



MARATHON COUNTY EXTENSION, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

Date & Time of Meeting: **Thursday, May 2, 2024, at 3:00pm**

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

Committee Members: Stacy Morache, Chair; Randy Fifrick, Vice-Chair; Wayne Hagen, Ann Lemmer, Tom Rosenberg, Rick Seefeldt, Kim Ungerer

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 March 6, 2024, Extension, Education and Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes**
5. **Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination - none**
6. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance, Resolution, or Policy - none**
7. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**
 - A. Review of Standing Committee related ordinances under section 2.04, including Mission, Duties and Responsibilities, and Jurisdiction
 - B. Introduction and background regarding Departments and Entities that often appear before the Committee
 1. Marathon County Public Library
 2. MCDEVCO
 3. UWSP - Wausau
 4. UW – Extension
 - C. Brief Overview of Last Term discussion and action
 - D. Discussion regarding Potential Areas of Committee Focus during this Term
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, June 6, 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 Stacey Morache
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: **Wednesday March 6, 2024, at 1:00pm**

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

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

Staff Present: Administrator Leonhard, Laurie Miskimins, Kimm Weber, Jeremy Solin, Miranda Gentry-Siegel, Michael Puerner (Webex), Chris Holman (Webex)

Others Present: Supervisor Morache, Supervisor Lemmer, Lynda Templen, Jared Williams

[Meeting Recording](#)

1. **Call Meeting to Order** – Chair Seefeldt called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Public Comment:** None
4. **Approval of the February 1, 2024, Extension, Education & Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes** - Motion by Buch, Second by Ungerer to approve the minutes. Motion carried on voice vote, unanimously. (:00.55)
5. **Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination:** None
6. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance, Resolution, or Policy**
 - A. Consideration of an Initial Resolution Declaring the Official Intent of Marathon County, Wisconsin to Reimburse Certain Original Expenditures related to the Construction of Certain Solid Waste Facilities from the Proceeds of One or More Series of Tax-Exempt Conduit Revenue Bonds to be Issued by the County After the Payment of Such Original Expenditures of RDF Development I, LLC or Another Entity of Which AMP Americas II, LLC is the Sole Member (:01.25)
 - B. Consideration of Request for Marathon County, WI to Approve the Public Finance Authority as Conduit Issuer for Not to Exceed \$25,000,000 Exempt Facility Revenue Bonds to Benefit Buckhorn RNG, LLC Project. Motion made by Baker seconded by Buch to send to the full County Board. Motion carried. (:42.00)
 - C. Consideration of UW Extension’s proposed transition to a Regional Agriculture Educator model. Motion made by Ungerer seconded by Buch to approve the UW Extension’s proposed transition. Motion carried. (1:11.25)
7. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**
 - A. Marathon County Extension 2023 Annual Report (1:19.30)
8. **Next Meeting Date & Time, Announcements and Future Agenda Items**
 - A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion.
 - B. Next meeting: Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 3:00pm
9. **Adjournment**

Motion by Buch, second by Baker to adjourn. Motion Carried on voice vote, unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by Kelley Blume

Sec. 2.04. Standing committees.

- (1) *Extension, Education, and Economic Development Committee.*
- (a) *Mission/purpose:* 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.
 - (b) *Statutory responsibilities:* § 59.56(3), Wis. Stats.
 - (c) *Membership:* Shall be comprised of seven County Board supervisors appointed by the County Board Chairperson at the April meeting of the County Board in even-numbered years.
 - (d) *Term:* Members shall serve for a two-year term concurrent with their terms of office as County Board Supervisors.
 - (e) *Reporting relationship:* The Extension, Education and Economic Development Committee shall have responsibility for outcome monitoring and oversight of the performance of education and economic development initiatives supported by Marathon County. The Committee shall have the primary responsibility of conferring with and acting as liaison for the following County departments:
UW Extension
 - (f) *Duties and responsibilities:* The duties and responsibilities of the Extension, Education, and Economic Development Committee include, but are not limited to:
 1. Foster the implementation of the County's Strategic Plan initiatives related to education and economic development.
 2. Identify the need for and recommend to the County Board, policies related to education and economic development initiatives appropriately supported by Marathon County.
 3. Review new programs and associated budget requirements, prior to their being considered for inclusion in the County's budget.
 4. Facilitate broad based discussion of issues and policies encouraging public involvement and communications with the public.
 5. Serve as the initial contact point for individual and/or organizations who wish to influence County Board policy regarding County education and economic development.
 6. Delegate operational procedures and practices to appropriate administrative committees and department(s) of the County.
 7. Review and recommend to the County Board programmatic and facility plans consistent with the community's expectations for the UWMC.
 8. Serve as the County's Extension and Education Committee by performing the following responsibilities:
 - a. Establish UW County based extension department policy.
 - b. Provide budget oversight for UW County based extension department.
 - c. Provide input and monitor their performance on the County based UW Extension programming.
 - d. Create policies and strategies that accomplish educational needs in an efficient and cost effective manner.

-
- e. Provide a leadership role with the County Board and other community partners to preserve and enhance access to the resources of the public university.
 - f. Assess future community educational needs.
 - g. Facilitate a partnership between the County and the University of Wisconsin.
9. Promote goals that every person has the opportunity for education and for employment to be self-supporting.
10. Additional duties as assigned by the County Board Chairperson.
- (g) *Committee relationships:* The Extension, Education, and Economic Development Committee shall be the committee of jurisdiction (governance) providing the leadership for interaction, communications, and policy recommendations to the County Board with respect to the following:
- Industrial Development Agency
- (h) *Other organization relationships:* The Extension, Education, and Economic Development Committee will also serve as Marathon County's liaison (non-governance) to the following organizations:
- Marathon County Public Library Board
- North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board (NCWWDB)
- Wisconsin Valley Library Board (WVLB)
- North Central Regional Planning
- Northcentral Technical College (NTC)
- Marathon County Agriculture Society
- Marathon County Development Corporation (MCDEVCO)
- Marathon County Historical Society
- University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point - Wausau
- (2) *Environmental Resources Committee (ERC).*
- (a) *Mission/purpose:* Provide leadership for the implementation of the County's Strategic Plan, monitoring program outcomes, reviewing and recommending to the County Board policies related to environmental resource initiatives of Marathon County.
- (b) *Statutory responsibilities:* Space reserved.
- (c) *[Composition:]* The Environmental Resources Committee shall be comprised of eight County Board Supervisors—two of which are members of the Extension, Education and Economic Development Committee appointed by the County Board Chairperson at the April meeting of the County Board in even-numbered years, one representative of the Towns Associations of Marathon County appointed by the County Board Chairperson, and one Farm Service Agency (FSA) Member. [Source: § 92.06(1)(b), Wis. Stats.].
1. The representative of the Towns Association of Marathon County is empowered to offer motions, second motions, and speak when recognized by the Committee Chairperson; however, he or she is not empowered to vote and his or her presence does not count toward establishing a quorum.
- (d) *Term:* Members shall serve two-year terms concurrent with the terms of office of the County Board of Supervisors.

-
- (e) *Reporting relationship:* The Environmental Resources Committee is accountable to the County Board. It shall have the responsibility for outcome monitoring and annual reporting, as well as overseeing the implementation of all policies related to the environmental resources of the County. The Environmental Resources Committee shall have the primary responsibility for conferring with and providing policy guidance to the following County departments:

Conservation, Planning, and Zoning

Parks, Recreation and Forestry

Solid Waste

- (f) *Duties and responsibilities:* The duties and responsibilities of the Environmental Resources Committee will include, but not be limited to:

1. Act as Land Conservation Committee pursuant to §§ 92.06 and 92.07, Wis. Stats., and maintain the [following]:
 - a. Chapter 91 - Farmland Preservation.
 - b. Chapter 92 - Soil and Water Conservation and Animal Waste Management.
 - c. Chapter 93 (§ 93.90) - Livestock Facility Siting and Expansion.
2. Act as Planning and Zoning Committee and maintain the following:
 - a. Chapter 59, § 59.69, Wis. Stats., Zoning Ordinance.
 - b. Chapter 59, § 59.692, Wis. Stats., Shoreland and Shoreland-Wetland Zoning Ordinance.
 - c. Chapter 59 and § 87.30, Wis. Stats., Floodplain Zoning.
 - d. Section 145.20, Wis. Stats., Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Ordinance.
 - e. Section 236.45, Wis. Stats., Land Division and Surveying Ordinance.
 - f. Section 59.69, Wis. Stats., Land Use, Information and Regulation, Environmental Protection, Surveys, Planning and Zoning.
 - g. Section 59.69, Wis. Stats., Uniform Citation Ordinance.
 - h. Section 59.54(4) and (4m), Wis. Stats., Uniform Addressing Ordinance.
 - i. Chapter 295, Subchapter 1, Wis. Stats., Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance.
 - j. Chapter 31, Wis. Stats., Regulation of Dams and Bridges Affecting Navigable Waters.
 - k. Sections 56.70(8), 66.0103, 92.07, 281.31, 281.35, Wis. Stats.
3. Promote the implementation of the County's Comprehensive and Strategic Plans relative to environmental protection, waste management, public recreation, forestry and land use.
4. Identify and recommend to the County Board, policies and long-range plans related to environmental and community resources of the County including land use, forests, soil and water, and outdoor recreation.
5. Review new programs and associated budget requirements, prior to their being considered for inclusion in the County's budget.
6. Facilitate broad based discussion of issues and policies by encouraging involvement and communications with the public and with other standing Committees.

-
7. Serve as the initial contact point for individuals and/or organizations who wish to influence County Board policy regarding County environmental and community resources.
 8. Delegate operational procedures and practices to appropriate program committees, boards and commissions which include Forestry and Recreation, Solid Waste, and Park Commission. Provide policy guidance and oversight to the Conservation, Planning and Zoning; Parks, and Recreation and Forestry departments.
 9. Encourage soil and water conservation research and educational information and public service programs.
 10. Assist in development and administration of the annual and long-range plans and annual reports for the following program activities:
 - a. Land and Water Resource Management.
 - b. Lake Management.
 - c. Parks and Recreation.
 - d. County Forestry.
 - e. Public Transportation.
 - f. Farmland Preservation.
 - g. Solid Waste Management and Recycling.
 11. Administer the wildlife damage and abatement program including approving the annual budget, claims, and fence contracts.
 12. Distribute and allocate federal, state, and county funds made available to the committee for cost-sharing programs and other incentive programs for improvements and practices relating to soil and water conservation on private or public lands, and within the limits permitted under these programs, and determine the methods of allocating these funds.
 13. Provide County oversight for Sewer Service Area planning.
 14. Evaluate our conservation, land use planning, zoning, and recreation programs and policies to reduce/eliminate disparities in access where they may exist.
 15. Additional duties as assigned by the County Board Chairperson.
- (g) *Committee relationships:* The Environmental Resources Committee shall be the committee of jurisdiction (governance) providing the leadership for interaction, communications, and policy recommendations to the County Board with respect to the following:
- Forestry/Recreation Committee
 - County Forest Citizen's Advisory Sub-Committee
 - Marathon County Park Commission
 - Solid Waste Management Board
 - Metallic Mining Committee
- (h) *Other organization relationships:* The Environmental Resources Committee will also serve as Marathon County's liaison (non-governance) to the following organizations:
- Board of Adjustment
 - Marathon County Land Information Council

Marathon County Metropolitan Planning Organization

(3) *Executive Committee.*

- (a) *Mission and purpose:* The Executive Committee of the Marathon County Board exists for the purpose of providing leadership for the development and implementing the County's Strategic Plan by coordinating policy formation among the Committees, and providing leadership for all County Board policies through supervision of Administrative staff.
- (b) *Statutory responsibilities:* Space reserved.
- (c) *Membership:* The Executive Committee is composed of the Chairperson of each of the County Board Standing Committees, and the County Board Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. Two County Board Supervisors at large shall be selected by election of the County Board to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will be chaired by the County Board Chairperson.
- (d) *Term:* Members shall serve two-year terms, concurrent with their being Chairperson of a County standing committee. If for some reason members relinquish their Committee Chairmanship, they will be replaced on the Executive Committee by the new committee Chairperson. If the member at large leaves, then the County Board will elect a new member at large.
- (e) *Reporting relationship:* The Executive Committee is accountable to the County Board and provides leadership for and monitors the County Administrator position. The Executive Committee shall have the primary responsibility of conferring with and providing guidance to the following County departments:

County Administrator's Department

- (f) *Duties and responsibilities:* The duties and responsibilities of the Executive Committee include, but are not limited to:
 - 1. Provide leadership for the implementation of the County's Strategic Plan.
 - 2. Proactively identify County policy development needs.
 - 3. Request the County Board Chairperson assigns requests for any policy development to the appropriate Committee(s).
 - 4. Identify the need for short-term task forces to address policy formation recommendations.
 - 5. Establish County Board policy goals and monitor the success of the County Board policy implementation, reporting the results to the County Board.
 - 6. Provide leadership for the development of a biennial County Administrator plan of work, and consult in the completion of the plan. Monitor progress on an ongoing basis and conduct an annual performance review and a biennial survey.
 - 7. Participate in the selection of a County Administrator, and recommend a candidate for County Board approval. Recommend to the County Board appropriate contract and compensation considerations.
 - 8. Monitor the County Board's adherence to and progress in implementing its rules and procedures. Appoint a task force to update the County Board rules every two years.
 - 9. Consult with the County Board Chairperson regarding the content and structure of the County Board meeting agendas.
 - 10. Provide leadership of the implementation of the County's Strategic Plan core strategies.
 - 11. Provide leadership for the allocation of County resources by major County function.

-
12. Additional duties as assigned by the County Board Chairperson.
 13. It may create task forces as required by its duties and responsibilities.
 14. Consider requests from County Board Supervisors pursuant to Rule 3(b) to have an item added to a subsequent agenda of the Board of Supervisors.
 15. Evaluate the work of the Standing Committees and provide leadership relative to the diversity and inclusion responsibilities set forth within the organizational rules ensuring Marathon County is an open, inclusive, and diverse place to live and work.
- (g) *Committee relationships:* The Executive Committee shall be the committee of jurisdiction (governance) providing the leadership for interaction, communications, and policy recommendations to the County Board with respect to the following:

Rules Review

- (h) *Other Organizational Relationships:* The Executive Committee will also serve as Marathon County's liaison (non-governance) to the following organizations:
1. None.
- (j) *Standing Committee Vice-Chairpersons.*
1. Participation In General. The Vice-Chairperson of a Standing Committee shall consider attending meetings of the Executive Committee as a non-voting member.
 2. Voting Rights in the Absence of a Standing Committee Chair. If the Chairperson of a County Board Standing Committee is absent, unavailable, or incapacitated, or if the Chair position of a Standing Committee is vacant, the Vice-Chairperson of said Standing Committee shall act as a voting member of the Executive Committee in the place of the Chairperson of said Standing Committee.
 3. Quorum in the Absence of a Standing Committee Chair. If a Vice-Chairperson is acting as a voting member of the Executive Committee, that Vice-Chairperson shall be counted in the place of the Standing Committee Chairperson when determining whether a quorum of the Executive Committee exists.
 4. Vice-Chair as Chair of Separate Standing Committee. If a Vice-Chairperson is acting as a voting member of the Executive Committee and is also the Chairperson of a separate Standing Committee, that person shall only be entitled to one vote on matters before the Executive Committee and shall not be counted twice for the purpose of determining whether a quorum of the Executive Committee exists.
- (4) *Human Resources, Finance and Property Committee.*
- (a) *Mission/purpose:* Provide leadership for the implementation of the County Strategic Plan, monitoring outcomes, reviewing and recommending to the County Board policies related to human resources initiatives, finance and property of the County.
 - (b) *Statutory Responsibilities:* §§ 65.90(5)(b), 893.80, 65.90(5)(a), 59.62[Wis. Stats.], and their successor statutes.
 - (c) *Membership:* The Human Resources, Finance and Property Committee shall be comprised of seven County Board Supervisors, appointed by the County Board Chairperson and confirmed by the County Board at the April meeting of the County Board in even-numbered years.
 - (d) *Term:* Members shall serve a two-year term concurrent with their terms of office as County Board Supervisors.

-
- (e) *Reporting relationship:* The Human Resources, Finance and Property Committee shall be accountable to the County Board. It shall have the responsibility for outcome monitoring and overseeing the implementation of all policies related to human resources, financial and property matters of the County. The Human Resources, Finance and Property Committee shall have the primary responsibility of conferring with and providing guidance to the following County departments:

Treasurer's Office

Finance Department

Corporation Counsel's Office

County Clerk's Office

Register of Deeds' Office

Facilities and Capital Management

Employee Resources

- (f) *Duties and responsibilities:* The duties and responsibilities of the Human Resources, Finance and Property Committee shall include, but are not limited to:

1. Consult with County program committees, and in consultation with County Administration, develop annual short-term and multiple year long-term budget assumptions to guide budget development.
2. Provide leadership for the development and implementation of employee compensation, benefits, and working conditions structure which provides internal and external consistency and equality for all County employees, officers, and officials.
3. Review and accept the annual budget proposed by the County Administrator, conduct public listening sessions regarding the proposed budget, and submit with appropriate revisions to the County Board for its consideration, possible modification, and adoption.
4. Review and on behalf of the County Board act upon claims including all litigation claims against the County.
5. Monitor and oversee all County financial matters including, but not limited to, bills, audit reports, investments, insurance policies, bonding, contingency funds, property acquired by tax deed, budget amendments and transfers, and risk management programs including collaboration on labor contract negotiation issues. Establish, monitor and appropriately update acquisition policies, use and disposition of non-tax and tax deeded land acquired by the County.
6. Monitor the implementation of County Human Resources policies including organization compliance with annual budgets for Human Resources.
7. Establish and monitor the County's policies regarding donations and grants.
8. Review and approve for submission all grant requests which directly affect the finances of the County.
9. Review requests for new allocated positions pursuant to § 4.20 of this Code.
10. Authorize the transfer of funds between budgeted items of an individual County office, or County department, and authorize the transfer of funds from the contingency fund to supplement the appropriation for a particular office, department or activity as long as such transfers do not:
 - a. Exceed the amount set up in the contingent fund, or

-
- b. Add up to more than ten percent of the fund originally budgeted to each individual office or department or activity.
11. Provide for publication of notice of contingent fund transfers pursuant to law.
 12. Recommend to the County Board transfers from the General Fund.
 13. Serve as the County's employee grievance committee, hearing, as required, all employee grievances and issuing decisions, when required by ordinances or labor contracts.
 14. Act as the Trier of Fact in disciplinary hearings, and request, as appropriate, the involvement of County Corporation Counsel to assist in conducting disciplinary hearing.
 15. Monitor organizational culture survey results and assure that employees are managed and led consistent with the County's values.
 16. Monitor the employee health care benefit and establish broad organizational policies that ensure that the plan is part of a compensation package that supports talent attraction and retention; and that cost are well managed to provide the best value available.
 17. Promote cultural competence in County employment policies and in the design and delivery of County programs and services.
 18. Additional duties as may be assigned by the County Board Chairperson.
- (g) *Committee relationships:* The Human Resources, Finance and Property Committee shall be the committee of jurisdiction (governance) providing the leadership for interaction, communication, and policy recommendations to the County Board with respect to the following:
None
 - (h) *Other Organizational Relationships:* The Executive Committee will also serve as Marathon County's liaison (non-governance) to the following organizations:
None
- (5) *Health and Human Services Committee.*
- (a) *Mission/purpose:* Provide leadership for the implementation of the strategic plan, monitoring outcomes, reviewing and recommending to the County Board policies related to health and human services initiatives of Marathon County.
 - (b) *Statutory responsibilities:* §§ 46.22(1m) and 46.23(2g), Wis. Stats., and their successor statutes.
 - (c) *Membership:* The Health and Human Services Committee shall be comprised of seven County Board supervisors appointed by the County Board Chairperson at the April meeting of the County Board in even-numbered years.
 - (d) *Term:* Members shall serve for a two-year term concurrent with their terms of office as County Board Supervisors.
 - (e) *Reporting relationship:* The Health and Human Services Committee shall be accountable to the County Board. It shall have the responsibility for outcome monitoring and overseeing the implementation of all policies related to the health and human services of the County, including, but not limited to: long-term care, physical and mental health, socioeconomic needs, AODA, crisis intervention, youth and elderly, and nutrition, as well as state and federally funded programs affecting Marathon County and current legislation or proposed legislation affecting health and human services. The Health and Human Services Committee shall have the primary responsibility for conferring with and providing guidance to the following county departments:

Veteran's Services

Social Services

Health Department

(f) *Duties and responsibilities:* The duties and responsibilities of the Health and Human Services Committee include, but are not limited to:

1. Foster the implementation of the County's Strategic Plan.
2. Identify the need for, and recommend to the County Board, policies related to the health and human services of the County that meet the physical and mental health, social and economic needs of individuals and families.
3. Review new programs and associated budget requirements, prior to their being considered for inclusion in the County's budget.
4. Facilitate broad based discussion of issues and policies encouraging public involvement and communications with the public.
5. Serve as the initial contact point for individual and/or organizations who wish to influence County Board policy regarding County health and human services.
6. Delegate operational procedures and practices to appropriate administrative committees and department(s) of the County.
7. Fulfill all statutory requirements assigned by the County Board.
8. Develop policies and plans for the delivery of all County-sponsored human services programs.
9. Develop a coordinated plan and budget, set priorities on program operations within the funding mechanisms provided by Federal, State and County government.
10. Assess the health status of the citizens and recommend policies that will improve the health of community residents assuring that needed health services are available.
11. Ensure that public health services include, but are not limited to, nursing, immunizations, health screenings, school health, environmental health, nuisance and hazard complaints, and health education are made available.
12. Develop partnerships with private or public funded human service agencies, schools and health or social institutions in the County which deal directly or indirectly with the Department of Social Services.
13. Develop options related to future policies related to the elderly and individuals with disabilities.
14. Promote health equity to reduce/eliminate health and social disparities where they may exist.
15. Additional duties as assigned by the County Board Chairperson.

(g) *Committee relationships:* The Health and Human Services Committee shall serve as the committee of jurisdiction (governance) providing the leadership for interaction, communications, and policy recommendations to the County Board with respect to the following:

Social Services Board

Veterans Service Commission

Transportation Coordinating Committee

-
- (h) *Other organization relationships:* The Health and Human Services Committee will also serve as Marathon County's liaison (non-governance) to the following organizations:

Marathon County Board of Health

Aging and Disability Resource Center of Central WI (ADRC-CW)

Tri-County 51.42 Board and North Central Health Care Facilities

Community Care of Central Wisconsin (CCCW)

Marathon County Long-Term Care Council

Children with Disabilities Board

North Central Community Action Program (CAP)

Northern Valley Workshop Board

(6) *Infrastructure Committee.*

- (a) *Mission/purpose:* Provide leadership for the implementation of the Strategic Plan, monitoring outcomes, reviewing and recommending to the County Board policies related to technology and infrastructure initiatives of Marathon County which includes, but is not limited to, highways, airways, waterways, etc.
- (b) *Statutory responsibilities:* § 83.015, Wis. Stats., and their successor statutes.
- (c) *Membership:* The Infrastructure Committee will be comprised of seven County Board Supervisors, appointed by the County Board Chairperson at the April meeting of the County Board in even-numbered years.
- (d) *Term:* Members shall serve two-year terms concurrent with their terms of office as County Board Supervisors.
- (e) *Reporting relationship:* The Infrastructure Committee is accountable to the County Board. It shall have the responsibility for outcome monitoring, and overseeing the implementation of all policies related to the County's infrastructure and technology, including, but not limited to, the airport, highways, communication systems, and all other technology and infrastructure required within Marathon County. The Infrastructure Committee shall have the primary responsibility of conferring with and providing guidance to the following County departments:
- Highway Department
- (f) *Duties and responsibilities:* The duties and Responsibilities of the Infrastructure Committee will include, but not be limited to:
1. Foster the implementation of the County's Strategic Plan.
 2. Proactively identify the need for, and recommend to the County Board, policies related to the infrastructure and technology of the County.
 3. Establish outcome expectations for technology and infrastructure needs and monitor performance against these expectations.
 4. Review new technology and infrastructure and associated budget requirements, prior to their being considered for inclusion in the County's budget.
 5. Facilitate broad based discussion of issues and policies [to] encourage public involvement and communication with the public.

-
6. Facilitate the increase in transparency in County government through the use of technology and encourage greater public involvement and communication.
 7. Review and prioritize requests to utilize new technology within County government.
 8. Identify policies and procedures governing the use of technology to increase the efficiency of County government.
 9. Identify and promote opportunities for departments to cooperate and coordinate the development of new technologies within the County.
 10. Serve as the initial contact point for individuals and/or organizations who wish to influence County Board policy regarding County technology and infrastructure.
 11. Delegate operational procedures and practices to appropriate administrative committees and departments of County government.
 12. Fulfill all statutory requirements as assigned by the County Board.
 13. Develop and propose for County Board approval plans for the construction and maintenance of all County trunk roads and bridges and the construction, improvement, equipment, maintenance, and operation of the highway department and grounds.
 14. Report to the County Board on all matters under the jurisdiction of the Highway Department including highways, County highway speed limits and traffic control devices.
 15. Advise the board regarding leases, contracts and agreements necessary to implement the controlled access highway statute pursuant to § 83.027, Wis. Stats.
 16. Act as the Highway Committee pursuant to § 83, Wis. Stats.
 17. Oversee the implement of purchasing procedures consistent with County purchasing policies.
 18. Propose for County Board approval, a long-term technology and infrastructure plan.
 19. Provide insight and recommendations on technology related issues to any standing committee of the Marathon County Board of Supervisors through joint meetings and/or referred issues from other committees and/or the County Board.
 20. Evaluate transportation, highways, broadband, and other services/facilities to reduce/eliminate disparities in access where they may exist.
 21. Additional duties as assigned by the County Board Chairperson.

(g) *Committee relationships:* The Infrastructure Committee shall be the committee of jurisdiction (governance) providing the leadership for interaction, communications, and policy recommendations to the County Board with respect to the following:

Highway Safety Commission

(h) *Other organization relationships:* The Infrastructure Committee will serve as Marathon County's liaison (non-governance) to the following organizations:

Marathon County Metropolitan Planning Commission

Central Wisconsin Airport Board

Rib Mountain Metropolitan Sewerage District

City/County IT Commission

(7) *Public Safety Committee.*

-
- (a) *Mission/purpose:* Provide leadership for the implementation of the Strategic Plan, monitoring outcomes, reviewing and recommending to the County Board policies related to public safety initiatives of Marathon County.
- (b) *Statutory responsibilities:* Space reserved.
- (c) *Membership:* The Public Safety Committee shall be comprised of seven County Board Supervisors appointed by the County Board Chairperson at the April meeting of the County Board in even-numbered years.
- (d) *Term:* Members shall serve for a two-year term concurrent with their terms of office as County Board Supervisors.
- (e) *Reporting relationship:* The Public Safety Committee shall be accountable to the County Board. It shall have responsibility for outcome monitoring and oversight for the implementation of all policies relating to public safety for the County. The Public Safety Committee shall have the primary responsibility of conferring with, and providing guidance to, the following County departments:
- Sheriff's Office
 - Clerk of Courts' Office
 - District Attorney's Office
 - Circuit Court Judges
 - Medical Examiner's Office
- (f) *Duties and responsibilities:* The duties and responsibilities of the Public Safety Committee include, but are not limited to:
1. Foster the implementation of the County's Strategic Plan.
 2. Identify the need for, and recommend to the County Board, policies related to the public safety of the County.
 3. Review new programs and associated budget requirements, prior to their being considered for inclusion in the County's budget.
 4. Facilitate broad based discussion of issues and policies encouraging public involvement and communications with the public.
 5. Serve as the initial contact point for individual and/or organizations who wish to influence County Board policy regarding County public safety.
 6. Delegate operational procedures and practices to appropriate administrative committees and department(s) of the County.
 7. Initiate a study to determine the future criminal justice issues.
 8. Fulfill all statutory requirements assigned by the County Board.
 9. Evaluate programs and services to foster the fair and impartial administration of justice.
 10. Additional duties as assigned by the County Board Chairperson.
- (g) *Committee relationships:* The Public Safety Committee shall be the committee of jurisdiction (governance) providing the leadership for interaction, communications, and policy recommendations to the County Board with respect to the following committees of the County:
- Criminal Justice Coordinating Council/Evidence Based Decision Making

Local Emergency Planning Committee

Civil Service Commission

- (h) *Other organization relationships:* The Public Safety Committee will serve as the Marathon County Boards liaison (non-governance) to the following organizations:

Humane Society of Marathon County

Department of Corrections (Probation and Parole)

(O-12-20; O-10-22)

Annual Budget Overview can be found [HERE](#)



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

For May 2, 2024 EEEDC Meeting

Library Outreach at EverCon Gaming Convention

As an outreach initiative to connect with young adults and other gaming enthusiasts in the community, library employees were thrilled to attend the largest convention in Central Wisconsin over the first weekend of March. MCPL staff from Wausau and Mosinee created an engaging and colorful booth to share information about library programs. During the gaming convention, staff interacted with attendees who stopped by the booth to play a quick game, learn about the library, and enter a raffle for gaming-related prizes. The MCPL booth was conveniently placed next to the main entrance to the convention, so staff were in the perfect location to interact with the community. Several attendees told staff how much they appreciate the library, and many were excited by our upcoming events. We hope to see convention attendees in the library soon!

-Jailin P, Library Specialist



WALTCO Delivery Delays

MCPL locations are experiencing delayed delivery for all library materials sent through WALTCO. Currently, library materials sent via WALTCO are taking at least two full weeks to arrive at their final destination. We feel our patrons' frustration with the longer wait times! MCPL staff continue to share

concerns with our contact at WVLS, Jamie Matczak. Jamie has shared that the Wausau WALTCO terminal is undergoing various staffing challenges. This is the likely cause of the delay in service and ongoing sorting mishaps over the last several months. Jamie is communicating our concerns with the Wausau terminal head and WALTCO headquarters.

Library Services

March was a busy month for Library Services—and for our patrons! The community used our Study Rooms over 100 times this month alone. Three “Computer Basics” classes, a patron favorite, were offered by our Adult Services Librarian at our Mosinee branch throughout March. Other programming highlights for adults include: A lecture on the 1919 Solar Eclipse, a documentary screening of “Honor in the Air” in observance of National Vietnam Veterans Day, and a Q&A with the Wausau Fire Chief. Our Youth Services team prepared a Beach Party for families over Spring Break—and the snow didn’t stop young folks from participating in the fun! Young people of varying ages also participated in a colorful “Yarn Art” program. Another notable highlight for families in March was our “Dinosaur Stomp” Story Time.



Hiring news: On March 1, Tara H. transferred into a new role as the Youth Services Librarian. We are looking forward to welcoming a new Youth Collection Development Librarian to the team. The Library Services team also participated in orientation for our new Hatley Branch Coordinator, Peggy K., during the week of March 18.

-Katelyn S, Library Services Manager

Branches

Athens hosted a Title 1 reading night on Tuesday, March 12th from 5:30-7. Doreen Schultz read and discussed her book, *Sometimes a Hero: A Story about Edward J. Weiler*. Edward grew up in the Athens area. He became disabled and deaf due to a severe infection at a young age. He was instrumental in helping create legislation to help handicapped individuals. There were also reading and craft activities presented by Shari Parks, Reading Specialist. 25 people participated.

In Mosinee, beginner computer classes held throughout the month brought in a total of 17 patrons between 3 sessions. Patrons were so thankful to Julie Kinney for presenting these helpful classes!

Rothschild hosted an interactive Clue game on March 28th. Branch Assistant Julie G. served as the butler to lead the sleuthing. Each group (17 people total) solved the case and had a lot of fun in the process! We hope to host this life-size game again soon.



“What’s happening in Spencer?” was held on March 7th. Spencer’s Police Chief, Shawn Bauer, and Village Administrator, Chris Helgestad, spoke to 23 residents who learned about upcoming village projects, which include street closures this summer for reconstruction, local arrests statistics, and received information about a new school resource officer at the Spencer school. Residents were able to ask questions at the end of the presentation.

New book shelves arrived in Athens and Rothschild. Rothschild received a shelf for new adult fiction and nonfiction and a shelf for J easy readers, while Athens received shelves for the children’s room. Both locations look great!

Peggy Klein started work as our new Hatley Branch Coordinator. She participated in orientation at Wausau and Rothschild, and is looking forward to starting her regular work in Hatley. Welcome to the team, Peggy!

Our bi-monthly branch coordinator meeting was held on 3/15. Staff discussed circulation and collections updates, programming ideas, and information for upcoming school visits to promote our summer library program.

Jamie Matczak and Brenda Walenton from WVLS visited all MCPL branches in March to meet staff, see our locations, and discuss delivery.

-Laura Wood, Branch Team Lead

MCDEVCO, Inc. – April 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

2024 Programs and Educational Updates:

- **January 16, 2024:** Q1 Entrepreneur Information Session hosted by MCDEVCO.
- **March 13, 2024:** DC Everest Youth Entrepreneurs Tour of MCDEVCO & EEC hosted by MCDEVCO.
- **March 19 & March 26, 2024:** Sales & Use Tax Workshop hosted by MCDEVCO.
- **April 2 & April 9, 2024:** Social Media Marketing Workshop hosted by MCDEVCO.
- **April 9, 2024:** Q2 Entrepreneur Information Session hosted by MCDEVCO.
- **April 30, 2024:** GEARS Alumni Networking hosted by MCDEVCO.
- **May 14, 2024:** EEC Tenant *GAP* & Micro Financing Info Session hosted by MCDEVCO.
- **July 9, 2024:** Q3 Entrepreneur Information Session hosted by MCDEVCO.
- **July 16, 2024:** UW Law & Entrepreneurship Clinic hosted by MCDEVCO.
- **September 10 through December 10, 2024:** *GEARS* Certificate of Entrepreneurial Excellence hosted by MCDEVCO.
- **October 22, 2024:** Q4 Entrepreneur Information Session hosted by MCDEVCO.
- **MORE PROGRAMS ARE BEING ADDED FOR THE 2024 CALENDAR YEAR.**

Municipalities

MCDEVCO hosts quarterly municipality meetings.


EEC Management

Occupancy Update:

- March 2024 Occupancy: 85.50%

Kim Weber, Executive Director - MCDEVCO

www.mcdevco.org




INFORMATION SESSION

DATE
Tuesday, January 16, 2024

TIME
12:00PM

LOCATION
ZOOM

Interested in starting a business?
Join MCDEVCO for a virtual overview of the steps needed to begin the entrepreneurial journey!





SALES & USE TAX WORKSHOP

Join MCDEVCO in this two-day workshop with Holly Hoffman, as we navigate through the nuances of Wisconsin Sales and Use Tax.

Day 1: Sales - WI Sales Tax
Tuesday, March 19th, 2024
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Day 2: Purchases - WI Use Tax
Tuesday, March 26th, 2024
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM



Holly Hoffman
Sales Tax Lady
Owner

MCDEVCO, Inc.
100 N 72nd Avenue
Wausau, WI 54401

715.298.0084
www.mcdevco.org

Scholarships Available



Social Media Success Workshop

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

Tuesdays, April 2 & 9, 2024
6:00-8:00PM

715.298.0084
www.mcdevco.org




Instructor
Bryson Bernarde
Owner - United Social Media Marketing

MCDEVCO, INC. PRESENTS

THE ART OF SELLING

with Tim McKeough

INCREASE YOUR SALES.
CLOSE LIKE A PRO.

Tuesday, May 14th, 2024
6 PM - 8 PM
100 N 72nd Ave,
Wausau, WI 54401

Register Online!

Scholarships
Available

MCDEVCO, Inc.
715.298.0084
www.mcdevco.org



GEARS Certificate of Entrepreneurial Excellence Alumni Networking Event

HOSTED BY
MCDEVCO



Meet, Speak
& Network
with Alumni

100 N 72nd Avenue, Wausau, WI 54401

APRIL | 30th | 2024

6 PM - 8 PM





Wausau UW-Stevens Point

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

1. **Fall 2024 Enrollment:** Our Fall 2024 applications and admits are tracking a little behind this time last year, but we've got strong enrollment initiatives going:
 - a. New scholarship initiative—John Runkel Merit Scholarship Awards
 - b. For returning adult student recruitment, we've launched digital ads and are sending direct mailings and hosting virtual information sessions every Tuesday evening in April.
2. **April Events**
 - a. **Earth Week:** planting and rock painting, Chalk the Walk, Marathon Park stroll, and campus clean-up
 - b. **Sexual Assault Awareness Month:** in collaboration with the Women's Community
 - i. Teal Tuesdays
 - ii. 4/24: Denim Day
 - iii. 4/25: We Sep Into the Light Art Exhibit Open House
3. **Upcoming Events:**
 - a. **8th Grade Days, May 20 & 21:** UWSP at Wausau will host the 8th graders from John Muir and Horace Mann middle schools. Students will learn about getting ready for college, hear from a current student panel, participate in a mock lesson, and other activities.
 - b. **College for Kids, June 24-28:** College for Kids is for children in grades K-6 seeking fun and adventurous learning opportunities through classes designed to stimulate curiosity and encourage creativity. College for Kids is in person on the Wausau campus.
4. **Continuing Education:** UWSP's Continuing Education department is running several professional development and youth camps over the summer.
 - a. You can see all CE offerings on their 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)

Submitted by Miranda Gentry-Siegel, Interim Director of Campus Operations

Build Your Future

**SUMMER CAMPS IN HEALTH CAREERS, MUSIC,
DANCE, AND MORE! CHECK BACK FOR UPDATES.**

Camp Info



Learn - Explore - Meet New People - Have Fun

K-6, Middle & High School Camps

CAMPS AT ALL THREE CAMPUS LOCATIONS

Day Camps and Over Night Camps



Join our email list



Summer 2024

- ✳ **Point Music Camp @ Stevens Point Campus**
- ✳ **Health Careers Camp @ Stevens Point Campus**
- ✳ **Esports Camp Middle School & High School @ Stevens Point Campus**
- ✳ **College 4 Kids @ Wausau Campus**
- ✳ **Soccer Camp @ Marshfield Campus**
- ✳ **Summer Theatre Camp @ Marshfield Campus**
- ✳ **Summer Dance Intensive Camp @ Stevens Point Campus**
- ✳ **Model UN Camp @ Stevens Point Campus**

Many registrations opening in March 2024



*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, fun, and educational activity where elementary Marathon County youth learned the history of piñatas and made their own.
 - Thanks to a partnership with Growing Great Minds (G2M) which is an after-school program in local elementary schools, youth were able to learn about the history of piñatas and they also made their own.
- A hands-on educational activity for Marathon County youth to learn about quilting basics and have space to work on a project. The goal of this activity was to expose youth to quilting/sewing and help them complete a project they can show at the local county fair.
 - Marathon County 4-H has a passionate sewing leader that wants to increase the sewing and quilting skills in our local youth. Therefore, we decided to offer a monthly quilting club in the Spring of 2024. Overall, the attendance each month was between 6-12 youth depending on the month. The quilting club ran from January through April. Youth that participated had the choice to start a project or bring a project from home each month. The county office provided sewing machines, fabric, and sewing tools. Youth learned about sewing machine parts, rotary cutters, cutting mats, patterns, and sewing and quilting basics.

"I wanted to let you know how wonderful quilting club has been for my daughter- she learned a lot and developed a love for sewing. Thank you all for offering this wonderful opportunity!"

- A hands-on, fun, educational activity where Marathon County teens learned about the basics of photography. The goal of the activity was to expose youth to different cameras and to help them practice simple takes.
 - Marathon County 4-H has had a strong partnership with Marathon County Public Library-Wausau. The library specifically invited Marathon County 4-H to lead a class on photography basics. 4-H educator, Jasmine Carbajal, recruited two former 4-H members to lead the session as they grew up in the 4-H photography project and currently are photographers as well. Four youth and five adults attended the photography basics class. All nine participants reported learning the differences between cameras, enjoying the hands-on activities, having fun, and being excited to take more photos in the future.
- A hands-on educational presentation for Latinx parents and students in Marathon and Clark Counties. The goal of the session was to promote the Juntos program.



- 60% of the Abbotsford School District student population identifies as Latinx. School district staff have talked to district Latinx families about what needs they recognize they want help in to help their students succeed. One of those needs is a better understanding of the educational system in the US. 4-H educators Jasmine and Seth were invited to a scheduled family night to present to parents about the Juntos program and to recruit families to participate. Thanks to this effort, three families registered for the Spring series in Abbotsford.
- An interactive camp workday with 4-H educators from across the state. Through this effort we supported each other with ideas about camp and how to improve camp for the youth while also learning about new policies and procedures in relation to camp.
- A distance learning kit, for 3-6th graders that focuses on tomatoes and uses them as an opportunity to discuss history, practice gardening skills, implement cultural cooking, and explore careers connected to plants. The kit teaches relating and critical thinking skills and provides ample opportunity for connection with others.
- Discover 4-H @ Trinity is a monthly in school program bringing Wisconsin Agriculture education to three classrooms. The monthly curriculum is led by the Marathon County 4-H staff: Educators and AmeriCorps/4-H Program Assistants. Approximately 57 youth in 1st, 4th, and 6th grade are engaged in hands on lessons. Current 4-H programs are also shared.

Agriculture

Heather Schlessor, Dairy Agent

- A research-based educational article for dairy producers and agri-business professionals, where participants will learn about the impacts of dairy cow stress and strain on reproductive performance. This is a follow-up piece to the Reproduction Roadshow, with the goal of highlighting stressors (health, nutrition, psychological) that affect reproduction and how herd managers can help mitigate the strain they create.
- A series of workshops for farm owners and potential successors where participants learned about legal risks around farm succession and first steps they can take to prepare to meet with service providers to raise awareness for the need to plan and resources to help them plan.
 - Wisconsin farmers are aging and a high percentage of them have not made succession plans. Major challenges of business transition and succession are financial viability to support multiple partners and communication. Transition can be financially complex with a lot of emotion for families, often causing stress. The need for succession planning education was identified by county and regional educators and industry organizations. While Extension has many virtual programs, in-person workshops were requested by several county and regional educators. Wilfert and Kirkpatrick offered four regional workshops in March/April of 2024. Wilfert provided an overview of the legal risks of not planning and Kirkpatrick provided information on the first steps farm owners can take in the process. Forty-two people attended one of these workshops. Thirty-four evaluations were completed for an 81% response rate. Evaluations indicate participants learned how to better prepare to meet with service providers (average 4.44 response on Likert scale with 1 = Strongly disagree and 5 = Strongly agree). They learned about tools to help them effectively communicate with business partners and/or family with the average response 4.36 on the same Likert scale. Respondents identified



communication, fair versus equal inheritance, and financial capacity of the farm as barriers to their succession planning. They identified estate planning tools, holding successful team meetings, and financial analysis as future educational topics. Interestingly, the last session, that was switched to virtual was the best attended, with twice as many joining than were originally scheduled for in-person. Last minute marketing helped advertise the switch.

- 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.

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 in order to achieve health equity for all county residents.
- A 5-week nutrition education series for 1st grade classrooms at Franklin 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.



Horticulture

Janell Wehr, Horticulture Educator

- A therapeutic horticulture activity (Lettuce Bowls!), where participants learned indoor seed starting techniques through a hands-on activity. This effort was designed to support social and emotional wellbeing of local residents.
 - 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 an effort to combat social isolation and improve wellbeing, Extension partnered with Woodson YMCA-The Landing for one session and MCPL- Wausau branch for two sessions to meet the needs of the Marathon County residents.

The goal of the effort was to provide participants the skills necessary to successfully start



lettuce plants indoors, so they would reap the therapeutic benefits of engaging with plants. Participants learned about different types of planting media and conditions required to successfully start lettuce plants from seed. They then engaged in a hands-on seed starting exercise.

Many of the participants were novice gardeners with limited experience, as 92% stated they had never tried or had only tried starting seeds indoors once or twice. One participant shared when asked how they felt about growing lettuce as a therapeutic gardening activity, "gives me peace, joy, and fulfillment." 100% of participants shared that successfully starting their "lettuce bowls" would give them an increased sense of accomplishment, while 93% stated it would increase their self-esteem.

- A hands-on workshop for adults over 55, where participants learned about pollinator gardens. This effort was designed to support social and emotional wellbeing to local residents.
 - Lifelong learning is beneficial for Marathon County's aging population, because it supports overall cognitive function, sense of accomplishment, and personal growth, and positive social engagement that combats social isolation, which is common in older adults. In an effort to combat social isolation and improve wellbeing, Extension partnered with Woodson YMCA-The Landing to meet the needs of the Marathon County residents over 55. The goal of the effort was to teach about pollinator habitat while providing hands-on learning and social activity. Participants met at The Landing Adventure Camp at Camp Sturtevant. After reviewing the needs of pollinators, including habitat requirements, participants made seed "bombs" to take home. They then used premade seed bombs in an archery activity with slingshots. 90% of participants stated it had been over 5 decades since they had last used a slingshot, and all shared they enjoyed spending the afternoon together.
- A program (Romaine Calm and Garden On Session 3) for the general public, where participants learned about soil texture and pH and fertilizers. This effort is designed to increase awareness and knowledge of resources to decrease environmental contamination.
 - Marathon County is facing environmental challenges including pollinator decline and environmental contamination & pollution due to overuse of horticulture chemicals. Proper pest management techniques can lead to less fertilizer and pesticide use leading to reduced likelihood for environmental contamination and pollution. Extension partnered with Mosinee School District for their Community Education program, as well as provided this program in an additional session via Zoom. In Romaine Calm and Garden On Session 3- From the Ground Up, participants learned about the components of soil texture, how pH affects nutrient availability, how organic matter improves soil, and the function of primary plant nutrients in supporting plant function and growth. Participants learned how to better implement fertilizer strategies to improve plant health.
- A presentation for members of the North Central Wisconsin Master Gardener Association, where participants connected good gardening practices to climate change adaptations to increase gardening resiliency.
 - As Central Wisconsin experiences shifting climate patterns, gardeners face new challenges in maintaining their gardens. To ensure the resilience of local flora and fauna, it's crucial for gardeners to understand the connection between sustainable gardening practices and



climate change adaptation techniques. Equipping gardeners with essential knowledge and skills will empower them to foster biodiversity, conserve water, and mitigate the impacts of climate change on their gardens and the broader ecosystem.

I delivered a presentation which identified key climatic weather issues gardeners will face and facilitated a conversation with the audience in which they identified adaptation and mitigation strategies to temper the worst effects. As a result of the program, participants were able to connect research based gardening practices they are familiar with as adaptation strategies for future extreme weather challenges.

- An in-person presentation for adults over 55+ where participants learned about the “No Mow May” initiative and the impacts of lawn care on pollinator health so participants adopt gardening practices that increase pollinator habitat and reduce the use of horticulture chemicals.
 - Participants learned the history of No Mow May and the impacts of unmowed lawns on pollinators. Participants were introduced to pollinator friendly lawn care strategies. They also learned how gardening practices can support pollinators in residential yards throughout the year (i.e. provide forage and habitat, reduce stress such as pesticide reduction/elimination). Finally, participants learned where to find science-based resources for best practices for lawn care, pollinators, pollinator friendly gardening, and more.
- A presentation for the general public, where participants learned about the historical, economic, and cultural significance of garden vegetable plants to gain a better understanding of the importance of genetic diversity.
 - In the past 50 years, there has been a noticeable decline in genetic diversity among backyard vegetable plants, largely due to the prevalence of commercialized hybrid varieties. This shift has sidelined many traditional heirloom varieties, diminishing our access to unique flavors and vital genetic traits. Preserving and reintroducing heirloom varieties is crucial for maintaining resilient and sustainable agriculture amidst changing environmental conditions and pest pressures. Participants learned the differences between different pollination types and how this applies to current and future backyard vegetable diversity.
- “Can you dig it?” newsletter for the general public, where subscribers can read timely articles specifically related to horticulture issues facing central Wisconsin. The goal of this effort is designed to increase awareness and knowledge of resources to decrease environmental contamination.
- 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.

Natural Resources

Kris Tiles, NRI Program Manager

Anna James, Regional Natural Resources Educator

Jen McNelly, Regional Natural Resources Groundwater Educator

- Presentation to Baraboo Range Protection Association on community planning and homeowner protection during wildfires. The purpose of the presentation was to build awareness of ways the community can prepare for and prevent extensive damage from wildfires.



Additional Extension Outreach Programming Occurring in Marathon County

- A career awareness event planning and event was held for high school students to learn more about the diversity and opportunities available in the field of agriculture.
 - Working with the Marshfield Chamber of Commerce and Industry and 10 area high schools, students learned from area agriculture related business partners about career opportunities relating to agriculture. Students were able to meet face-to-face with industry representatives that discussed the skills employers are looking for, the education and skills needed and if these careers could be a good choice for the students in the future. Nearly 300 students attended the event that also offered connections for students to job shadow, seek internships and short term employment while in high school. The event was funded by a grant from Wood County 2018 Farm Technology Days.
- A farm open house highlighting automated milking systems (AMS) was held for dairy producers. Many producers are interested in AMS at this time as they help address labor shortages, distribution of labor and working conditions for farmers. Understanding AMS will help producers make better decisions addressing critical labor and management issues on their farm that affect profitability.
 - Over 150 people of diverse backgrounds and age attended the Robotic Milking Open House that Extension held at Dukestead Acres, Abbotsford. Working in partnership with the family farm and several vendors that have labor saving and cow-care improving products on the farm including robotic milking, feeding, calf feeding and bedding of the herd producers from across the North Central area of the state came to learn about how these management and labor saving tools can be utilized on their farms. The event was enhanced by providing parking options for people traveling by horse and also by being held adjacent to a spring open house and customer appreciation day held by a local farm equipment dealer. Extension materials were provided for robotic milking management and the current outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). Materials were in English and Spanish. A state specialist addressed the group discussing current modeling of ventilation needs for barns with robotic milking systems. The host family shared how they arrived at the decision to utilize AMS and their experiences since installing the system.
- A meeting discussing the feeding characteristics of several forages based on the fiber digestibility and forage kinetics was held for dairy producers and consultants so that they may develop more profitable feeding programs for their farms or their customer's farms.
 - Working with the Central Wisconsin Forage Council, an annual educational program involved state specialists from UW-Madison CALS. They discussed production practices regarding corn silage and



alfalfa forages. In addition to their information, I presented on how to understand the feeding of alfalfa for high producing dairy cows featuring research I was involved with from a SARE grant funded trial looking at the feeding characteristics of several alternative forages.

- 2024 Central Wisconsin Farm Profitability Expo, a Significant Planning/Development Activity Abstract: Planning the April 24, 2024, Annual Central Wisconsin Farm Profitability Expo. The goal of this event is to encourage profitable farming by building resiliency, diversifying farming operations, reducing inputs, and increasing return on investment. Farmers, Crop Consultants, and local stakeholders will learn about best-management practices they can use to take advantage of what nature has to offer and increase self-sufficiency on the farm. Topics include regenerative management, managed grazing, cover and companion crops and no-till farming. They will also explore specific barriers central Wisconsin farmers are experiencing when adopting best management practices through discussion with fellow farmers who have implemented these practices.
- A field day and classroom instruction for goat producers and those interested in becoming goat producers where basic introductory kid development, doe care, biosecurity, feeding strategies and marketing were discussed. This program was developed as Clark County has a rapidly expanding dairy goat, and meat goat, family scale enterprise largely among the Amish Community. The success of this program may develop into future offerings.
 - The County Extension Committee at several of their monthly meetings identified a rapidly increasing dairy goat industry among the Amish community within the county. They also identified the need for education about marketing of male goats destined to be utilized as meat animals. I identified several agribusinesses that serve the community and obtained suggestions or progressive producers who would be willing to share their experiences in goat production with others in need of this information.

To serve the Amish community, the need for low cost, low technology instruction located in an area that was easily accessible by all means of transportation including horse and buggy was needed. A town hall within a mile of several current producers and near to many others interested proved to be successful as good attendance from the local community and from others with similar interests from far away occurred. Other Extension educators with small ruminant knowledge were recruited to create and present at the program. The discussion was lively and interactive and there is great interest in future offerings with some topics already identified.

Increasing awareness of Extension in the Amish community and assisting them to develop an economically viable goat industry is a great win-win for local Amish and Extension.

- 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.

Upcoming Programs

- **4-H Programming** – Information at marathon.extension.wisc.edu/projects/programs/



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
MARATHON COUNTY

April 2024 Report

- **Horticultural Programs** – Information at <https://marathon.extension.wisc.edu/horticulture/programs/>

Jeremy Solin

Area Extension Director

Janell Wehr

Horticulture Educator

Kris Tiles

NRI Program Manager

Heather Schlessler

Dairy Agent

Mallory McGivern

FoodWise Administrator

Kathy Johnson

*Administrative
Assistant*

Holly Luerssen

4-H Program Educator

Julia Perock

FoodWise Educator

Jasmine Carbajal

4-H Associate Educator

Michelle Van Krey

Healthy Community Coordinator