

**MARATHON COUNTY BOARD SIZE TASK FORCE
MINUTES
October 7, 2020**

MEMBERS PRESENT; *John Robinson – Chair, Craig McEwen - Vice Chair, Tim Buttke, Sandi Cihlar, Arnold Schlei, Dave Eckmann, Deb Hager,*

MEMBERS EXCUSSED; *Rick Seefeldt, Jacob Langenhahn*

OTHERS PRESENT; Dave Mack, Amanda Ley, Kurt Gibbs,

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 3:32 p.m. via WebEx.

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

All were welcomed and introductions were made.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comments were given by anyone at this time.

POLICY DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

1. APPROVE MINUTES SEPTEMBER 17, 2020 MEETING

Action: MOTION / SECOND BY BUTTKE / McEWEN APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 17, 2020 MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE, NO DISSENT.

The following 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.

2. COMPARISONS AND CONSIDERATIONS USED BY OTHER COUNTIES

Robinson discussed the additions to the Changes to Numbers of Supervisors table from the packet. The items added were the amount of female supervisors from both 2014 and 2020.

3. DECISION MAKING EVALUATION CRITERIA

Hager reviewed the additions to the evaluation criteria chart highlighting the scoring for each question and referencing the need to define the terms Service, Diversity and Efficiency for the members to help clarify those ideas.

Diversity definition included concepts like old/young, rural/urban, gender, ethnicity, making the board races more competitive, life work balance for supervisors, and problems with quorums. Diversity can come from other committees and commissions as appointments not just the County Board itself.

Discussion continued with members giving opinions to the diversity definition: Age is a number not a credential, gender, cultural, demographic, old/young, do we exclude some by defining it?, do we recruit people specifically?, board is elected so we can't control the diversity of the board. Smaller boards run the risk of having less diversity. Hager offer a holistic definition for the group diversity is "inclusion of different types of people with demographic and experiential diversity". Robinson went back to the charter for the Task Force and identified that underrepresented population should be taken into account when discussion Board Size.

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Service – providing responsiveness and accountability’

Efficiency – Timeliness, responsiveness, cost effectiveness, or time, effort & resources

4. DEVELOPMENT OR OPTIONS FOR BOARD SIZE

Member then provided their options for the board size and explained why each number make sense to them. The numbers were recorded in a table with the rationale for them. The numbers that were identified were 41, 38, 37, 32, 31, 27, and 25 with 3 options concepts emerging. Option 1 = 38, option 2 = 25-27, and option 3 = 31-32. Some of the main reasons for the numbers were, keep it the same, why change it, smaller committee size and less members on each committee, geographic size of each district would be larger with a smaller board size, and less diversity with a smaller board. For the next meeting, the opinions of the members not present would be obtained.

5. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Robinson identified potential location for the public listening sessions as the Hatley Library, the Edgar Schools or the Country Aire Restaurant, and 212 River Dr., Wausau. The concept of having an in person meeting and having it be available virtually was discussed. A presentation would be created to give at each meeting and potentially video-taped to have available on the County Website for people to comment on. The target dates for the public listening sessions would be the weeks of November 9th and November 16th.

6. NEXT STEPS

Members agreed to discuss the board size options, recommendations on the county committee structure, the public engagement process and presentation at the next meeting.

7. FUTURE MEETINGS AND SCHEDULE – October 22, 2020

Action: THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 22, 2020 AT 3:30 PM AT 210 RIVER DRIVE, WAUSAU, WI AND VIA WEBEX.

8. 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 5:15 PM.**

Submitted by:

Dave Mack, Program Manager
Marathon County Conservation, Planning and Zoning

DM: CK

October 16, 2020