

**MARATHON COUNTY BOARD SIZE TASK FORCE
MINUTES
August 19, 2020**

MEMBERS: *John Robinson – Chair, Craig McEwen - Vice Chair, Tim Buttke, Sandi Cihlar, Jacob Langenhahn, Arnold Schlei, Rick Seefeldt, Deb Hager,*

OTHERS PRESENT: Kurt Gibbs, Rebecca Frisch, Dave Mack, Amanda Ley, Jamie Alberti, Ka Lo, Alyson Leahy, Gary Beastro

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Call to Order

In the presence of a quorum, with the agenda being properly signed and posted, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Robinson at 3:31 p.m. via WebEx.

2. Welcome and Introductions

All were welcomed and introductions were made.

3. Public Comment

The Public Comment period has been reinstated by the County Board.

No Comments were given by anyone at this time.

POLICY DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

4. Approve Minutes August 19, 2020 meeting

Action: MOTION / SECOND BY BUTTKE / MCEWEN APPROVE THE JULY 15, 2020 MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE, NO DISSENT.

5. The Agenda items of:

CONSIDERATIONS USED BY OTHER COUNTIES;

DECISION MAKING EVALUATION CRITERIA;

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNTY BOARD PRESENTATION;

COUNTY BOARD SELF-ASSESSMENT;

These items were all discussed during the overall conversation of the meeting and no one individual item was discussed with the intent to take action on them separately. Consensus was reached on how to proceed with items at the next meeting.

The overall discussion was as follows:

Robinson and McEwen gave additional information to the members regarding the comparisons between counties that have recently changed their Board sizes. They discussed issues from counties the members asked to see more information on.

Chippewa County went from 30 to 15 members. They cited burn out on the committees as the reason to change. They have only 4 women on the Board but are experiencing quorum issues for the committees. They now think they are too small of a Board.

Wood County went from 29 to 15 members and went from a per diem system to salaries for members. They also only have 2 women on the Board and feel they have the right size.

Fond du Lac County has 25 members, 19 men, 6 women and are experiencing operation issues on the Board but feel it's the right size.

St Croix County went from 31 to 19 members based on a citizen's referendum.

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Further discuss about the geographic size of districts, the size of committees, the reasons for most Counties reducing their sizes, and the overall committee structure in the counties not just the standing committees that creates the problems.

The conversation then moved to the criteria needed to help members make a decision on the Board size. The questions asked were “what is the problem that needs fixing?”, “Why consider a change?”, and “What makes the board provide better delivery of services?”

For the evaluation criteria, qualitative questions should be asked not quantitative. Create a weighted scoring system using high, medium, and low for each measure and bring back next meeting.

Hager explained the survey mechanism for the Board self-assessment that will be given to the Executive Committee where themes will be identified and used to survey the full board.

Members agreed to discuss the evaluation criteria, other county considerations, the Board self-assessment, costs and compensation, and a public engagement process at the September 16th Task Force meeting.

6. Future Meetings and Schedule – September 16, 2020 and September 30, 2020

Action: THE NEXT MEETINGS WILL BE SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 16, 2020 AS WELL AS SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 BOTH AT 3:30 PM AT 210 RIVER DRIVE, WAUSAU, WI AND VIA WEBEX.

7. Adjourn

Action: There being no further business to come before the members, **ROBINSON ADJOURNED THE MEETING OF THE MARATHON COUNTY BOARD SIZE TASK FORCE AT 5:00 PM.**

Submitted by:

Dave Mack, Program Manager

Marathon County Conservation, Planning and Zoning

DM: CK

September 10, 2020