafted and presented to the County only after negotiations for the bond issue have been completed.

Enclosed are the following documents necessary to allow the County Board to consider the Initial Resolution on October 24, 2023:

- (1) Initial Resolution, with the form of Notice to Electors of Marathon County, Wisconsin, attached as Exhibit A;
- (2) Good faith fee estimate letter required under Section 66.1103 of the Wisconsin Statutes; and
- (3) Notice of Intent to Obtain a Municipal Industrial Revenue Bond, which contains information regarding job estimates.

We have also enclosed a “Checklist for Marathon County” and a summary of industrial development revenue bonds for informational purposes.

The following, in chronological order, are the steps necessary to issue the bonds:

1. The County Board considers the Initial Resolution on October 24, 2023. For agenda purposes, the County Clerk should describe the Initial Resolution as follows for the County Board meeting on October 24, 2023:

*“Consideration of an Initial Resolution Regarding Solid Waste Disposal Revenue Bond Financing for WI RNG VDG LLC Renewable Natural Gas Production Plant Project. Information with respect to the job impact of the project will be available at the time of consideration of the Initial Resolution.”*

Under federal regulations for cost recovery, reimbursement of the Borrower’s expenditures with bond proceeds can only occur if the Issuer adopts the Initial Resolution. This Initial Resolution may apply to expenditures made by the Borrower within sixty (60) days prior to the adoption of the Initial Resolution and, in general, the reimbursement must be made no later than three (3) years after the original expenditure.

2. On October 25, 2023, the County Clerk should call Kate L. Albrecht at our office (414-978-5516) to confirm that the Initial Resolution was adopted. Kate will publish the Notice to Electors, which is attached to the Initial Resolution as Exhibit A, in the County’s local newspaper. After the notice is published, the electors of the County have thirty (30) days during which to circulate a petition

for a referendum. In my personal experience, only one such referendum has ever been placed on the ballot, out of hundreds of industrial development revenue bond issues.

3. The County Clerk should mail a copy of the Initial Resolution (the Certificate by County Clerk which is attached to the Initial Resolution should be completed and signed) to Kate L. Albrecht. Kate will send a copy of the Initial Resolution, along with the date that the Notice to Electors was published, to Steven Sabatke at the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation.

4. The federal tax law known as the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1986 (“TEFRA”), requires that this Project, which is being funded with tax-exempt bond proceeds, be the subject of a noticed public hearing called a TEFRA public hearing. These hearings provide interested individuals or parties the opportunity to testify on any matters related to such potential bond issues, including the nature and location of the Project.

Therefore, at a future date, a notice regarding the scheduled TEFRA public hearing must be published (our office will publish the Notice of Public Hearing on behalf of the County). The Notice of Public Hearing must be published no later than seven (7) days before the TEFRA public hearing. Our usual practice is to have the TEFRA public hearing immediately preceding the meeting at which the Final Resolution is considered by the County Board. We will notify the County in the future to schedule the TEFRA public hearing/Final Resolution date.

5. At a future date, the County Board will hold the TEFRA public hearing and consider the Final Resolution. A representative of the Borrower should attend the TEFRA public hearing. The County Board meeting must meet the requirements of an open meeting under Sections 19.81 et seq. of the Wisconsin Statutes

6. After the preliminary steps outlined above have been completed, the Borrower and the Purchaser will need to negotiate the bond documents (to be prepared by Husch Blackwell LLP) in preparation for the sale of the bonds. The pricing will occur just prior to the County Board meeting during which the County Board will be asked to adopt the Final Resolution.

The foregoing is a brief sketch of the procedural steps that must be followed when issuing industrial development revenue bonds. The key point to remember is that the County will be considering, from a policy standpoint, whether to encourage the location of the Project in the County. By issuing the bonds, the County will give the Borrower an interest rate benefit because the bonds will be tax-exempt in the hands of the Purchaser. It must be emphasized that the County will not be liable in any way on the bonds; the bonds are special, limited obligations of the County.

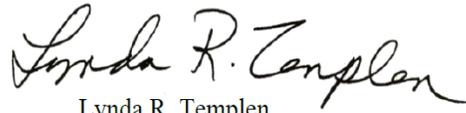
*We are simultaneously delivering to the County Clerk the good faith fee estimate letter required under Section 66.1103 of the Wisconsin Statutes. A copy of this letter should be signed by Kim Trueblood and returned to us to evidence her receipt of the letter.*

September 5, 2023  
Page 4

*The Borrower has signed the enclosed Notice of Intent to Obtain a Municipal Industrial Revenue Bond (the "Notice of Intent"). The Notice of Intent is being delivered to the County Clerk with this letter, and we will mail a copy to Steven Sabatke at the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation.*

We are looking forward to working with everyone on this Project. Please call me with any questions or comments.

Very truly yours,



Lynda R. Templen

Marathon County, Wisconsin  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ \* Tax-Exempt Solid Waste Disposal Revenue Bonds, Series 2023A  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ \* Taxable Solid Waste Disposal Revenue Bonds, Series 2023B  
(WI RNG VDG LLC Renewable Natural Gas Production Plant Project)

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**DISTRIBUTION LIST**

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**MARATHON COUNTY/ISSUER**

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Kurt Gibbs, Chairperson  
Kim Trueblood, County Clerk  
Michael Puerner, Corporation Counsel  
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**BORROWER**

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**BORROWER'S COUNSEL**

[TBD]

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**UNDERWRITER**

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**TRUSTEE**

[TBD]

**TRUSTEE'S COUNSEL**

[TBD]

**MACQUARIE GROUP/MACQUARIE CONSULTANTS**

Alex Erlikh  
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**COUNSEL FOR MACQUARIE GROUP**

[TBD]

**TITLE COMPANY**

[INSERT]

**E-MAIL ADDRESSES:**

**Maine Working Group:**

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**CERTIFICATE OF WI RNG VDG LLC**

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WI RNG VDG LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (the “Borrower”), has requested that the County Board of Marathon County, Wisconsin (the “Issuer”) consider an “Initial Resolution Regarding Solid Waste Disposal Revenue Bond Financing for WI RNG VDG LLC Renewable Natural Gas Production Plant Project” (the “Initial Resolution”) on October 24, 2023, for the purpose of financing a project to be owned by the Borrower consisting of (i) design, development, construction and operation of a solid waste disposal facility for the purpose of converting dairy cattle waste to natural gas for sale on property owned by Van Der Geest Dairy Cattle, Inc., a Wisconsin corporation, at 5555 County Road A in the Village of Maine, Marathon County, Wisconsin (the “Project Site”), (ii) the lease of the Project Site to the Borrower for the production of renewable natural gas, (iii) acquisition and installation of an anaerobic digester and related equipment at the Project Site, (iv) capitalized interest during the construction period, (v) funding of a Debt Service Reserve Fund and other funds, if necessary, and (vi) payment of certain professional fees and costs of issuance (collectively, the “Project”). This certificate is delivered in connection with the Borrower’s request for the Issuer to issue conduit revenue bonds pursuant to Section 66.1103 of the Wisconsin Statutes on behalf of the Borrower to finance the Project.

The undersigned hereby certifies, represents, and warrants to the Issuer as follows:

1. The undersigned is the Managing Member of Progressive EnergyCo LLC, which entity is the managing member of the Borrower, and as such is familiar with the Borrower’s affairs, properties and records, and in particular, with the Project and the conduit bond financing request to which this certificate relates.
2. The Borrower represents that it is able to negotiate satisfactory arrangements for completing the Project and that the Issuer’s interests are not prejudiced thereby.

Dated: September 22, 2023.

**WI RNG VDG LLC**

By: Progressive EnergyCo LLC, its Managing Member

By: 

R. Nick Cioll, Managing Member

# HUSCH BLACKWELL

Lynda R. Templen  
Senior Counsel

511 North Broadway, Suite 1100  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
Direct: 414-978-5505  
Fax: 414-223-5000  
Lynda.Templen@huschblackwell.com

September 5, 2023

Kim Trueblood, County Clerk  
Marathon County  
500 Forest Street  
Wausau County, WI 54403

Steve Sabatke  
Underwriting Manager  
Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation  
201 West Washington Avenue, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Madison, WI 53149

**RE: Not to Exceed \$45,000,000 Marathon County, Wisconsin  
Solid Waste Disposal Revenue Bonds, Series 2023  
(WI RNG VDG LLC Renewable Natural Gas Production Plant Project)**

Greetings:

We understand that in the near future, the Board of Supervisors of Marathon County, Wisconsin (the "County"), will take action on an Initial Resolution for industrial development revenue bond financing under Section 66.1103 of the Wisconsin Statutes on behalf of WI RNG VDG LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, and/or a related entity, and/or a limited liability entity to be formed.

Section 66.1103 of the Wisconsin Statutes requires that prior to the adoption of the Initial Resolution, a document containing a good faith estimate of the legal fees which will be paid from the bond proceeds must be filed with the County Clerk of the County and with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation. This letter is that document.

Estimating legal fees at this stage in the proceedings is difficult because many of the most significant factual matters which may affect legal costs are not known in detail at this time. The size and structure of the bond issue have not been finalized. These and other matters normally are negotiated and determined after the Initial Resolution is adopted. As a result, the scope and amount of work which the

various parties may choose to refer to their lawyers can vary considerably as the economic aspects of the financing develop.

The relationship of these variables to an estimate of aggregate legal fees is evident from the principles which lawyers apply in charging fees for their services. Fees for services rendered by any Wisconsin lawyer should be consistent with, and grounded upon, the Rules of Professional Conduct for Attorneys of the American Bar Association, as currently enforced in Wisconsin. Those rules set forth the following basic guidelines:

A lawyer's fee shall be reasonable. Factors to be considered as guides in determining the reasonableness of a fee include the following:

- (1) The time and labor required, the novelty and the difficulty of the questions involved, and the skill requisite to perform the legal service properly.
- (2) The likelihood, if apparent to the client, that the acceptance of the particular employment will preclude other employment by the lawyer.
- (3) The fee customarily charged in the locality for similar legal services.
- (4) The amount involved and the results obtained.
- (5) The time limitations imposed by the client or by the circumstances.
- (6) The nature and length of the professional relationship with the client.
- (7) The experience, reputation and ability of the lawyer or lawyers performing the services.
- (8) Whether the fee is fixed or contingent.

The maximum principal amount of the bonds will not exceed \$45,000,000.

The following is a good faith estimate of the legal fees which will be paid from the proceeds of the bonds with respect to this financing:

**COUNSEL**

**FEE ESTIMATE**

Bond Counsel

\$137,500 plus disbursements\*

Counsel to the Eligible Participant

It is unknown whether the legal fees and disbursements of such counsel will be paid from the proceeds of the bonds

Attorneys who have not yet been identified who may be involved in the transaction, including, without limitation, counsel to any Trustee involved, any real estate counsel involved, and any counsel to the initial bond purchaser(s)

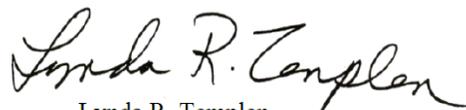
It is unknown whether the legal fees and disbursements of such counsel will be paid from the proceeds of the bonds

The actual fee charged by each of the lawyers acting in this matter may vary considerably from the estimates provided above. Without purporting to be exhaustive, the following are reasons why actual fees may be higher or lower than the estimate: (i) assumptions regarding the size, structure, complexity and timing of the bond financing may change; (ii) clients may alter the scope of their lawyers' engagement; (iii) parties may require legal opinions or legal advice beyond that normally requested in similar financings; and (iv) unforeseen legal problems may arise.

We are writing and filing this letter to comply with the requirements of Section 66.1103 of the Wisconsin Statutes. To the extent that we have estimated attorneys' fees other than our own, we did so on the basis of prior experience and information available to us at the time of writing this letter.

Please complete and return the receipt below by email. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

  
Lynda R. Templen

\*Estimate only, based on par.

The undersigned acknowledge receipt of the foregoing this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

**WISCONSIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Steven Sabatke, Underwriting Manager

**MARATHON COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kim Trueblood, County Clerk

MARATHON COUNTY, WISCONSIN

RESOLUTION NO. 2023 - \_\_\_\_\_

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**INITIAL RESOLUTION  
REGARDING SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL  
REVENUE BOND FINANCING FOR  
WI RNG VDG LLC RENEWABLE NATURAL GAS  
PRODUCTION PLANT PROJECT**

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WHEREAS, Section 66.1103 of the Wisconsin Statutes (the “Act”) authorizes Marathon County, Wisconsin (the “Issuer”), to authorize the issuance and sale of bonds by the Issuer to construct, equip, re-equip, acquire by gift, lease or purchase, install, reconstruct, rebuild, rehabilitate, improve, supplement, replace, maintain, repair, enlarge, extend or remodel industrial projects; and

WHEREAS, WI RNG VDG LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, and/or a related entity, and/or a limited liability entity to be formed (collectively, the “Borrower”), desires to complete a project to be owned by the Borrower consisting of financing the (i) design, development, construction and operation of a solid waste disposal facility for the purpose of converting dairy cattle waste to natural gas for sale on property owned by Van Der Geest Dairy Cattle, Inc., a Wisconsin corporation, at 5555 County Road A in the Village of Maine, Marathon County, Wisconsin (the “Project Site”), (ii) the lease of the Project Site to the Borrower for the production of renewable natural gas, (iii) acquisition and installation of an anaerobic digester and related equipment at the Project Site, (iv) capitalized interest during the construction period, (v) funding of a Debt Service Reserve Fund and other funds, if necessary, and (vi) payment of certain professional fees and costs of issuance (collectively, the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, the cost of the Project to be financed with one or more issues or series of tax-exempt and/or taxable industrial development revenue bonds (the “Bonds”) issued under the Act does not exceed \$45,000,000; and

WHEREAS, the Borrower has requested that the Issuer now approve an initial resolution (the “Initial Resolution”) providing for the financing of the Project in an amount not to exceed \$45,000,000; and

WHEREAS, the Issuer is a county organized and existing under and pursuant to the laws of the State of Wisconsin, and is authorized to enter into revenue agreements with eligible participants with respect to the Project whereby eligible participants agree to cause said Project to be constructed and to pay the Issuer an amount of funds sufficient to provide for the prompt payment when due of the principal and interest on said industrial development revenue bonds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Marathon County, Wisconsin, as follows:

1. Based upon representations of the Borrower, it is the finding and determination of the Board of Supervisors that the Project is a qualified “project” within the meaning of the Act and that the Borrower is an “eligible participant” within the meaning of the Act. The Issuer shall:

(a) Finance the Project in an amount not to exceed \$45,000,000; and

(b) Issue industrial development revenue bonds in one or more series of tax-exempt and/or taxable bonds (the “Bond(s)”), in an amount not to exceed \$45,000,000 in order to finance costs of the Project.

2. The aforesaid plan of financing contemplates, and is conditioned upon, the following:

(a) The Bonds shall never constitute an indebtedness of the Issuer within the meaning of any state constitutional provision or statutory limitation;

(b) The Bonds shall not constitute or give rise to a pecuniary liability of the Issuer or a charge against its general credit or taxing powers;

(c) The Project shall be subject to property taxation in the same amount and to the same extent as though the Project were not financed with industrial development revenue bonds;

(d) The Borrower shall find a purchaser for all of the Bonds;

(e) The County’s out-of-pocket costs, including but not limited to legal fees and trustee’s fees, in connection with the issuance and sale of the Bonds shall be paid by the Borrower; and

(f) A notice of public hearing required by federal law for purposes of Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in Marathon County and a public hearing shall be held to provide interested individuals or parties the opportunity to testify as to the Project and the issuance of the Bonds.

3. The aforesaid plan of financing shall not be legally binding upon the Issuer nor be finally implemented unless and until:

(a) The details and mechanics of the same are authorized and approved by a further resolution of the Board of Supervisors which shall be solely within the discretion of the Board of Supervisors;

(b) The County Clerk shall cause notice of adoption of this Initial Resolution, in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, to be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in Marathon County, and the electors of Marathon County shall have been given the opportunity to petition for a referendum on the matter of the aforesaid bond issue, all as required by law;

(c) Either no such petition shall be timely filed or such petition shall have been filed and said referendum shall have approved the bond issue;

(d) The County Clerk shall have received an employment impact estimate issued under Section 238.11 of the Wisconsin Statutes; and

(e) All documents required to consummate the financing have been duly authorized and delivered.

4. Pursuant to the Act, all requirements that the Project be subject to the contracting requirements contained in Section 66.1103 are waived, the Borrower having represented that it is able to negotiate satisfactory arrangements for completing the Project and that the Issuer's interests are not prejudiced thereby.

5. The County Clerk is directed, following adoption of this Initial Resolution (i) to publish notice of such adoption not less than one time in the official newspaper of Marathon County, Wisconsin, such notice to be in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit A and (ii) to file a copy of this Initial Resolution, together with a statement indicating the date the Notice to Electors was published, with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation within twenty (20) days following the date of publication of such notice.

6. This Initial Resolution is an "initial resolution" within the meaning of the Act and official action toward issuance of the Bonds for purposes of Sections 103 and 144 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and the regulations promulgated thereunder. Furthermore, it is the reasonable expectation of the Issuer that proceeds of the Bonds may be used to reimburse expenditures made on the Project prior to the issuance of the Bonds. The maximum principal amount of debt expected to be issued for the Project on the date hereof is \$45,000,000. This statement of official intent is made pursuant to Treasury Regulations §1.150-2.

Dated: October 24, 2023

Approved as to Form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Corporation Counsel

\_\_\_\_\_  
Finance Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Administrator

I, the undersigned, the duly appointed and qualified Clerk of Marathon County, Wisconsin do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Supervisors at a meeting of said County held in open session in accordance with the requirements of Subchapter V of Chapter 19 of the Wisconsin Statutes on October 24, 2023

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kim Trueblood, County Clerk

## EXHIBIT A

### NOTICE TO ELECTORS OF MARATHON COUNTY, WISCONSIN

TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Supervisors of Marathon County, Wisconsin (the “Issuer”), at a regular meeting held at the Marathon County Courthouse, 500 Forest Street, Wausau, Wisconsin, on October 24, 2023, adopted an Initial Resolution pursuant to Section 66.1103 of the Wisconsin Statutes, as amended, expressing the intention to issue not to exceed \$45,000,000 of industrial development revenue bonds of the Issuer (the “Bonds”) on behalf of WI RNG VDG LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, and/or a related entity, and/or a limited liability entity to be formed (collectively, the “Borrower”). The Borrower desires to complete a project consisting of financing the (i) design, development, construction and operation of a solid waste disposal facility for the purpose of converting dairy cattle waste to natural gas for sale on property owned by Van Der Geest Dairy Cattle, Inc., a Wisconsin corporation, at 5555 County Road A in the Village of Maine, Marathon County, Wisconsin (the “Project Site”), (ii) the lease of the Project Site to the Borrower for the production of renewable natural gas, (iii) acquisition and installation of an anaerobic digester and related equipment at the Project Site, (iv) capitalized interest during the construction period, (v) funding of a Debt Service Reserve Fund and other funds, if necessary, and (vi) payment of certain professional fees and costs of issuance (collectively, the “Project”). The Borrower has represented that the net number of full-time equivalent jobs which the Project is expected to create on the Project site within three years is 10.

Pursuant to the terms of Section 66.1103 of the Wisconsin Statutes, all requirements that the Project be subject to the contracting requirements contained in Section 66.1103 are waived, the Borrower having represented that it is able to negotiate satisfactory arrangements for completing the Project and that the Issuer’s interests are not prejudiced thereby.

THE BONDS SHALL NEVER CONSTITUTE AN INDEBTEDNESS OF THE ISSUER, NOR SHALL THE BONDS GIVE RISE TO ANY PECUNIARY LIABILITY OF THE ISSUER, NOR SHALL THE BONDS BE A CHARGE AGAINST THE GENERAL CREDIT OR TAXING POWERS OF THE ISSUER. RATHER, THE BONDS SHALL BE PAYABLE SOLELY FROM THE REVENUES AND OTHER AMOUNTS TO BE DERIVED PURSUANT TO THE REVENUE AGREEMENT RELATING TO SAID PROJECT TO BE ENTERED INTO BETWEEN THE ISSUER AND THE BORROWER.

The Initial Resolution may be inspected in the office of the County Clerk at 500 Forest Street, Wausau, Wisconsin, during business hours.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT THE ELECTORS OF MARATHON COUNTY MAY PETITION FOR A REFERENDUM ON THE QUESTION OF THE BOND ISSUE. Unless within thirty (30) days from the date of the publication of this Notice a petition signed by not less than five percent (5%) of the registered electors of Marathon County is filed with the County Clerk requesting a referendum on the question of the issuance of the Bonds, the Issuer will issue the Bonds without submitting the proposition for the electors' approval. If such petition is filed as aforesaid, then the Bonds shall not be issued until approved by a majority of the electors of Marathon County voting thereon at a general or special election.

Kim Trueblood, County Clerk  
Marathon County, Wisconsin

## SUMMARY

**Request for MARATHON COUNTY, WISCONSIN  
to Serve as Conduit Issuer  
for  
Not to Exceed \$45,000,000 Exempt Facility Revenue Bonds  
to Benefit  
WI RNG VDG LLC Renewable Natural Gas Production Plant Project**

This will summarize the request of WI RNG VDG LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, and/or a related entity, and/or a limited liability entity to be formed (collectively, the “Company”), asking that Marathon County, Wisconsin (the “County”) consider an Initial Resolution to benefit the Company through the conduit issuance of one or more series of tax-exempt and taxable exempt facility revenue bonds (“Bonds”) to finance a project located at 5555 County Road A, in the Village of Maine, Marathon County, Wisconsin. The Project consists of the (i) design, development, construction and operation of a solid waste disposal facility for the purpose of converting dairy cattle waste to natural gas for sale on property owned by Van Der Geest Dairy Cattle, Inc., a Wisconsin corporation, at 5555 County Road A in the Village of Maine, Marathon County, Wisconsin (the “Project Site”), (ii) the lease of the Project Site to the Company for the production of renewable natural gas, (iii) acquisition and installation of an anaerobic digester and related equipment at the Project Site, (iv) capitalized interest during the construction period, (v) funding of a Debt Service Reserve Fund and other funds, if necessary, and (vi) payment of certain professional fees and costs of issuance (collectively, the “Project”). Exempt facility revenue bonds must comply with both Federal law (Sec. 142 of Internal Revenue Code (“IRC”) and State law (Section 66.1103 Wis. Stats.). In a conduit bond transaction, a state or local governmental entity issues bonds and loans the proceeds from the sale of the bonds to a private entity for an authorized project. In Wisconsin, counties, cities, villages and towns, as well as duly constituted redevelopment authorities and community development authorities may issue such conduit bonds.

Section 142(a) IRC permits the issuance of qualified exempt facility bonds for multiple purposes, including for projects in which 95% of the project is used for conversion of solid waste to a first useful product (Section 142(a)(6) IRC). The Project, as outlined above, converts animal waste into renewable natural gas (“RNG”) and will constitute a solid waste conversion facility under Section 142(a)(6) IRC.

These exempt facility Bonds are municipal bonds; however, they are not general obligations of the County. If the County agrees to issue bonds to benefit the proposed Project:

1. The County will not be liable for payment of the principal and interest on the bonds;
2. The County will not have ongoing responsibilities of monitoring or reporting with regard to the bonds or the Project.
3. The bonds do not count against the County’s borrowing capacity. The County will not levy a tax for payment of the bonds.
4. The County will be reimbursed for all fees and costs incurred because of the County’s participation as the conduit issuer of the bonds.

The County acts strictly as a conduit, which enables the Company to borrow at a lower rate of interest.

Because the bonds are issued by a governmental entity, the holder of the bond may exclude the interest on the bonds from gross income for federal tax purposes.

### **Inducement/Reimbursement**

Companies considering bond financing must obtain an Initial Resolution, also sometimes referred to as an “inducement resolution” or “qualified reimbursement resolution” from the municipality in which the Project being financed is located, in order to preserve the option to use bond financing and apply for volume cap from the WEDC. The Initial Resolution is preliminary approval only and is non-binding as to the County or the Company but is required by Federal tax law and State law. If the Initial Resolution is adopted by the County, this will assure that when and if bonds are issued, all eligible project costs incurred no more than 60 days prior to the date of the Initial Resolution (including reimbursement of equity contributions or refunding of conventional financing), may be included in the ultimate bond financing. Failure to have a qualified resolution may result in disqualifying certain costs.

By acting as the conduit issuer, the County can grant the Company a significant monetary benefit, at no cost to the County, because the Company will enjoy a lower interest rate as a result of using a bond structure. The bonds will be sold to the public (“Bondholders”) by an underwriter and thereafter, an independent third-party fiduciary, (the “Trustee”) will continuously monitor the bonds on behalf of the Bondholders. The Bondholders will look solely to the Company for repayment. Bondholders will not look to the County for payment. The County will assign all of its rights, liability and responsibilities under the bonds to the Trustee for the benefit of the Bondholders. In addition, the Bond documents will include broad indemnification of the County. The Company will be fully responsible for repaying the loan. If the Company is not able to meet its payment obligations, the Trustee will enforce the rights of the Bondholder as required in the Bond documents. The County is not liable for payment.

If the County adopts the Initial Resolution and the bond financing proceeds, the County, and their counsel, will receive copies of all documents, will be asked to hold a public hearing required by the IRC (the “TEFRA hearing”) at a future date. Once all documents are in substantially final form, the County will be asked to consider a Final Resolution approving the financing.

The foregoing is just a brief discussion of tax-exempt financing. By issuing the bonds, the County will give the Company an interest rate benefit, because the tax-exempt bonds will be tax-exempt in the hands of the Bondholders and, therefore, the cost savings passed along to the Company. It must be emphasized that the County will not be liable in any way on the bonds; the conduit bonds are special, limited obligations of the County.

The Company respectfully asks that the County Board consider the Initial Resolution at its October 24, 2023 meeting.

### Notice of Intent to Obtain a Municipal Industrial Revenue Bond

Section 66.1103 (4m) (a) 1 of the Wisconsin Statutes requires the person or business who intends to obtain an industrial revenue bond issue from a Wisconsin municipality to notify this intention to the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation and to any collective bargaining agent in the state with whom the person or business has a collective bargaining agreement. This notification must occur at least 30 days prior to entering into the revenue agreement or signing the loan contract. The person or business must provide information on the number of full-time jobs that are expected to be eliminated, created, or maintained at the project site and elsewhere in Wisconsin as a result of the project which is the subject of this notice. The person or business named below hereby gives notice of intent to obtain an Industrial Revenue Bond pursuant to s. 66.1103 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

**I. Project**

A. Person: Nick Cioll  
 Business: WI RNG VDG LLC  
 Address: 111 Veterans Memorial Blvd, Suite 1546  
 Post Office/ZIP: Metairie, LA 70005

B. Project site: Marathon County, Wisconsin (Village of Maine)  
 (Name of city, village or town in which the project is located)

C. Project type:     Expansion at Present Location         Relocation Within Same Municipality  
                           Relocation From Within State     Relocation from Out-of-State         New Business  
                           Branch-Wisconsin Operation         Branch-Out-of-State Operation        \_\_\_\_\_

D. Maximum amount of IRB financing: \$45,000,000

**II. Employment Estimates (to result within the next 3 years)**

Number of Full-Time Jobs	Before Project	To Be Maintained	To Be Created	To Be Eliminated	Net Total Number of Jobs
A. <u>At the Project Site</u>	-0-	-0-	10	-0-	10
B. <u>At All Other Wisconsin Operations</u>	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
C. <u>Net Totals</u>	-0-	-0-	10	-0-	10

D. Will any jobs transfer from one or more locations to the project site?        Yes  No

Number of jobs to transfer: N/A

Location(s) the jobs will transfer from: (municipality)        N/A

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signed/Person completing this form

R. Nick Cioll  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name

Sept 21,  
 2023  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

(469) 951-3264  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Number

**Not to Exceed \$45,000,000**  
**Marathon County, Wisconsin**  
**Solid Waste Disposal Revenue Bonds, Series 2023**  
**(WI RNG VDG LLC Renewable Natural Gas Production Plant Project)**

**CHECKLIST FOR MARATHON COUNTY, WISCONSIN (the “Issuer”)**

ITEM	ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY ISSUER	DATE ACTION TAKEN
1. Husch Blackwell LLP (“HB”) provides Procedure Letter to Marathon County, Wisconsin (“Issuer”).	N/A	September 5, 2023
2. HB provides Fee Estimate Letter to County Clerk and Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (“WEDC”).	County Clerk signs Fee Estimate Letter and returns to HB.	September 5, 2023
3. HB / Borrower provide Job Estimate to Issuer, WEDC and union representatives (if any).	N/A	September 5, 2023
4. HB provides Initial Resolution (inducement resolution) to Issuer.	County Clerk includes Initial Resolution in County Board packet and on agenda.	September 5, 2023
5. County Clerk provides Notice of Meeting to consider Initial Resolution. <b>Must include job information. See Procedure Letter for required language.</b>	County Clerk provides notice of meeting, including required job language to comply with Wisconsin open meetings law.	Notice of meeting provided by County for October 24, 2023 meeting
6. County Board considers Initial Resolution.	County Board considers Initial Resolution.	October 24, 2023
7. HB publishes Notice to Electors.	County Clerk calls Kate L. Albrecht at HB (414-978-5516) to confirm adoption of Initial Resolution.	October 25, 2023
8. HB provides a copy of Initial Resolution and publication date of Notice to Electors to WEDC.	County Clerk mails copy of signed Initial Resolution to Kate L. Albrecht.	October 25, 2023
9. HB provides Issuer with Final Resolution and other documents.	County Clerk includes Final Resolution in County Board packet and on agenda. Issuer reviews documents.	TBD
10. County Clerk provides Notice of Meeting to consider Final Resolution. <b>Final Resolution considered approximately 4 weeks after publication of Notice to Electors (#7 above); however, bonds cannot be issued sooner than 30 days after publication of Notice to Electors.</b>	County Clerk provides notice of meeting to comply with Wisconsin open meetings law.	TBD
11. HB publishes TEFRA Notice at least 7 days prior to meeting date.	County Clerk includes Notice of Public Hearing on County Board agenda.	TBD
12. Issuer holds TEFRA public hearing and considers Final Resolution.	County Board holds TEFRA public hearing, County Board consider Final Resolution, and County signs and returns all bond documents provided by HB to Kate L. Albrecht.	TBD
13. Closing (Issuer does not attend closing; signature pages will be sent to Issuer prior to closing)	N/A - HB will send a closing book to Issuer upon closing.	TBD

Husch Blackwell LLP  
Lynda R. Templen, Esq. 414-978-5505



## **MCDEVCO, Inc. – November 2023 Report**

### **GAP FINANCING**

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

### **POWTS REVOLVING LOAN FUND**

MCDEVCO is now accepting applications!

### **COVID-19 GRANTS**

MCDEVCO administrated the Marathon County Microbusiness Grant.

- Total Amount of \$5,000.00 Grants Disbursed: 47
- Total Amount Disbursed to Marathon County Businesses: \$235,000.00

### **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 led an entrepreneurship segment with the DC Everest Youth Entrepreneurs.
- **April 4, 2023 & April 11, 2023:** Strategic Planning Workshop hosted by MCDEVCO.
- **April 20, 2023:** MCDEVCO was present at the Chamber Expo.
- **April 26, 2023:** MCDEVCO was present at the CWIMMA Expo.
- **May 9, 2023:** *GAP* Financing Information Session was held for EEC Tenants looking to grow and evolve their business.
- **May 15, 2023:** MCDEVCO attended a Strategic Doing Workshop and led a table discussion surrounding Brainpower and Talent Development in our Region.
- **May 16, 2023:** Business Networking hosted by MCDEVCO.
- **May 23, 2023:** MCDEVCO partnered with the DC Everest Youth Entrepreneurs for a class visit.
- **June 13, 2023:** Business Start Up Information Session hosted by MCDEVCO.
- **June 21 & 28, 2023:** Quickbooks for Business hosted by MCDEVCO.
- **July 19, 2023:** Law Clinic hosted by MCDEVCO in partnership with UW Madison Law & Entrepreneurship Clinic.
- **July 24 & 31, 2023:** Marketing Workshop hosted by MCDEVCO.
- **September 12, 2023 through December 5, 2023:** *GEARS* Certificate of Entrepreneurial Excellence.
- **October 10, 2023:** Business Start Up Information Session hosted by MCDEVCO.
- **November 17, 2023:** Women's Conference – Inside Out Leadership Summit

#### **Municipalities**

MCDEVCO hosts quarterly municipality meetings.

#### **EEC Management**

Occupancy Update:

- October 2023 Occupancy: 88%

**Kimm Weber**, Executive Director - MCDEVCO

## 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

 MCDEVCO, Inc.  
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



## Marketing Workshop

Tara Schessler  
Sales Manager - WAOW TV 9

Mondays, July 24 & 31, 2023

MCDEVCO, Inc.  
Entrepreneurial & Education Center  
100 N 72nd Avenue, Wausau, WI  
[www.mcdevco.org](http://www.mcdevco.org)  
715.298.0084



**MCDEVCO, Inc.**  
 Entrepreneurial & Education Center  
 100 N 72nd Avenue  
 Wausau, WI 54401



## GEARS Certificate of Entrepreneurial Excellence

Tuesdays, September 12 - December 5, 2023  
 6:00-8:00PM - 22 Hours of Focused Management Skills

Join us for this 12-week leadership program and learn the skills, tools, and strategies to get your new venture off to a great start or to grow your existing business.

**SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**





## BUSINESS LAW BASICS

UW Law & Entrepreneurship Clinic Supervising Attorney Jeff Glazer will present on Business Law Basics and Intellectual Property. Q & A to follow.

10:00-11:00AM - Presentation and Q & A

11:00AM to 3:00PM - Eight (8) 30-minute time slots available by appointment.

Wednesday, July 19, 2023  
 Entrepreneurial & Education Center  
 100 N 72nd Avenue, Wausau, WI 54401

Register Online  
[www.mcdevco.org / Events & Programs](http://www.mcdevco.org/Events&Programs)  
 715.298.0084




## INSIDE-OUT LEADERSHIP SUMMIT WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Keynote Speaker  
**Stephanie Perkins**

**Friday, November 17, 2023**  
**8:30 AM to 3:30 PM**

**\$75 - Lunch Included**  
**Scholarships Available**

**REGISTER NOW**

**MCDEVCO, Inc.**  
 Entrepreneurial & Education Center  
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# Monthly Summary of the Marathon County Public Library for the Marathon County Extension, Education, and Economic Development Committee

For December 7, 2023 EEEDC Meeting

## Highlights

### New Self-Checkout Kiosks Installed

We've reached another milestone in our long-running technology refresh project: replacing all six of our self-checkout stations. Our old units served us well for longer than typically expected (over a decade) but had begun to fail beyond repair over the past few years, so the time had come to bring in a more reliable and up-to-date version. After reviewing available options, we ordered from FE Technologies - a newer player in the American library world, but with a longer history overseas, good references from libraries here in the States, and reasonable maintenance costs.



The new units will provide the core features patrons have come to expect (namely, the ability to check out quickly without assistance from a staff person), and will do it in style, with a display we can customize to fit the library's aesthetic. They also come with a halo light around the screen, which can change color if an error occurs during a transaction - that way, staff can notice at a glance if a patron needs assistance and intervene promptly to ensure the smoothest experience. Additionally, patrons will enjoy plenty of desktop space split evenly on both sides of the unit's scanner, which will make it easy to

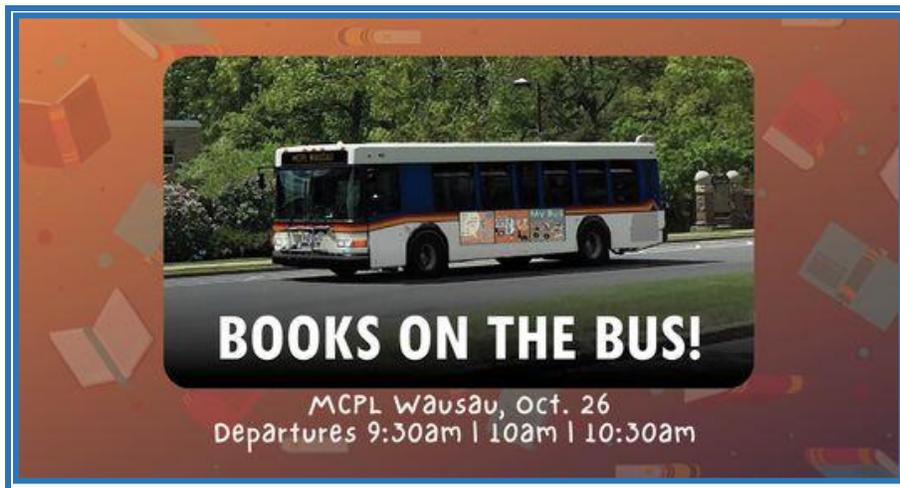
keep track of which books still need to be checked out, and which ones are good to go (moving them from left to right as they check out, for example).

As before, these units will serve our busiest locations, with one at the Rothschild branch, one in the Wausau children's section, and four near the Wausau circulation desk. At the time of writing, we are in the process of removing the old units, and expect the new ones to be installed and fully operational by the time this Board meets. Please stop by and try one of them yourself!

*-Alexander J, Support Services Manager*

## Library Services

October was a busy month full of programs and outreach for the Youth Services department. The team worked together to throw a very popular “Mario Party.” We had over 300 people in the library for Mario-themed activities! Another popular program this month was the highly-requested “Books on the Bus!” event, a collaboration with the Wausau Metro. Around 100 participants listened to bus-themed stories and then rode the city bus. Youth Services staff also introduced the library to new patrons of all ages: The Wausau School District sent four kids in the gifted and talented program to the library for an in-depth tour as part of their mentor program. Additionally, New Beginnings for Refugees brought in two families to get acquainted with MCPL and learn about the services libraries provide in the United States. The group with New Beginnings received a tour of the library, got library cards, and signed up for 1000 Books before Kindergarten. Outreach was also on our minds this month. Taylor attended DC Everest’s 4K Night in early October and chatted with over 50 families about the library. Youth staff continued our partnership with Marathon County 4-H and were recognized as their “Friend of the Year.” Rose received the award on behalf of the library, and it is displayed proudly on the Youth Services Reference Desk.



The Adult Services team kept busy this month with Tech Time and notary appointments, the bimonthly team meeting, planning for 2024, and working on projects. Some programming highlights include: A full “Computer Basics—Internet & Privacy” class, a well-attended “Craft Swap” held in the Community Room, and a timely “Preparing for Winter” gardening class in collaboration with Extension Marathon County. Our partnership with Adaptive Communities continues to be popular; two programs were held

with the group in October and Julie K. is planning to continue collaborating with the group in 2024. During the month of October, we chose a week to gather Reference Interaction statistics to report out to the DPI. We're thrilled to see how many people we help every day across all of our locations. In order to help spread the word about all of the services and programs at MCPL, Chad our Event & Program Coordinator was invited by WXCO 98.9/1230AM for ongoing radio spots. The first spots were aired this month, and we're excited by this opportunity to reach more patrons. *-Katelyn S, Library Services Manager*

## Branches

Our Athens branch staff are readying the library for its upcoming move to 203 Alfred Street. The move is scheduled for November 6<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>. Staff members have been busy packing the office, receiving new items for the library, shelf reading the collection, and are ready for the transition to the new location. We look forward to welcoming the public to our new and improved space in mid-November!

Edgar will be hosting a community cookbook and recipe swap in early November. We're inviting patrons from around the Edgar area to share favorite recipes with each other. The recipes will be compiled from this program and made into a community cookbook that will eventually be available for checkout at the library. Can't make it on November 6? Submit your recipe any time after that during regular business hours and we'll add it to the book! For more information, contact the Edgar branch library at 715-352-3155.

Hatley hosted a very popular Learn to Knit program in mid-October. An experienced member of the knitting club in Hatley visited the library to introduce and teach patrons the art of knitting! This program registration filled up quickly, so an additional program will be held next spring to reach more participants.

Rothschild and Mosinee both hosted art displays from local elementary schools. In Rothschild, patrons could see seasonal bat and pumpkin paintings by Rothschild Elementary School 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders, and in Mosinee, artwork created by Mosinee Elementary School 2<sup>nd</sup> graders focused on the theme camping at night. The Spencer branch celebrated National 4-H week in early October by displaying projects created by the Spencer 4-H Club. Many community members enjoyed looking at the variety of projects and artwork in all three locations



Family escape rooms were hosted at both Stratford and Rothschild. These events were extremely popular and families loved working together to try to solve puzzles and unlock the breakout boxes. In Stratford, 57 guests of all ages enjoyed our *Trick or Triumph Escape Rooms* on Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup>, and in Rothschild, 28 participants played *Treasures in the Attic* on Oct 26<sup>th</sup>.

In staffing news, Lisa M. started as a new branch assistant in Marathon City on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. She participated in an orientation week in Wausau and is now settling in at the Marathon City location. We are excited to welcome her to the team. Additionally, Lue M., the Spencer branch assistant returned from her leave on October 28<sup>th</sup>. Everyone was happy to welcome her back as well. The branch team is happy to be fully staffed at the moment as we head into the busy holiday season.

*-Laura W, Branch Team Lead*

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**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
MARATHON COUNTY

# November 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 Luerssen, 4-H Program Educator**

**Jasmine Carbajal, 4-H Associate Educator**

- A series of two virtual orientation meetings to help prepare youth (age 15-19) to travel for the National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, GA. The meetings were designed to help youth lay the groundwork for success.
- Planning for a community-wide youth pinewood derby event in collaboration with Boys and Girls Club, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Scouts BSA, and Girl Scouts. The goal of this effort is to increase awareness of the youth organizations in the community so that each organization can experience an increase in membership and youth participation.
- A community-wide youth pinewood derby event in collaboration with Boys and Girls Club, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Scouts BSA, and Girl Scouts. The goal of this effort is to increase awareness of the youth organizations in the community so that each organization can experience an increase in membership and youth participation.
- Discover 4-H AgriScience is a 6 week afterschool program held at two different Wausau School Districts elementary schools with 3rd-5th grade students.

## **Agriculture**

**Heather Schlessor, Dairy Agent**

- The first quarter of the Prototheca Bovis Mastitis research project has come to an end. Of the 25 farms that were cultured, no farms were positive for Prototheca Bovis. The second collection time is in January of 2024. Results from this study will help Extension Educators provide tailored education to the farmers of Wisconsin on this type of mastitis.
- The first quarter of the colostrum management project also came to a close at the start of this month. So far we have collected samples on 750 calves aged 1 - 7 days, with half being retained heifers and the other being non-retained animals (either beef x dairy cross animals or dairy bulls). The study looks to determine if there are differences in the rate of passive transfer between these two groups of animals.
- Heather was honored by the Marathon County Farm Bureau by being awarded their Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award.





**Extension**

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MARATHON COUNTY

# November 2023 Report

- The dairy worker training modules for Module 1: Milking Skills and Module 2: Reproductive skills are live at: <https://dairy.extension.wisc.edu/2209-2/>, this month the materials for the Milking Skills Modules was submitted for Spanish Translation.
- Coordinating a Planning for Emergency Livestock Transportation Response (PELTR) hybrid training in collaboration with Waukesha County and the Humane Animal Welfare Society (HAWS) of Waukesha for area and statewide emergency response personnel to learn about responding to roadside incidents involving livestock trailers. The purpose of this program is to increase the effectiveness of emergency planning and the preparedness of local emergency response agencies (Sandy Stuttgen, Bill Halfman, Heather Schlessner, Lyssa Seefeldt, Sandy Stuttgen)
- Planning for a community-wide youth pinewood derby event in collaboration with Boys and Girls Club, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Scouts BSA, and Girl Scouts. The goal of this effort is to increase awareness of the youth organizations in the community so that each organization can experience an increase in membership and youth participation.
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- A field study data collection in collaboration with Colorado State University to better understand the practices and challenges associated with transportation of pre-weaned dairy heifer, dairy bull, and beef x dairy calves from the source (dairy farms), hauler, and receiver (calf raiser). Results from this study will help dairy farmers, managers, haulers, calf raisers, and the dairy community in adopting practices and improving transportation welfare to improve farm business viability and food safety.
- Planning and creating videos for agriculturists including youth involved in livestock production where they will learn biosecurity principles in collaboration with the WI Department of Agriculture and Consumer Protection (DATCP). The goal of this project is to help livestock producers increase their understanding of biosecurity practices that will help them achieve and/or maintain economic viability.
- Planning for development of factsheets/articles, longer publications, and videos on nutrition, genetics, & reproduction topics. The goal of this effort is to increase farmer, nutritionist, veterinarian, and other agribusiness professionals understanding of management of these topics to help improve farm sustainability and economic viability.

## **FoodWise**

**Mallory McGivern, FoodWise Administrator**

**Michelle Van Krey, Healthy Communities Coordinator**

**Julia Perock, FoodWise Educator**

- Shared leadership in the Marathon County Hunger Coalition, where emphasis is placed on expanding healthy food access and developing new projects and partnerships that will empower Marathon County families through education and shared resources. The coalition's goal is to increase access to healthy foods to achieve health equity for all county residents.



- A quarterly nutrition education series in Marathon County utilizing the Feeding for Healthy Eating curriculum for adults with young children as part of the Children's Wisconsin LEAP (Learning Essentials about Parenting) program where they learn about incorporating healthy eating habits into the family routine, including family meals, and eating more fruits and vegetables. The goal of this effort is to encourage healthy eating behaviors at home.
- Nutrition education at First Presbyterian Church food pantry in partnership with the Marathon County Hunger Coalition's produce distribution during pantry hours. The goal of this program is to provide pantry guests with exposure to new foods and provide recipes to encourage increased vegetable consumption at home.



## Horticulture

Janell Wehr, Horticulture Educator

- 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 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.
- A 12 week gardening course (Sowing Success) for the general public and potential Master Gardener volunteers where participants learned Integrated Pest Management concepts and skills to reduce environmental degradation due to pesticide and fertilizer misuse.
- In the "Wildlife Primer" class, participants learned IPM based skills to reduce wildlife damage while reducing environmental degradation due to pesticide misuse. The class was held 3 times, Mosinee Community Education and twice at the Marathon Public Library Wausau Branch.





- “Winterize” was a program held at the Woodson YMCA- The Landing, where participants learned specific techniques to prepare landscapes for winter, including vegetable and perennial gardens, lawns, and woody ornamentals.

## **Natural Resources**

Kris Tiles, NRI Program Manager

Anna James, Regional Natural Resources Educator

- Online and in-person hybrid classes for woodland owners, where participants learn about managing their property and protecting the health of their trees. This effort is designed to increase their engagement with their land and sustain the resource for the long-term.
- Participation in the advisory panel of a local producer-led watershed group for farmers, conservationists, and community members of the Big Eau Pleine watershed, by assisting with planning and facilitating activities geared toward increasing the awareness and adoption of conservation and ultimately water quality of the Big Eau Pleine and Wisconsin River watersheds.

## **Additional Extension Outreach Programming Occurring in Marathon County**

Following two previous years of successful fall grazing pasture walks, local Extension Educators organized a pasture walk on the farm of a very successful organic dairy producer belonging to the plain faith community. Working with the local County Land and Water Conservation departments, an organic milk cooperative, and a vendor and provider of organic farm supplies, and ultimately with the farmer host, topics of interest, addressing the current needs of organic dairy producers were identified. These topics included establishment of perennial pasture mixtures, maintaining high yield, crop rotation and high forage quality with maximum use of crop cover to minimize erosion and to maintain soil health; breeding and identifying the optimum type of dairy cow selecting for longevity, disease resistance, fertility and consistent yields of high component milk suitable for organic markets; raising of dairy replacements on pasture systems; and testing of soil and interpreting soil reports to economically improve pasture yield.

Extension educators were identified to present on these topics and to lead group discussions with the participants and the host farm to learn how these goals were being addressed on this dairy farm.

Promotion of the event among the plain faith organic dairy farm community and with Land Conservation Departments and other groups resulting in a successful day with dynamic and interactive discussion.

- An online program (Money Matters) for participants who want to improve their financial knowledge, where they complete 1-12 modules on different financial topics. The goal of the Money Matters modules is to



increase participants' knowledge on topics such as credit scores and reports, making a spending plan, what to do when you can't pay your bills, and identifying financial strengths so that participants can apply these skills in the future.

- Shared leadership in the Eat Right Be Fit coalition in Clark County, where emphasis is placed on the health and safety of Clark County families through education and shared resources. The coalition's goal is to develop new projects and partnerships that will advance health equity in Clark County.
- A 5-week nutrition education series (Discover MyPlate) for 1st grade classrooms at Colby Elementary School, where students will learn about MyPlate, the five food groups, and try new fruits and vegetables. The goal of the series is for students to learn about being physically active and help them make healthy choices in school and at home.
- Plans for a dairy open house on a robotic dairy farm are being developed to address the high level of interest by dairy producers to embrace this cow management, production enhancing and labor saving technology.
- Participating on the steering team of a collaborative of local farmers and agricultural professionals called a "learning hub," based in a specific geography referred to as the Cloverbelt, focused on increasing grass-based agriculture in the region mainly by the implementation of grazing dairy heifers.
- Coordinate the Grazing Management Team at the Marshfield Agricultural Research Station. The goal is to facilitate monthly meetings to make sure all research station staff and scientists are working toward the same goals, and to ensure success of the grazing program at the station.

## Upcoming Programs

- **4-H Programming** – Information at [marathon.extension.wisc.edu/projects/programs/](https://marathon.extension.wisc.edu/projects/programs/)
- **Horticultural Programs** – Information at <https://marathon.extension.wisc.edu/horticulture/programs/>

Jeremy Solin <i>Area Extension Director</i>	Janell Wehr <i>Horticulture Educator</i>	Kris Tiles <i>NRI Program Manager</i>
Heather Schlessler <i>Dairy Agent</i>	Mallory McGivern <i>FoodWise Administrator</i>	Kathy Johnson <i>Administrative Assistant</i>
Holly Luerssen <i>4-H Program Educator</i>	Julia Perock <i>FoodWise Educator</i>	
Jasmine Carbajal <i>4-H Associate Educator</i>	Michelle Van Krey <i>Healthy Community Coordinator</i>	



# Wausau UW-Stevens Point

## Report to the Extension, Education, and Economic Development Committee December 2023

1. **Wausau campus dining-** Our new dining vendor, Chicago Style'z, is set to start providing service in January. They will provide dining for students and will be open to the public. Menu items will include Chicago fare that will be very welcome in Wausau, from Italian Beef and Polish sausages to burgers, fries, and pizza puffs.
2. **Enrollment** -Applications for Spring 2024 and Fall 2024 are coming in steadily. Our Admissions Counselors are working hard to drive more applications. We will have a new Wausau and Marshfield Campus Recruitment Coordinator starting soon to augment our recruitment efforts.
3. **Continuing Education:** Please access our continuing education website for professional development opportunities.  
<https://www3.uwsp.edu/conted/Pages/Professional-Development.aspx>
4. **Degree Programs Offered** – We have refined our offerings to provide UWSP at Wausau students a solid foundation for the baccalaureate major and career pathway of their interest. Below is a list of the degree programs we currently 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  
B.S. in Business Administration  
B.S. in Nursing (full degree and completion options available)  
B.S. in Organizational Leadership  
B.S. in Multidisciplinary Studies  
B.S. in Multidisciplinary Studies—Technology Management Emphasis  
Engineering (UW-Platteville Partnership)
  - c. Master's Degrees  
Masters of Business Administration in Applied Leadership and Decision-Making  
Physician Assistant Program (UW-Madison Partnership)  
Social Work (UW-Green Bay Partnership)

Submitted by Miranda Gentry-Siegel on behalf of Ozalle Toms, Campus Executive