



MARATHON COUNTY EXTENSION, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

Date & Time of Meeting: **Thursday, February 1, 2024, 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 January 4, 2024, 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. Opportunity for providing recommendations relative to items to be included in the Administrator's 2024 Annual Work Plan
 - B. Marathon County's Role in Providing Affordable High-Quality External Childcare
 1. Childcare Resolution
7. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**
 - A. Presentation and Discussion about Horticulture Program Priorities with Janell Wehr
 - B. Marathon County/Regional Agriculture Education Position
 - 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, March 7, 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 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, January 4, 2024, at 3:00pm**

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

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

Staff Present: Administrator Lance Leonhard, Chris Holman, Kurt Gibbs

Others Present: Supervisor Robinson, Supervisor Lemmer, Kelly Borchardt, Kimm Weber, Leah Giordano, Jeremy Solin, Miranda Gentry-Siegel

[Meeting Recording](#)

1. **Call Meeting to Order** – Chair Seefeldt called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Public Comment:** Kelly Borchardt commented on Childcare. (:00.40)
4. **Approval of the December 7, 2024, Extension, Education & Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes** – (:03.50)
Motion by Buch, second by Rosenberg to approve the minutes. Motion carried on voice vote, unanimously.
5. **Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination:** None
6. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance, Resolution, or Policy**
 - A. Marathon County's Role in Providing Affordable High-Quality External Childcare (:04.30)
 1. Childcare Resolution: No action taken.
7. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**
 - A. Manure Digester Producer for County Consideration (:16.05)
 - B. MCDEVCO's Monthly Report (:18.30)
 - C. Library Monthly Report (:22.22)
 - D. UW – Extension Monthly Report (:30.20)
 - E. UWSP – Wausau Report (:33.50)
8. **Next Meeting Date & Time, Announcements and Future Agenda Items** (:36.50)
 - A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion.
 - B. Next meeting: Thursday, February 1, 2024, at 3:00pm
9. **Adjournment** (:37.20)
Motion by Rosenberg, Second by Buch to adjourn. Motion Carried on voice vote, unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.




Minutes Prepared by Kelley Blume










**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION
2023 WORK PLAN
(End of Year Update) (new information in RED)**



Project Complete	
Moderate to Significant Progress	
Minimal to Moderate Progress	
No Progress or Project No Longer Being Pursued	



Activity	Deliverables/Expected Outcomes	Key Upcoming Dates	Dependencies	Progress	Progress – New In Red
<p>1. Facilities Related Projects</p> <p>A. Continue Renovation of NCHC Spaces on Lake View Drive Campus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved Financial Performance (aim of initial project) ▪ Consolidated footprint for NCHC ▪ Complete needed facility renovations ▪ Vacate portions of campus for County utilization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Specific Dates noted in progress section ▪ NCHC portion of Lake View Campus project should be complete by end of 2023. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General construction dependencies ▪ Debt Service – NCHC ability to service debt is tied to financial performance 		<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Timeline – project continues to proceed according to plan. NCHC portion of project is effectively complete</p> <p>NCHC Administrative Staff, Pharmacy, Outpatient, and Community Treatment have moved into new space, vacating A/B.</p> <p>Demolition of C-wing completed and new parking lot completed for back-of-house (staff) parking.</p> <p>MMT is open, waiting for CMS billing approval.</p> <p>Northern Reflections nursing home renovations complete.</p>
<p>B. Complete approved Lake View Campus renovation projects and relocate Social Services Department, Veterans Office, and conference room facilities to the Lake View Drive Campus.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Human Services - Enhance Lake View Campus as the county’s human services campus, with Health, DSS, Veterans, ADRC, and Community Programs on single site. ▪ Financial savings – reduced overhead/facility costs with single site; potential consolidation of future positions; consolidated footprint based on the remote work/hybrid work. Renovated DSS space is approximately 70% of size of Thomas Street site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DSS – None – project complete but for permanent exterior signage, which will be addressed after all facility relocations. ▪ MCECU, and Conference Center completion August 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Veterans relocation is part of A/B building renovation that is currently in design. Funding will be included in Administrator’s Proposed 2024 budget 		<p>Complete</p> <p>DSS move Complete – relocation was highly successful</p> <p>Emergency Management relocated from West Street to Lake View area.</p> <p>Lake View Conference Center complete</p> <p>Credit Union space substantially completed – finalizing lease amendments</p> <p>County Board approved A/B renovation phase in November as part of budget. Tour provided to Board members in December 2023.</p> <p>Veterans Service Office is being relocated to A/B building upon completion of construction.</p>




<p>C. Deliver Summary Facilities Plan to utilize office space on Lake View Drive Campus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consolidated footprint (relocate Veterans, CPZ, Conference Room facilities to Lake View Drive Campus ▪ Improved Financial Performance – provide for ADRC return to campus ▪ Develop plan consistent with Board’s previous direction to relocate Highway Department from West Street. ▪ Complete Westside Masterplan ▪ Develop a Regional Forensic Science Center ▪ Update of Courthouse Facility Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Emergency Management relocation to Lake View Campus – October 2023 – target move ▪ County Budget – funding for A/B project – November 2023. ▪ Courthouse Facility MP update – not anticipated to be considered until 2024 for 2025 budget consideration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None for planning ▪ Dependencies exist for execution (Staff capacity; Funding provision by Board) 		<p>Complete</p> <p>Conceptual Plan for A/B buildings was approved by County Board and funding for project was approved as part of 2024 Annual budget. Plan provides for relocation of several county departments (i.e., CPZ, Veterans, Finance, UW Extension, and portions of HR and Admin) and affiliated organizations (i.e., ADRC of Central Wisconsin and NCHC Adult Protective Services)</p> <p>ADRC – ongoing – design of prospective space is ongoing. Draft lease is currently being reviewed by ADRC leadership and Administrator. Goal is to have a lease signed in Q1 of 2024. ADRC Executive Director and Administrator will engage respective committees in Q1 to move this forward.</p> <p>Parks Recreation & Forestry alternative relocation to Lake View A/B space is available to ensure River Drive campus space vacated within same timeframe as CPZ, Veterans, and UW Extension to ensure County Board can redevelop/divest property. Previous direction was to relocate PRF on shared site with Highway; however, direction from Infrastructure (see 1.D.) was to pivot, based on significant cost implications.</p>
<p>D. Present County Board with theoretical financial plan for new Highway Department Shop Construction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strategic – lay out at a high level the options for the Board relative to relocation of Highway Department and financial (tax levy) implications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation to County Board in Q3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Logistics for PFA support 		<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Presented summary plan to the Infrastructure Committee in Q1 of 2023, consensus from committee was to further evaluate relocation of Highway Department only, as opposed to joint facility.</p> <p>Highway Commissioner and Administrator received direction to continue to evaluate properties for potential relocation. Presentation to full board is envisioned in Q1 of 2024. Infrastructure Committee gave direction to staff to attempt to determine the ‘costs’ associated with remaining on current site. Staff have attempted to have our existing site evaluation consultant develop this information.</p>
<p>E. Present Board a plan for relocation of PRF Admin to vacate River Drive Properties</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Financial & Operational benefit ▪ Revenue from redevelopment of River Drive properties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ August 22, 2023 – Finalization of 2024 CIP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Time – developing a long-term solution may move us beyond 2024 budget process ▪ Funding – significant renovation to Operations Building may be necessary to accommodate Admin. 		<p>Substantially Complete</p> <p>Staff have developed a plan for PRF Admin staff to move into Lake View A/B space vacated by NCHC. (see 1.C.)</p>





<p>F. Update the Westside Masterplan and move forward as Board directs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated Plan to provide direction for staff relative to facility planning and maintenance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan is complete – staff will work to develop future potential projects for funding consideration by the Board. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 		<p>Complete</p> <p>Westside MP was adopted by the county board in February 2023.</p> <p>Emergency Management has been relocated off of West Street to Lake View Campus based on Westside MP. Space is adjacent to Conference Center, which works well for virtual EOC capability.</p> <p>Working to relocate ME Department through the Forensic Science Center project.</p> <p>County Board approved the acceptance of grant funds for purposes of completing study relative to the operation of ice facilities, including the local demand for service, operational cost evaluation, potential funding sources, and potential use as a community 'safe room.'</p>
<p>G. Assist HRFC in its effort to develop a Policy/Process relative to the divestment of County-owned facilities and properties (non-tax deed)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of a Divestment policy beyond our procurement code 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None have been established by HRFC – other issues have been a priority of the committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HRFC prioritization Staff capacity 		<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Administration met with representatives from UW Extension (outside local office) to understand potential assistance of UW staff in developing redevelopment plans.</p> <p>Administrator submitted an application for an economic development fellow through the Economic Recovery Corps program on June 30, 2023; however, application was unsuccessful.</p> <p>As part of budget, County Board adopted an amendment providing that the county board will be considering sale of properties vacated through A/B renovation and department consolidation.</p> <p>Administration has sought examples of property development/divestment RFPs from other local governments to aid in process.</p> <p>Staff stand ready to assist as requested.</p>
<p>H. Negotiate and Complete Land Transaction and Tenant-lease for property adjacent to Courthouse</p> <p>(ADDED in July 2023 – following Board action to approve OTP – workplan not formally</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic – acquire property pursuant to existing courthouse master plan (2011-13) Financial – execute lease with existing tenants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office to purchase – returned signed on 7.21.23. Closing – August 2023 Tenant meeting to negotiate lease – TBD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff capacity 		<p>Complete</p> <p>County Board authorized acquisition via OTP in July 2023. Offer conveyed and returned signed on July 21.2023.</p> <p>Closing was completed on 8/15/2023.</p> <p>Leases were executed with two entities in December of 2023. Gross revenue projections from leases are higher than those initially presented to board. Law office entity desired a smaller footprint, which allowed Administration to lease to Marathon County Court-Appointed Special Advocates, an entity that works with Marathon County</p>


amended to reflect)					<p>Courts.</p> <p>Administration & FCM will continue to evaluate options for vacant 525 and 525 ½ Washington Street properties and report same to Board as appropriate.</p>
<p>2. Budget Related Projects</p> <p>A. Improve Budget Process as requested by the County Board and HRFC.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic – improved experience for Board members through enhanced understanding of budget process and greater opportunities for direction to Administrator in crafting budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set forth in Timeline adopted by County Board in R-15-23 in March 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal (Board/staff) 		<p>Complete</p> <p>Budget process and timeline documents developed with guidance of HRFC, based on other county processes.</p> <p>Budget kickoff meetings conducted</p> <p>Standing committee meetings have recurring budget topics</p> <p>Administration compiled Mandatory/Discretionary summary document, Rate/Fee document, and Levy 5-year document, which were provided and reviewed by all committees.</p> <p>Budget Priorities were adopted at June 2023 Board meeting.</p> <p>2024 Annual Budget was considered and adopted on November 9, 2023. County Board standing committees are soliciting feedback on process for future enhancements.</p>
<p>B. Deliver a Presentation to the Board on Mandatory v. Discretionary Programs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic – improved understanding of our programs/services in light of statutory mandates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set by HRFC and Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None – complete 		<p>Complete</p> <p>Document will continue to be revised on annual basis to reflect changes made by Board or Legislature and to be more comprehensive based on directives from the Board of Supervisors.</p>
<p>C. Complete the NCHC Debt Repayment and lease documents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic – memorialize the facility use agreements for the renovated campus. Financial – create a viable plan for NCHC to service the project debt, allowing County to develop better future financial plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritized through 2023 Budget adoption process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None – complete 		<p>Complete</p> <p>Lease signed in March 2023.</p> <p>Revised debt service schedule was incorporated into lease and approved by NCHC Executive Committee.</p> <p>Terms of the schedule were presented to County Board during the April Budget Orientation Kickoff.</p>
<p>D. Regional Forensic Science Center – support task force and engage local representatives following Governor’s development of biennial budget</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic – develop a local facility that will allow us to collaborate with local partners in the completion of our mandated work Financial – stabilize costs, reduce non-productive staff time, reduce levy allocation over time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 2023 – local stakeholder / leader informational meeting Schematic design complete by 12/2023 RFB for construction – Jan/Feb 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding 		<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Marathon County Board approved the utilization of a portion of the previously allocated \$2 million of ARPA to be used for schematic design.</p> <p>State of Wisconsin allocated \$7M of funding to project through the annual budget process.</p> <p>Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin was secured to serve as fiscal agent.</p> <p>At direction of Task Force, staff have executed and applied</p>




					<p>for numerous grants. As of 12/27/2023, we have been notified of the following local grant awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$1 million in funding from BA & Ester Greenheck - \$60,900 Wausau Marathon County Fund - \$23,400 James & Susan Lundberg Fund - \$ 9,000 Tom & Marilyn Kraemer Fund for Wausau Marathon County - \$ 7,900 North Central Health Protection Plan Fund - \$ 7,800 Marvin & Ruth (Rudie) Schuette Fund - \$10,000 Murco Foundation - \$10,000 WPS Foundation <p>County Board adopted R-76-23 in December 2023, providing further direction to staff relative to project. A copy of the resolution is available here - https://www.marathoncounty.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/11726/638378919168500000 (see page 245-47)</p>
<p>3. Financial Related Projects</p> <p>A. Continued Implementation of Workday ERP System to replace Cayenta financial system and develop a plan to centralize finance staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Operational – previous financial system was beyond useful life. ▪ Strategic – centralization of financial functions is better practice; will allow for enhanced training and consistency, and restructure is likely to provide cost savings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implementation of budget module must be complete as necessary for generation of 2024 proposed budget. Go live for the budget module is set for August 4. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff capacity 		<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Per CCITC report, project continues to be moving on schedule. We closed our Cayenta data maintenance at the end of July and have moved all needed data into our record tool (Prism Analytics).</p> <p>Ancillary projects (Teller Phase II– point of sale tool) are similarly referenced as moving according to CCITC schedule. Other additional interfaces between Workday and other software currently in use will be developed as needed.</p> <p>Planning for centralization of finance professionals, including potential realignment of payroll functionality with HR department was delayed with significant Annual Budget process improvements. Planning for centralization must begin post audit. Execution timeline is yet to be determined, likely as part of 2025 budget.</p>
<p>B. Provide staff support for Board in American Rescue Plan Act funding deployment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strategic – Board has expressed desire to utilize ARPA funds to mitigate future capital needs. ▪ Financial – resources will allow the county to make meaningful investments in capital in a manner that will reduce need to utilize bonding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2024 Capital Improvement Project process is underway – adoption by Board is slated for August 22, 2023 per adopted process timeline. ▪ Anticipate recommendation relative to reconciliation of ARPA funds previously allocated from the HRFC in July 2023. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Board Policy development – staff are developing CIP plans based on direction from Board and HRFC. 		<p>ONGOING</p> <p>County Board, through HRFC, conducted robust listening sessions relative to use of funds. A public application process was developed to allow for further public input; however, the portal was removed in January 2023 following committee discussion.</p> <p>In November 2023, in connection with adoption of Annual Budget, the Board allocated a significant amount of remaining ARPA funds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sheriff TRC facility upgrades - Eau Claire Dells park dump station - East Gate Hall renovations <p>Additional updates on funding utilization to be provided as</p>



					<p>requested.</p> <p>Significant projects have been completed in 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Courtroom Audio Video project - Marathon Park water upgrade
<p>C. Provide staff support for development of Opioid Settlement Fund Deployment plan (added in February 2023)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strategic – investments in opioid-mitigation/response programs may present an opportunity for mitigation of future expense and/or improved quality of life for residents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Target date of August 17, 2023 for completion of facilitated process. Report to be compiled thereafter and presented to Public Safety Committee for consideration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deadline is aggressive 		<p>Complete</p> <p>A charter was developed for the project that called for facilitation by the Health Department.</p> <p>Monthly CJCC meetings have been devoted to accomplishing the goals of the charter. To this point a “result statement” has been identified – Marathon County residents are free from the physical, emotional, social, and economic impacts of opioid misuse.</p> <p>The following indicators were selected to communicate progress/success of interventions: Drug Overdose Deaths due to Opioids (Medical Examiner data); Non-fatal overdoses (DHS data source from Ambulance runs).</p> <p>Stakeholders classified potential uses of funding based on (1) the influence that the strategy would have on the indicators and (2) our ability to implement the strategy.</p> <p>Staff delivered report from CJCC to both Public Safety and HHS Committees in December regarding the process described above. The committees are scheduled to have a joint meeting January 9th. Report available here - https://www.marathoncounty.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/11607/638373855034470000 (beginning at page 3).</p> <p>Staff will work to effectuate direction of the board relative to next steps.</p>
<p>D. Develop a Parks, Recreation, & Forestry Sustainability Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strategic/Financial– additional revenue generating strategies and operational efficiency strategies may provide opportunities to reduce long-term tax levy allocations necessary to operate/maintain our park, recreation, and forestry system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Levy Support Analysis document for PRF was delivered to ERC committee at 5.30.2023 meeting in connection with budget discussion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Park Commission policy recommendations to 		<p>Ongoing</p> <p>The Levy Support Analysis delivered to the Environmental Resources Committee provides a roadmap for potential policy revisions by the Park Commission and other policy bodies.</p> <p>Conversation at HRFC has supported Administration’s perspective that we should move in a direction of developing a funding strategy for capital replacement through a reserve built from a portion of operational revenues.</p>
<p>E. Solid Waste Department Landfill Gas Rights Acquisition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strategic / Financial – terminating the pre-2023 agreement will provide Marathon County with the opportunity to monetize the LFG asset, which can move SWD to a revenue generator for general fund, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No key dates upcoming for this specific project, as it is complete. However, Administration will be working with SWD to have the department make a general fund contribution in 2024 budget (reflect overhead contributions) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NONE 		<p>Complete</p> <p>Administration, Corporation Counsel, and SWD worked diligently through December and January to complete Landfill Gas Purchase Agreement and a corresponding lease. The lease has been amended since originally signed.</p>


	as opposed to generally neutral.				SWD is receiving \$25K per month pursuant to the LFGPA, with increased revenues projected once RNG is being produced. 2024 Adopted budget provided for a \$200,000 contribution from the SWD operation revenue to the county's general fund operations.
F. Assist HRFC in Developing and Implementing solution to Tax Deed and Property Description Backlogs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Financial – backlogs in tax deed process reduces revenues ▪ Operational – backlogs in property description negatively impacts tax collection, as bills are sent to previous owners. Municipalities are negatively impacted, as residents are frustrated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adoption of Revisions – August 2023 ▪ First Round of In Rem Foreclosure – started July 2023; court anticipated in November 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Committee capacity ▪ Staff capacity 	 (Parcel Listing)  (Tax Deed)	<p>Property Description – Complete – Parcel Listing and Assessment rollover</p> <p>The transition of the listing and mapping positions to CPZ (from Treasurer), along with process improvements implemented through the efforts of CPZ, have significantly reduced the backlog of listing. With respect to standard/non-problematic transactions, we are processing through current day.</p> <p>We engaged utilized a LTE with experience in the area of Assessment Rollover and State Submission processes to aid us in 2023 and it was worked exceedingly well.</p> <p>Feedback from local assessors was positive. Envision continuing CPZ's operational leadership on the assessment process.</p> <p>Tax Deed</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Staff evaluated and recommended the amendment of our Code of Ordinances to allow us to utilize In Rem Foreclosure process, in addition to Tax Deed. Approved by the Board in April of 2023.</p> <p>In Rem – first (of three) notice publications started in July for first wave of filings, with the second and third respective notices occurring as required thereafter. Further information is needed from the County Treasurer's Office for the court process to move forward relative to the first wave of filings; however, staff turnover within the office at the end of October has inhibited progress. Per Treasurer, necessary information should go out in January. The second wave of filings should follow. Treasurer reports that a number of owners of properties subject to this process have come in to pay off balances owed.</p>
4. Human Resources Related Projects A. Continue implementation of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational – our previous HR operations were conducted through the utilization of manual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance Management – Appraisal module operational for year end appraisals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff capacity ▪ Consultant availability 		<p>ONGOING</p> <p>See Notes from 3A. above.</p>


Workday ERP System (our first HCM System), including Learning Management System	processes, leading to inefficiency.				
B. Evaluate Health Care Insurance Delivery methodology (fully insured vs. self-funded)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial – Health Insurance cost is a significant financial expense for all businesses, including the County corporation. Operational – a strong health care benefit is critical to an overall compensation and benefit plan, which is essential to retention and recruitment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation from USI week of July 24 on responses to RFP. Future actions dependent upon information learned. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff capacity Market (RFP responses) 		<p>ONGOING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Past - Contracted with USI beginning in 2021 to provide formal review of health care insurance delivery costs, relationship has been highly successful from a financial perspective and in 2021, recommended that we evaluate whether to return to self-funded status in 2022 and 2023, after building reserve strategy. 2023 – adopted consultant recommendation to remain insured with GHT. Continue evaluation of self-funded transition in 2024 based on claim experience.
C. Aid HRFC in review of existing employment policies and practices to enhance retention and recruiting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational / Financial – strong employment policies and practices are essential to operational and financial performance based on their impact on retention and recruiting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation to HRFC on internal policies / practices relative to child care benefits for staff in August 2023 Hours of Public Access discussion continue – August 2023. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding 		<p>Complete</p> <p>HRFC has received several presentations from staff relative to our current state relative to retention, recruiting and benefits. Discussion has coalesced around two concepts: (1) modifying public access hours to enhance public service and employee benefit and (2) child care benefits. Staff continue to maintain class compensation plan and evaluate necessary modifications.</p> <p>MCSO modified internal advancement process for Corrections Officer staff to more closely resemble sworn staff process, implementation in 2024. Sheriff Billeb recently indicated that recent recruitment efforts have resulted in increased applications.</p> <p>Administration engaged local judges regarding potential adoption of modified hours of operation (i.e., expanded hours M-Th and ½ day Friday); however, courts indicated they would not be in a position to make such a change. Several counties (e.g., Chippewa, Price, Washington) have modified schedules in some of their departments. Based on the judicial feedback, Administration recommendation is to continue this discussion and evaluate options in connection with relocation of Departments to Lake View campus.</p> <p>Staff will continue to provide information to the HRFC and full board as requested.</p>
5. Intergovernmental Partner Work A. North Central Health Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational – work toward achieving desired future state – “work seamlessly together in delivering human services to vulnerable individuals in our communities. Inpatient services deliver treatment and stabilization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NCHC Budget letter received on 7.12.2023, calling for 3% tax levy increase (\$143,436) NCHC is building budget currently. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pine Crest sale by Lincoln County – substantially impacts overhead allocation. Significant financial impact State of WI 		<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Relationship and functioning of the NCHC leadership team and NCHC Executive Committee is strong. There have been strides made to improve operational and financial performance for Social Services CCS program.</p>

	<p>to support individuals with an organizational priority focus on providing care and services in our communities.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial – NCHC is delivering programs that Marathon County is statutorily obligated to deliver. Those programs can significantly impact MC budgets. Similarly, the debt service relative to the renovation is substantial. 		<p>Supplemental Aid payment – without restoration there will be a significant shortfall</p>		<p>Evaluation of the impact of State of WI budget on NCHC operations and financials will be necessary. The county board will likely need to make working with WCA and other impacted counties to contact legislators and the Governor to a priority to address the need to restore the supplemental aid payment to county nursing home facilities.</p> <p>NCHC Executive Committee is working with staff to develop strategies to ensure that our staff are targeted to our core (mandated and/or county priority) programs.</p> <p>NCHC Lease and Debt service schedules were completed – see above. However, the impact of the supplemental aid payment loss and the Pine Crest sale are significant areas of concern relative to overall financial performance. Continued evaluation of NCHC debt service ability to take place.</p> <p>County Budget provided increased support for NCHC programs aimed at maintaining existing services.</p> <p>Administrator, County Board Chair, and NCHC leadership held a meeting with State elected leaders to discuss significant impact that supplemental payment reduction in 2023 had on NCHC and Marathon County, requesting legislative action to address the reduction. While meeting went very well, legislative action on 2023 supplemental payment reduction is not envisioned. Update on meeting provided to HHS on 12.6.2023 by NCHC Executive Director and County Administrator.</p> <p>NCHC will be transferring real property located on 3rd Avenue to County for disposition. NCHC Executive Committee expressed that intent is to have county allocate revenue from divestment toward NCHC’s debt service obligation.</p>
<p>B. City/County Information Technology Commission</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational/Financial – serve as the chair of the CCITC and work to ensure that MC receives necessary IT support, while we control IT spending. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget Development is ongoing CCITC audit presentation in August 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff capacity for project completion Funding for retention 		<p>ONGOING</p> <p>Historical - County Administrator was elected as Chair of the CCIT Commission in April 2021. Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security – local government cyber attacks are ever increasing, significant investments made to bolster protection and ensure capacity to recover, while also limiting Cyber Insurance costs. Funding – Revised chargeback model to more appropriately fit member business operations, particularly hybrid work. Director Appraisal – made enhancements to process and develop annual work plan to emphasize goals of member partners Project/Portfolio management tool implementation

					<p>was completed in 2023. Focus has been on limiting IT project work to top priorities based on large number of ongoing items (Workday/Teller; Facility moves; courthouse A/V). Significant challenge, as all members have large IT needs.</p> <p>County's 2024 allocation for CCIT was reduced due, in part, to revised charge-back model.</p>
C. Marathon County Public Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational / Financial – Review and revise agreements relative to facility, legal, HR, and financial services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update all agreements in 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff capacity and prioritization of the project 		<p>ONGOING</p> <p>Library Director has submitted revised MOUs/Contracts for service to Administration for review and discussion.</p> <p>Lack of Administration capacity at this time.</p>
D. CJCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational / Financial – Justice system is a significant cost center for county spending (continue to lead the system budgeting discussions with stakeholders to enhance resource allocation decisions; participate actively in CJCC and ensure adequate staff support to all efforts). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Details of CJCC annual plan of work, with timelines, available here, beginning on page 28 - https://www.co.marathon.wi.us/Portals/0/Departments/MCB/Archives/Boards%20Committees%20Commissions/Criminal%20Justice%20Coordinating%20Council/2023/CJCC_20230615_Packet.pdf 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued support of Sheriff, DA, Clerk of Court, and Judges in the structure provided in § 2.05(13) of the County ordinances, and supporting bylaws. 		<p>ONGOING</p> <p>Presentation on progress on workplan provided to Public Safety on 7.11.2023.</p> <p>Attorney Whitepaper finalized and presented to Public Safety. No action taken.</p> <p>Data Officer hired in September 2023, working to develop dashboard for justice system. Programmatic infographics delivered to CJCC in November for review and comment.</p> <p>Opioid funding recommendation development – see above section 3.C.</p> <p>Justice Alternative Programming contract – vendor selection complete, informational update provided to Public Safety in closed session; contract negotiations are ongoing.</p> <p>2024 Workplan adopted in November 2023 – available here - https://www.marathoncounty.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/11473/638355687909600000 (beginning on page 4).</p>
E. Develop a Countywide Dashboard, displaying data regarding Department-based and Program-based performance measures to aid in department and program assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational – provide insight into our performance relative to KPIs for our various programs. Strategic – provide insight to elected officials as to performance and ROI/community benefit relative to programs. Transparency – allow the public to better understand the work of County government Identified aspirational example – Montgomery County, Maryland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data Officer hiring to be complete by July 31, 2023. Future milestones to be developed based on onboarding plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff capacity; funding for various data tools 		<p>ONGOING</p> <p>Data Officer hired in September 2023, working to develop dashboard for justice system. Programmatic infographics delivered to CJCC in November for review and comment.</p> <p>Dashboard of select program KPIs to be operational by end of Q2 in 2024. Initial focus is justice system involved departments; however, due to data access and quality issues, some non-justice involved departments will be selected to move forward earlier than envisioned while we address the access and quality issues.</p>

<p>F. Support the EEED Committee's efforts to examine the county's potential role in addressing the shortage of available Child Care resources (from employer and community perspective)</p> <p>- Role of Marathon County government relative to addressing Housing access, added based on adoption of Strategic Plan amendments by Board.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic - EEED Committee expressed that the local child care shortage is an issue it would like to focus on during the remainder of the term, due to economic development impacts. Operational – see discussion above relative to HRFC employment benefit review. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Plan section 10.6 amended to provide that EEEDC shall (3) by August 31, 2023, with input from non-EEED Supervisors and other Marathon County Stakeholders, the EEED Committee will prepare recommendations for Marathon County Government's role in supporting affordable high-quality childcare. (4) by August 31, 2023, with input from non-EEED Supervisors and other Marathon County Stakeholders, the EEED Committee will prepare recommendations for Marathon County Government's role in supporting safe and affordable housing options. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External partner capacity Internal capacity Funding 		<p>Ongoing – near complete</p> <p>Housing – County Board adopted resolution R-66-23 – Marathon County Government's Response to Housing – on December 14, 2023. Administration will provide additional support as directed by the Board of Supervisors through the 2024 Workplan.</p> <p>Child Care – County Board is continuing to consider this issue, as R-55-23, was referred to the EEED Committee on December 14, 2023, for further discussion. Administration will provide additional support as directed by the Board of Supervisors through the 2024 Workplan.</p>
<p>6. Projects NOT PRIORITIZED, Identified for Future Year Prioritization</p>					
<p>A. Work to develop a County Event Policy governing the allocation of county resources to support private events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic – the regulation of these activities is an important policy question, with significant public safety and emergency preparedness implications. Operational – staff need guidance for carrying out regulation in this area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff capacity 		<p>Ongoing – Nearly Complete</p> <p>Project elevated this to a current year priority based on repeated discussions at committee levels and the decision of the Board to delay implementing zoning regulations relative to events until this effort can be concluded.</p> <p>Administration sought volunteers for a workgroup from Public Safety, Infrastructure, and Environmental Resources Committees to lead in the updating of the ordinance.</p> <p>CPZ staff led workgroup and drafting effort. Effort nearing completion, with presentation to committees in February and Board consideration tentatively scheduled for February/March.</p>
<p>B. Secure an external forensic audit resource to conduct periodic reviews of departmental budgets to assess compliance with existing Marathon County ordinances and best practices.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational – assure compliance with best practice and identify financial opportunity; supplement the annual audit which is aimed at financial reporting as opposed to business practices 				
<p>C. Evaluate the current</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational – Rolling stock funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding program to Sheriff's Office – 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff Capacity 		

benefit of our existing vehicle leasing program and evaluate expanding to include DSS and Health Department	has not kept pace with needs. Hasn't increased in over 10 years.	<p>July 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation for Health / DSS in connection with 2024 budget 			<p>Ongoing</p> <p>We made movement in Q2/3 due to significant fiscal shortfalls projected relative to rolling stock needs. Administration/FCM arranged for various departments, including Sheriff's Office, to review Enterprise approach (already existing contract).</p> <p>Sheriff's Office entered into the Enterprise contract.</p> <p>HRFC adopted a revised Rolling Stock policy on September 26, 2023, and funding was provided commensurate with the updates in the 2024 annual budget.</p> <p>The discussion with DSS and Health will focus on the creation of a vehicle reserve/pool through the redirection of IRS reimbursement for personal vehicle use. Administration to include an item on the 2024 workplan for consideration relative to the establishment of a shared fleet at the Lake View campus and the Courthouse campus.</p>
D. Conduct Needs Assessment and Feasibility Study relative to delivery of Emergency Medical Services through countywide system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic – this is an important policy question, with significant public safety and emergency response implications. 				
E. Engage Library Board to identify appropriate use for 3 rd Floor and corresponding CIP plan					<p>Suggestion – provide direction to County Board members that serve on the Library Board relative to the board's preferences regarding the deliverables for a successive utilization of the space:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financial ? - Operational ?
F. Provide staff support for development of Opioid Settlement Fund Deployment plan (added in February 2023) – SEE 3.C above					
G. Secure a Telecommunications Audit					<p>Historical - In 2016, Marathon County utilized a 3rd party vendor (Spyglass) to complete a telecommunications audit.</p> <p>Administrator has identified two additional potential vendors, obtaining contract terms from one vendor.</p>
H. Incorporate a Comprehensive Fee Schedule in the Annual Budget Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic – keeps Board aware of growing operational costs in budget adoption process Financial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget Adoption calendar 	<p>Staff capacity; Board direction relative to rate increases</p>		<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Fee schedules were compiled and shared with all standing committees through the budget process. .</p>

					<p>The revised Health Department fee schedule was recommended for inclusion in the budget by the HHS Committee. The full board adopted the projected revenues under the revised schedule in November through the budget process.</p> <p>Administration will work to better include a comprehensive schedule in the budget as an appendix.</p>
<p>I. Assist the Board in clarifying the long-term relationship with UWSP-Wausau and identifying a sustainable funding strategy for capital improvement projects on the campus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strategic ▪ Financial – significant CIP expenses in 2024 and beyond. 	Unknown	<p>UW leadership –UWSP / Board of Regents willingness to change the longstanding relationship with the satellite campuses</p> <p>Funding – financial needs for campus facilities is significant.</p>		<p>Historical background – there is significant discussion statewide regarding the future of the satellite campuses. Bounty Board Chair and Administrator met with local and UWSP leadership to get update.</p> <p>Administrator and Board Chair have participated in meetings with several other counties with satellite campuses relative to these issues and is aware of similar long-term facility maintenance funding sustainability concerns expressed at their respective campuses.</p> <p>Washington County Board recommended combining Tech and UW campuses, received funding through JFC, but vetoed through budget.</p> <p>The 2024 annual budget provided for significant improvements to the boiler system at the campus.</p> <p>Next steps – Administration needs direction. In the absence of UW Regents voluntarily agreeing to share in the facility maintenance costs, Administration needs direction relative to the service level that should be maintained relative to campus academic buildings.</p> <p>UWSP leadership is preparing a space needs analysis and report for the County Board in 2024.</p> <p>A task force may be a good mechanism for the Board to provide direction and/or engage the UW system, as the issue impacts multiple standing committees (i.e., EEED and HR Finance & Property).</p>
<p>J. Aid in the Comprehensive Review of Marathon County Ordinances</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Operational ▪ Chapter 2 and Zoning Chapters are reviewed frequently (Rules Review, Zoning reviews); however, a complete review of all ordinance sections for a significant period of time. ▪ Price quote received from potential vendor to assist in the comprehensive review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To be determined if prioritized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff capacity within Corporation Counsel, Administration, and County Board leadership 		<p>Historical background - This project has not been prioritized by the Board and staff capacity is limited. That said, staff have moved forward revisions to Chapter 6 of the code of ordinances and Administration envisions revisions to the Chapter 12 Assembly Ordinance to address legal and practical concerns.</p> <p>Options: (1) Taskforce—composed of board members, staff, and other individuals—to move this forward; (2) Vendor/FTE review, could provide funding in 2024 budget.</p>

					<p>Absent change in approach, the ordinance update process will continue in a gradual fashion, as individual ordinances are identified. The benefit of this approach is that the capacity demands are reduced; however, the drawbacks are the speed of completion and potential quality of product.</p> <p>With the increased utilization of hybrid work environments and the impending relocation of staff to the Lake View Campus, the county's parking ordinance (i.e., section 7.07) should be amended. Administration will be working with various departments to bring forward a proposal for consideration by the Board.</p>
<p>K. Aid the Board in updating existing Comprehensive Plan refresh & generation of new 5-year Strategic Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic (see page 157 of Comprehensive Plan for relevant history (page 163 of the online pdf)– under Plan Evaluation heading). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time frame to be determined by Policy Makers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff Capacity 		<p>Historical Background - (see page 157 of Comprehensive Plan for relevant history (page 163 of the online pdf)– under Plan Evaluation heading).</p> <p>Direction is necessary whether this funding should be provided in Annual Budget for one or both of these items and the timeframe for each.</p>
<p>L. Conduct RFP for General Liability Insurance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational / Financial – evaluate the options available 				<p>Historical – In Wisconsin, two providers serve nearly all counties (i.e., WMMIC and County Mutual)</p>
<p>M. Evaluation of zoning options regarding marijuana cultivation (requested be considered by a Board Supervisor)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic – in the event that marijuana cultivation is legalized at the state level having a proposed ordinance would ensure Marathon County was prepared. 				
<p>N. Report to Executive Committee on review of Program Budgeting Options</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of information from other peer counties relative to their efforts at providing a “program-centric” budget to their county boards. Summary of the budgeting tools (i.e., software) and mechanisms to deliver such a program centric budget. 	<p>July 2024 – as requested by Executive Committee</p>	<p>Prioritization in Annual Workplan by full board.</p>		

Community Horticulture Education in Marathon County



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



Janell Wehr

Horticulture Educator
Janell.wehr@wisc.edu



Program Outcomes

Current Programming

Past Partners

Future Partners



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Extension Horticulture Program Outcomes Address:

1. Pollinator decline
2. Mitigation and adaptation strategies related to climate change
3. Contamination and pollution due to overuse of horticulture chemicals
4. Improvement of mental, social, and physical health through positive gardening experiences

Current Programming



The Landing



Previous partnerships:



Future partnerships:



**What needs do you
see in the community?**

Let's keep in touch!
janell.wehr@wisc.edu



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



Janell Wehr
Horticulture Educator



Marathon County EEEDC Meeting
 2.1.2024
 Janell Wehr, Horticulture educator
 Marathon (70%) and Wood Counties (30%)
 UW-Madison Extension
[Slide Deck](#)

The UW-Madison Horticulture Program has 4 overarching program outcomes:

1. Increase awareness, knowledge of resources, and adoption of practices that increase pollinator habitat and mitigate pollinator decline
2. Increase awareness, knowledge, and adoption of techniques to mitigate climate change through horticultural techniques.
3. Increase awareness, knowledge, and adoption of resources and techniques to decrease environmental contamination and pollution
4. Increase awareness, knowledge, and adoption of environmentally-sound gardening practices that simultaneously improve mood, increase physical activity, and encourage positive socialization

Current programming in Marathon County

What I am doing/community partners	Audience	Program Outcome	Community Value (economic impact, etc)
Answering horticulture inquiries	General Public	Pollution	Reduce Money and time spent on things that don't work; less pollution
Gaining Ground Attic Services	Justice Involved	Social wellbeing	Green industry skills, positive self regulation skills, soft skills leading to reduced recidivism
Programming- MCPL	General Public	Pollution/social wellbeing	Less pollution/\$ wasted
Programming- The Landing	55+	Pollution/social wellbeing	Positive socialization
Programming - Mosinee Community Education	General Public	Pollution/ social wellbeing	Less pollution/\$ wasted
Advisory Committee/	NTC, local partners		Economic

NTC Garden to Market program			Development
Sowing Success	General Public	Pollution	Less pollution/money spent

Previous partnerships:

- Veteran services
- Hmong Elders (ADRC Senior dinner at Hmong American Center)
- Hmong women domestic violence support group at Women's Community

Future Partnerships

- United Way Therapeutic Garden at the old Neighbor's Place location
- Women's community- other support groups

Question: What do you see as needs in the community?

MCDEVCO, Inc. – January 2024 Report

GAP & Micro FINANCING

MCDEVCO continues to work with businesses throughout Marathon County to provide *GAP* and Micro 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:

- December 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
715.298.0084



TIM MCKEOUGH
Q Up Success



BUSINESS NETWORKING



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

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



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
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
 100 N 72nd Avenue
 Wausau, WI 54401
 715.298.0084
www.mcdevco.org



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

For February 1, 2024 EEEDC Meeting

Homebound Year End Survey Results

At the end of 2023, Homebound Services Coordinator Jailin P. sent a survey to 82 library patrons who were enrolled in the Homebound Program. We have had an excellent response rate, with about half of those surveys already returned so far. When asked to rate overall Homebound services out of 5, the average (mean) rating was 4.7 with all but one patrons marking a 4 or 5. Every person who filled out the survey indicated they will continue HB services and all responders said they would recommend it to friends and family. In the free-answer sections, all responses that were not specific requests about services (more audiobooks, requests for different authors, suggestions for volunteers, etc.) were praise for the staff and the program. Overall, though the program may be a bit more concentrated in size than in the past, it is still a successful and appreciated service. In 2024 we are setting a goal to expand our outreach opportunities, so we hope to see even more growth!



Here are a selection of comments from survey participants:

(Next to the question *Do you plan to continue with Homebound?*)

"TIL I DIE OR I CAN NO LONGER READ"

"For those of us who are homebound + love to read, it is a necessity!"

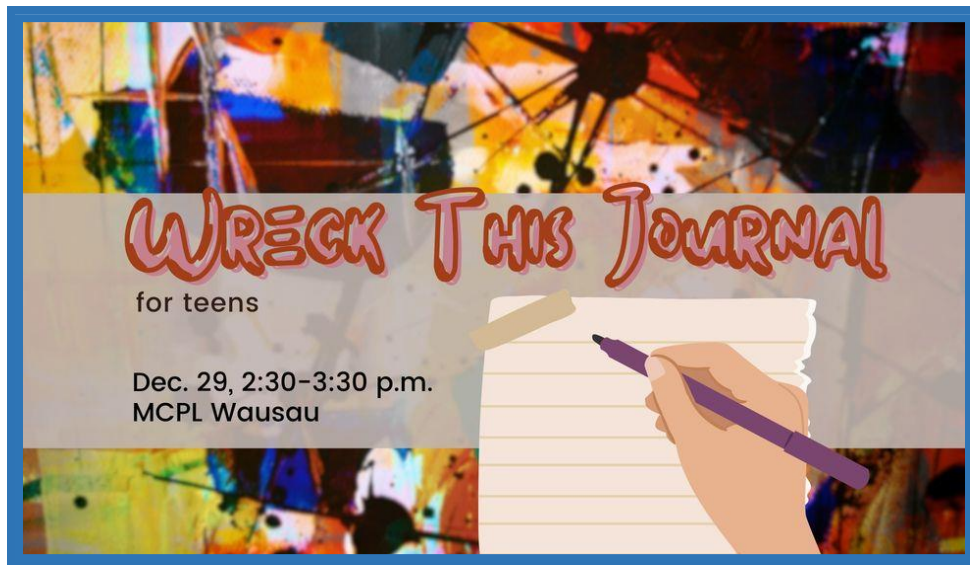
"The homebound librarians are the nicest, pleasant, helpful, and friendliest people you have as employees. They are never too busy to listen or to try to accommodate any request you may have. Actually they make my day!!! Love them all!"

"So very helpful. Extremely caring staff. Don't stop!!!"

-Jailin P, Library Specialist

Library Services

Youth Services finished out 2023 programming during the month of December and prepared for a fun and busy 2024. Youth Services staff planned programs on days with no school in December and filled that time with creative activities for families. Planning also continued for more teen programming in 2024, and five teens joined Robyn for a "wreck this journal" event in December. In 2023, Youth Services staff offered over 375 programs to the Marathon County community! The team is looking forward to the new year ahead.



Adult Services also ended 2023 on a high note. Planning is in full swing for spring and summer programs, including plans for programming during the solar eclipse in April. Collection Development Specialists, Kate and Tara, worked diligently to complete their budgets for 2023 and finish weeding. Jordan and Kathy supported the team with various projects, including end of year weeding projects. Allycia, Ben, and Chad worked together to support various strategic planning initiatives on social media, the library website, and MCPL newsletters. Jailin sent out a survey to participants in our Homebound Program to gather their feedback on this important service. Adult Services Librarian, Julie K., visited with Ben Clark from the Marathon County Historical Society; the two discussed MCPL's digitization project and other collaborative ideas. In 2024, we hope to share more of MCPL's rich history with patrons through displays and programs.

The Library Services team attended the MCPL Staff Development Day on December 1. The entire team also met individually with the Library Services Manager to receive annual performance reviews during the month of December.

-Katelyn S, Library Services Manager

Branches

Excitement for the new library building continues in Athens. Shahara and Kitty attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Athens Municipal building on 12/9. Over 100 people were present. The Athens staff gave tours of the library and connected with community members. Kitty was also interviewed by WKEB from Medford, WI, and The Record Review.

Hatley hosted their always popular escape room program from Friday, December 22nd – Saturday, December 30th. Each day had an easier and a harder themed room. Many of the groups that came through had not done these with us before and many had not been to the Hatley Library!! Over the 6 days we held them we a total of 126 participants!! This program is always a great success and we hope to continue using the Breakout EDU kits that we are able to borrow from WVLS and IFLS. We have another week of these planned for DC Everest's Spring Break!



On December 7th, Ashley Hagenow the 76th Alice in Dairyland came to the Spencer Library. Ashley talked about the different agriculture businesses in Wisconsin and what her role is as Alice in Dairyland. Ashley also brought along what was needed to let us all try to make butter. The Spencer FFA and Food Consumer classes joined in this presentation. There was a total of 48 people attending.

Craft programs were very popular in December and were held at many locations. Patrons could be found creating folded books and newspaper animal collages in Rothschild, yarn gnomes and tin can ornaments in Hatley, snow globes and snowflakes in Athens, and scrapbook paper bows in Stratford. Patron can look forward to more creative crafts in 2024!

Visitors to all of our branch libraries enjoyed seeing the beautifully attired dolls of the [Cultural Threads: Expressing Identity through Traditional Clothing](#) exhibit. A portion of the exhibit, presented by Mosaic of North Central Wisconsin, visited each branch the first two weeks of December. The Stratford Branch received a new café table for patrons to use. It is already being well used, and we are very thankful for the lovely update! Additionally, the Edgar Branch received a new shelf to hold adult fiction.

Various creative book displays were hosted in all locations, including ones like “De-Stress December,” “You can overbook your winter break, but you can’t do it to your shelves,” “A Season For Reading,” and “Brr...illiant Books” in addition to the many wonderful Christmas, winter, and December holiday books at each location.

Many branch staff members attended the Staff Development Day on Friday, December 1st.

Annual performance appraisals were presented and entered into Workday for all branch staff.

-Laura W, Branch Team Lead





Wausau UW-Stevens Point

Report to the Extension, Education, and Economic Development Committee February 2024

1. **Career Exploration Day:** We will host over 450 high school students, mostly from rural schools in the area, and numerous employers and higher education providers from across the state on **Friday, February 23** for our annual Career Exploration Day. Organized around the ACP Career Clusters, we move students through our main academic building and Center for Civic Engagement to showcase a range of careers and the educational pathways to them, with an emphasis on careers requiring higher education. Five Marathon County departments—spread across three career clusters—will participate. Our backup snow date is March 8.
2. **Spring 2024**—We started our spring semester on January 22nd and will have 10th day enrollment data to share soon.
3. **Upcoming Events:**
 - a. **Admitted Student Day:** All admitted students are invited to join us on **February 29th** from 9:00-12:00 pm. Students who attend will get priority registration for advising appointments and will connect with other admitted students, current students, and faculty and staff. Parents and guardians are invited as well.
 - b. **ViewPoint:** We'll hold our spring ViewPoint on **April 4th** from 9:00-11:00 am. Our ViewPoint sessions introduce prospective students to our academic offerings and include a student panel, mock class taught by one of our faculty, and a campus tour. Prospective students who attend ViewPoint are entered into a scholarship drawing.
4. **Continuing Education:** We held our 39th annual [Good Ideas Conference](#) on the Wausau campus January 9th-11th.
 - a. You can see all upcoming professional development and personal enrichment opportunities on our Continuing Education website:
<https://www3.uwsp.edu/conted/Pages/Professional-Development.aspx>
5. **Degree Programs Offered** – 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, Interim Director of Campus Operations



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
MARATHON COUNTY

January 2024 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 hands-on educational activity where Marathon County youth in 3rd grade and older learned about using rotary cutters and worked on quilting and sewing skills. The goal of this program was to provide a time and space for youth to work on a project they can take to the 2024 county fair.
- A hands-on educational activity where Marathon County youth in 3rd grade and older made Christmas themed treats. The goal of this activity was for participants to practice using kitchen skills and to try something new.
- 4-H Flake Out is a day-long program with hands-on activities for youth to connect with different project areas in 4-H in order to practice their skills or to learn something new. The goal is to ensure youth have the opportunities to explore, learn, and connect with people, to learn new skills, and to have a sense of belonging.

“My favorite thing was getting to sew and [learn to] take care of animals because it's something I can use in the future.” – Flake Out Youth Participant





Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
MARATHON COUNTY

January 2024 Report

Agriculture

Heather Schlessor, Dairy Agent

- Developing teaching and marketing materials for the UW-Madison Division of Extension Wisconsin Dairy Reproduction Roadshow, a multi-location in-person series for dairy producers and industry professionals to improve their herd's reproductive performance and increase their economic sustainability.
- Developing a Planning for Emergency Livestock Transportation Response (PELTR) hybrid training in collaboration with Waukesha County Emergency Management 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.
- A live, on-line meeting series, for farmers and dairy industry professionals, where participants learned the latest research and applications regarding developments in genetic evaluations, feed efficiency research, methane emissions, and dairy cow resiliency. The goal of this effort was to increase knowledge of the latest UW-Madison research on the impacts that genetics plays on dairy cattle. Badger Dairy Insight is a webinar series to provide the latest research-based dairy information to improve animal welfare, breeding and genetic selection, automation and modernization, and nutritional decisions for producers, dairy workers and managers, ag professionals, and educators. In this meeting, Kent Weigel spoke on the role genetics play in farm viability, environmental sustainability, and food safety.

FoodWise

Mallory McGivern, FoodWise Administrator

Michelle Van Krey, Healthy Communities Coordinator

Julia Perock, FoodWise Educator

- Planning with partners in Clark, Marathon, Portage and Wood Counties to build a new platform that directly focuses on food access mapping for those with limited incomes. The goal of this effort is to provide current, reliable food access information for all community stakeholders in Central Wisconsin and the state.
- 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.



Horticulture

Janell Wehr, Horticulture Educator

- 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 foster engagement and bolster educational outreach efforts in support of addressing the Horticulture Program objectives.
- A diagnostic service for the general public, where Marathon and Wood County residents' horticultural inquiries are answered through evidence-based resources. This effort is designed to reduce pollution through horticultural product (pesticides and fertilizers) misuse.
- An interview for the WSAW viewing audience where participants learned about upcoming local therapeutic horticulture programming. This effort is designed to support physical, social, and emotional benefits to local residents.
- "Growing new plants from kitchen scraps", a program where local residents learned multiple plant propagation techniques. This effort is designed to support physical, social, and emotional benefits to local residents.

Social isolation, the absence of social connections, is a key indicator of community strength, impacting individual and communal well-being. Strong social ties correlate with better mental and physical health. Socially isolated individuals face heightened risks like depression, anxiety, and poor physical health. According to the Marathon County 2022 LIFE Report, Marathon County residents feel less connected to their communities than in 2017, with the greatest growth of disconnection to organizations (clubs, churches, etc).

In "Growing New Plants from Kitchen Scraps", participants learned propagation techniques while recognizing that nurturing plants in low risk experiments increases indicators of wellbeing and resilience to stress. Participants took home kits with all materials necessary to start multiple experiments at home. Extension partnered with both MCPL-Wausau branch and Woodson YMCA-The Landing to provide this programming; each partner seeks to engage local residents in positive socialization opportunities. Two programs were held at MCPL-Wausau branch with a total of eleven participants. Friends of the Marathon County Public Library paid for the materials for the participants at MCPL-Wausau branch. At the program at The Landing, 13 participants aged over 55 participated.

Natural Resources

Kris Tiles, NRI Program Manager

Anna James, Regional Natural Resources Educator

- A facilitated discussion for producers and conservation professionals in the Springbrook and Upper Eau Claire River watersheds where participants will learn about the Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant Program. The goal of this meeting is for producers to identify conservation related concerns, local stakeholders, and engagement/commitment in order to determine if forming a producer-led watershed protection group is in the best interest of the environment and community members.



- A collaborative planning effort between Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards (PACRS) to gather all citizen led water protection and restoration groups in the greater Wisconsin River basin area. The goal of this effort is to increase collaboration amongst the groups, identify goals and initiatives for improving water quality, and assess community needs.
- A survey of agencies and organizations that support farmer-led watershed groups in Wisconsin was conducted to better understand how these groups are functioning and the nature of support they receive from their partners. Results of the survey will be used to inform decisions about what types of support are most beneficial and most needed by the farmer-led groups.

Additional Extension Outreach Programming Occurring in Marathon County

- Program planning for Dean's Innovation Grant award to provide well water testing to farmers with employee housing to test water quality for underserved audiences. The goal of this program is to incentivize water testing for farms to ensure drinking water is safe for human consumption.
- A 7-session course, Planning AHEAD that helps adults of all ages to make end-of-life financial, healthcare, and final wishes decisions in order to reduce the stress experienced by survivors and to ensure that their wishes are honored.
- A 6-session wellness series (WeCOPE) for child care providers where they learned different strategies that support awareness of mind-body connection. The goal of this effort is to offer skills to decrease stress and increase positive emotions of participants.

Upcoming Programs

- **4-H Programming** – Information at 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>	