



# MARATHON COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date & Time of Meeting: **Thursday, January 14, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.**

Meeting Location: WebEx/Courthouse Assembly Room, B-105, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI

Attendance:	Present	Absent	Vice-Chairs	
Kurt Gibbs, Chair	X			
Craig McEwen, Vice-Chair	X			
Matt Bootz	W		Brent Jacobson	W
Tim Buttke	W		Michelle Van Krey	W
Randy Fifrick	W		Sandi Cihlar	W
Sara Guild	X		Ka Lo	W
Jacob Langenhahn	W			
Alyson Leahy	W			
John Robinson	X			
E J Stark	W			

**Also Present:** Lance Leonhard, Jason Hake, Scott Corbett, Yee Lang Xiong, Bill Conway, Bee Her, Joanne Leonhard, Toshia Ranallo, Valerie Carrillo and Meg Ellefson.

**Web/Phone:** William Harris, Vicki Tylka, Jill Geoffroy, Dave Mack, Liz Holbrook, Becky Teichroew, Kim Trueblood, Chris Dickenson, Becky Buch, Betty Ariens, Jean Maszk, Sandi Cihlar, Moira Scupien, others from the general public.

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Meeting was called to order by Chair Kurt Gibbs at 4:00 p.m.

**2. Public Comment (15 Minutes)**

A. Citizens Joanne Leonard, Becky Teichroew, and Betty Ariens expressed opposition to the Resolution Declaring Marathon County "A Community for All", and requested the board to not approve it.

**3. MOTION BY LANGENHAHN; SECOND BY ROBINSON, TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 12, 2020, AND DECEMBER 10, 2020 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.**

**4. Policy Issues for Discussion and Possible Action**

A. Board Size Task Force Report Recommendations

**Discussion:**

Vice Chair McEwen and Supervisor Robinson presented a final report for the Board Size Task Force. The current board size task force was formed after a resolution to reduce the size of the board offered during the budget hearing failed. The Board Size Task Force included a member from every standing committee and two citizens, previous Deputy Administrator Deb Hager and Dave Eckmann, President/CEO of the Wausau Chamber of Commerce. It was explained that the task force held a public hearing to provide the public the opportunity to express comments in addition to letters, phone calls, and emails received. A total of 118 individuals provided input. Of the 118 responses, 78% desired the board to keep its current 38 membership, 19% identified the desired for a 27 member board and 3% desired a 32 member board.

Supervisor Robinson thanked the task force members for their dedication, noting that members approached the process without bias and conducted significant work. Robinson noted that the task force will recommend that the board continue to look at potential improvements as to committee functions and work load balance. In their course of deliberation, Deb Hager did a survey of the chairs of the committees. D. Hager will present these survey results at the February meeting and make the recommendation to maintain the current size of a 38 member board.

**Action:**

**MOTION BY ROBINSON; SECOND BY LANGENHAHN TO RECEIVE AND FORWARD THE REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Follow through:**

Forward it to the County Board for January's meeting.

B. CDBG-CV Program Funds Application

1) Should Marathon County proceed with application for Community Development Block Grant funds?

**Discussion:**

Administrator Leonhard provided a brief overview of the issue before the committee, explaining that in November this committee directed Administration to submit the Notice of Intent to Apply for the CDBG-Corona Virus grant funding. In December, the county received notice that we were invited to formally submit a full application. Funds have been set aside in the amount requested (\$1,100,000) Vicki Tylka and Jill Geoffrey reviewed the CDBG application and put together the scope and timeline information to assist the Committee in making the decision whether to move forward.

In response to questions from committee members, Leonhard indicated that the county would largely rely on our partners MCDEVO and North Central Community Action Program to administer the grant; however, the county will need to identify a county project manager in the event we are selected.

In response to further questions, Leonhard explained his belief that the grant funding would support several of the Strategic Plan Objectives, most notably objectives 3.3, 10.6, 10.8, and 10.10.

**Action:**

**MOTION BY BOOTZ; SECOND BY ROBINSON TO PROCEED AND COMPLETE THE CDBG-CV APPLICATION. MOTION CARRIED.**

**5. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution**

**A. Proposed Outcome Measures for Objective 3.8 in the Marathon County Strategic Plan**

**Discussion:**

Supervisor Xiong, Chair of the Diversity Affairs Commission, and Supervisor Conway, a member of the commission, appear before the Executive Committee to present the work that the commission has done in response to the request of the Executive Committee. Supervisor Xiong explains the commission's actions relative to developing the outcome measures in the document, specifically noting that the commission reviewed the [Life Report](#) and the [Wausau Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Strategic Plan](#) in developing the measures. Xiong and Conway answer questions from the committee. Members discuss the draft document. Members question whether the timeline of outcome #1 is realistic in light of the Administration work plan and whether the language should include a reference to "most qualified."

**Action:**

**MOTION BY BOOTZ; SECOND BY LANGENHAHN TO REFER OBJECTIVE 3.8 TO THE HR FINANCE COMMITTEE. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Follow through:**

See motion.

**B. Resolution Declaring Marathon County "A Community for All"**

**Discussion:**

Supervisor Xiong, Chair of the Diversity Affairs Commission, and Supervisor Conway, a member of the commission, appear before the Executive Committee to provide background information on the content and development of the resolution currently before the Committee. Xiong and Conway provide specific data from various sources, including the [LIFE Report](#) and the [Wausau Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Strategic Plan](#) that underlies the statements within the resolution. Xiong and Conway discuss wage data, school suspension data, criminal justice data, and other data that demonstrates "systemic inequality of opportunity." Committee members and other board members thank the Diversity Affairs Commission for its considerable work in putting this resolution together. In response to a question regarding the resolution subjecting Marathon County to liability, Corporation Counsel Corbett indicated that it was his assessment that the fourth whereas statement was structured as an acknowledgement of fact and that it did not subject the County to liability, as the reference to "our community" does not equate to any action taken by the County. Moreover, Corbett indicated that the County has previously affirmed diversity as one of its six core values. With respect to the final, "be it further resolved" paragraph, Corbett indicated that the clause would "set a standard" that could have legal implications should the County not meet it.

Committee and board members offer comments and perspectives on the resolution, including the following:

- The importance that the resolution not unnecessarily subject Marathon County to liability.
- Public engagement on this resolution is necessary
- Specific information, including local data, within the resolution would be helpful
- Information on the work Marathon County government is doing to improve diversity, inclusion, and equity would be helpful

Consensus emerges amongst committee members and board members that "bringing the community together" is

a primary goal of the resolution.

**Action:**

**MOTION BY ROBINSON; SECOND BY BUTTKE TO REFER THE RESOLUTION BACK TO THE DIVERSITY AFFAIRS COMMISSION TO CONSIDER TODAY'S COMMENTS. MOTION CARRIED.**

There was one opposing vote.

**Follow through:**

The Diversity Affairs Committee is to report back to this committee in February.

C. Administrator's 2021 Work Plan

- 1) Prioritization of Work Plan items and recommendation to be forwarded to the County Board

**Discussion:**

Chair Gibbs explained that he had received ranking information relative to the work plan from committee supervisors and that he worked to identify a list of the top ten priorities that he will provide to Administrator Leonhard. Gibbs explained that he will continue to accept ranking information from Committee members if they have been unable to provide it as of this meeting. Gibbs indicated that the County Board rules require that the work plan be submitted to and approved by the Board at its January meeting.

**Action:**

**MOTION BY ROBINSON; SECOND BY McEWEN TO APPROVE THE 2021 WORK PLAN RECOGNIZING THE TOP 10 ITEMS IDENTIFIED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Follow through:**

Forward it to the County Board for January's meeting.

D. New Position Request – Communication and Engagement Strategist

**Discussion:**

Deputy County Administrator Jason Hake explains the nature of the reorganization being sought, including the operational and financial rationale for the reorganization and new position. Hake also explains that this request was approved by the HR, Finance & Property Committee earlier this week. Hake answers questions from the committee.

**Action:**

**MOTION BY ROBINSON; SECONDED BY LEAHY TO MOVE THE POSITION FORWARD TO THE COUNTY BOARD. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Follow through:**

New Position to be considered by the Full County Board.

- E. Discussion and Possible Action: Procedures to be followed to Conduct Public Hearing and County Board Vote in the Event a Proposal to Withdraw from the Wisconsin Valley Library System is Forwarded to County Board by the Marathon County Public Library Board.

**Discussion:**

Chair Gibbs and Corporation Counsel Corbett explain that the Library Board Task force has been evaluating whether Marathon County should withdrawal from the Wisconsin Valley Library System and join the South Central Library System. The Library Board Task force will present its recommendation to the Library Board for consideration on January 25, 2021. Gibbs and Corbett indicate that if the Library Board recommendation is to move to the South Central system, a governing body would be required to hold a public hearing before making its determination relative to withdrawal.

The statute also requires at least 30 days written notice to affected libraries by registered mail and publication of a class 1 notice. A resolution of withdrawal must be reported to the other affected libraries in the WVLS no later than 6 months before the end of the system's fiscal year (June 30). Corbett indicated, the South Central Library System has requested notice of Marathon County's intent to join them no later than June 1.

Supervisor Guild reported the Extension, Education & Economic Development Committee (EEEDC) has been monitoring this matter and is prepared to undertake the Public Hearing.

**Action:**

**MOTION BY ROBINSON; SECOND BY MCEWEN TO DIRECT THE EEEDC TO HOLD THE PUBLIC HEARING AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME AND ACCORDING TO STATE STATUTES. MOTION CARRIED. SUPERVISOR LANGENHAHN REQUESTED, AND BEEN GRANTED, AN ABSTENTION.**

**Follow through:**

None necessary at this time

- F. The Executive Committee may consider a Motion to Go into Closed Session pursuant to §19.85(1) (c) Wis. Stats. to consider performance evaluation data of a public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, namely: the County Administrator. [Roll Call Vote Suggested]

**MOTION BY LANGENHAHN; SECOND BY ROBINSON TO CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION, PURSUANTT O §19.85(1) (C) WIS. STATS. TO CONSIDER PERFORMANCE EVALUATION DATA OF A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE OVER WHICH THE GOVERNMENTAL BODY HAS JURISDICTION OR EXERCISES RESPONSIBILITY, NAMELY: THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Roll Call Vote was performed:**

Kurt Gibbs, Chair	Y
Craig McEwen, Vice-Chair	Y
Matt Bootz	Y
Tim Buttke	Y
Randy Fifrick	Y
Sara Guild	Y
Jacob Langenhahn	Y
Alyson Leahy	Y
John Robinson	Y
E J Stark	Y

- G. Motion to Return to Open Session [Roll Call Vote not necessary]

**MOTION BY McEWEN; SECOND BY ROBINSON TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION. MOTION CARRIED.**

- H. Possible Announcements or Action Resulting from Closed Session

Announcement by Chair Gibbs that the Administrator's review will be compiled and brought to the next Executive Committee meeting and will be placed in the Administrator's personnel file.

**Action:**

**MOTION BY MCEWEN, SECOND BY ROBINSON, TO INCREASE THE ADMINISTRATOR'S PAY BY 2.3% (\$3,220). MOTION CARRIED.**

**6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports - None**

**7. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location, Future Agenda Items**

- Next Meeting: **Thursday, February 11, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.** in the Courthouse Assembly Room

**8. Announcements - None**

**9. Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, **MOTION BY ROBINSON; SECOND BY McEWEN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.** Meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Toshia Ranallo