

**MARATHON COUNTY BOARD SIZE TASK FORCE
AGENDA**

**OCTOBER 22, 2020
3:30 P.M.**

210 RIVER DR., WAUSAU, WI

Task Force Purpose: Determine the optimal number of Marathon County Supervisory Districts, each represented by one County Board Supervisor. In making this determination, the Task Force shall consider the expected impact of the proposed board size on: the ability to attract well qualified candidates and to foster competitive elections, the efficient functioning of county governance, and the cost of County Government.

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

The meeting site identified above will be open to the public. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health directives, Marathon County encourages Task Force members and the public to attend this meeting remotely. To this end, instead of attendance in person, Task Force members and the public may attend this meeting by **telephone conference**. If Task Force members or members of the public cannot attend remotely, Marathon County requests that appropriate safety measures, including adequate social distancing, be utilized by all in-person attendees.

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 NUMBER: 1-408-418-9388

Access Code / Meeting Number: 146 259 4925

Please Note: If you are prompted to provide an "Attendee Identification Number" enter the # sign.

No other number is required to participate in the telephone conference.

When you enter the telephone conference, PLEASE PUT YOUR PHONE ON MUTE!

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. CALL TO ORDER;
2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS;
3. PUBLIC COMMENT

POLICY DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

1. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 7, 2020 MEETING;
2. EVALUATION CRITERIA WITH DEFINED TERMS;
3. CREATE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNTY COMMITTEE STRUCTURE;
4. REFINE THE BOARD SIZE OPTIONS AND THEIR RATIONALE;
5. DISCUSS PUBLIC LISTENING SESSION PRESENTATION MATERIAL;
6. FINALIZE LOCATIONS FOR PUBLIC LISTENING SESSIONS;
7. NEXT MEETING DATE, TIME;
8. ADJOURN.

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 715-261-1500 or e-mail infomarathon@mail.co.marathon.wi.us one business day before the meeting.

SIGNED 

Presiding Officer or Designee
NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE:
Date: _____
Time: _____ a.m. / p.m.
By: County Clerk

FAXED TO:
News Dept. at Daily Herald (715-848-9361), City Pages (715-848-5887),
Midwest Radio Group (715-848-3158), Marshfield News (877-943-0443),
TPP Printing (715 223-3505)
Date: October 16, 2020
Time: 1:15 p.m.
By: cek
Time/By: _____

**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.

MARATHON COUNTY BOARD SIZE TASK FORCE

October 7, 2020

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

Evaluation Criteria (25% Formula)		Ranking High =3, Medium=2, Low=1		Score
Efficiencies/Costs 25%	How will the change impact the cost to conduct county board operations?			
	How will the change impact staff resources dedicated to support the board and committees?			
	Will the end product result in better accountability or improve the responsiveness to the residents of Marathon County?			
	Sub Total	0	2.78	0.00
Representation 25%	How does the change impact the ability to represent their constituents, interact with local units of government and other groups?			
	Will the change lead to an increase in diversity among members?			
	Will the change lead to increased public interest in county board activities?			
	Will the change lead to increased participation in county board activities?			
Sub Total	0	2.08	0.00	
Time Commitment 25%	Will the change impact the amount of time required to fulfill the job duties?			
	How many committees will the average supervisor be on based on the change?			
	Sub Total	0	4.16	0.00
Organizational issues 25%	Will the change require any modifications to committee structure?			
	Will the change create potential problems relating to obtaining quorums?			
	What is the potential for open meeting law issues because of the change?			
	Will the change increase or decrease the efficiency of the board?			
	Sub Total	0	2.08	0.00
Total				0.00

Scoring for each quesiton:

less cost = 3, same/unknown = 2, more cost = 1

less needed = 3, sam/unknown = 2, more needed = 1

better service = 3, same/unknown = 2, worse = 1

easier = 3, same/unknown = 2, harder = 1

more diverse = 3, same/unknown = 2, less diverse = 1

more interest = 3, same/unknown = 2, less interest = 1

more interest = 3, same/unknown = 2, less interest = 1

less time = 3, same/unknown = 2, more time = 1

less committees = 3, same/unknown = 2, more committees = 1

decrease # of committees = 3, same/unknown = 2, increase # of committees = 1

less problems =3, same/unknown = 2, more problems = 1

less problems =3, same/unknown = 2, more problems = 1

increase efficiency = 3, same/unknown = 2, decrease efficiency = 1

Definitions:

Service: **Responsiveness and accountability**

Diversity: **Inclusion of people with demographic and experiential differences.**

Efficiency: **Timeliness, Responsiveness, cost effectiveness,**

County Board Size Task Force

Board Size Options and Rationale

Task Force Member	Board Size		Rationale
John Robinson	Option 1	27	5 committees, 5 members, Chair & Vice Chair
	Option 2	32	6 committees, 5 members, plus Chair and Vice chair
	Option 3	37	5 and 7 or 7 and 5 members to committees plus the Chair and Vice chair.
Craig McEwen	Option 1	38	Geographically large districts, more diverse board, local representation in meto or rural areas
	Option 2	31	5 or 6 member committees, average of other counties that changed
	Option 3		
Sandi Cihlar	Option 1	38	Keep the same, smaller could close the door on empowering new people to get involved and stifle local voices
	Option 2	41	More districts would provide better representation with smaller districts
	Option 3		
Tim Buttke	Option 1	25	5 committees, 5 members
	Option 2	38	stay the same, why change
	Option 3		
Jacob Langenhahn	Option 1	27	Efficiency
	Option 2	19	Historic number that was discussed
	Option 3		
Arnold Schlei	Option 1	38	Geographic representation and better one-on-one representation
	Option 2		
	Option 3		
Rick Seefeldt	Option 1	30-32	Manageable for standing committees
	Option 2	38	Representation doesn't change
	Option 3		
Deb Hager	Option 1	38	Status Quo, Why change?
	Option 2	25	5 committees, 5 members
	Option 3		
Dave Eckmann	Option 1	30-32	More efficient
	Option 2	38	Not the time to change due to uncertainties
	Option 3		

Three options emerged :

Option 1 = 38

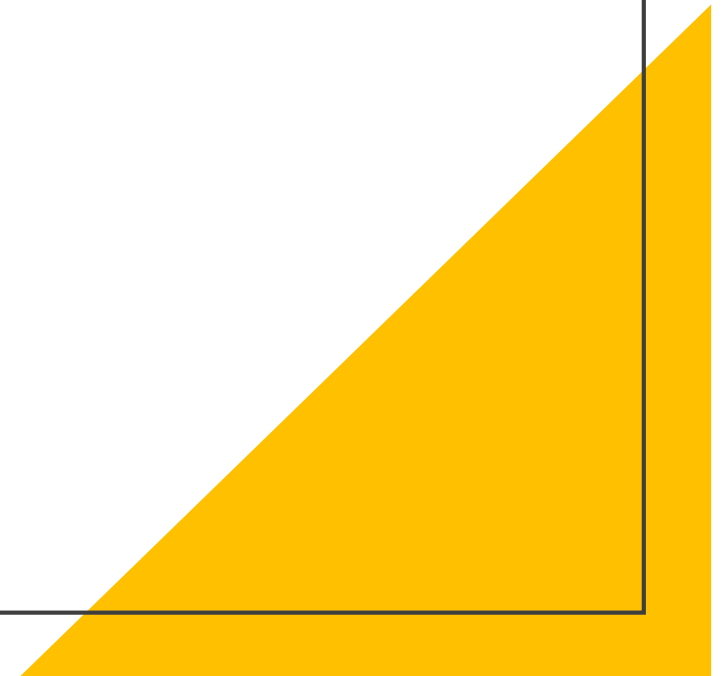
Option 2 = 25-27

Option 3 = 30-32

MARATHON COUNTY

BOARD SIZE

TASK FORCE



WHY

- Required to redraw boundaries after the census impacting 2022 elections
- Equal representation
- Past efforts to change the size of the board
- Potential for citizens to petition for downsizing of board (Wood, Fond du Lac and other counties)
- 2020 budget amendment to cut the size of the board in 1/2
- Concerns led to the appointment of Task Force

WHO

- John Robinson – Chair
- Craig McEwen - Vice Chair
- Tim Buttke
- Sandi Cihlar
- Jacob Langenhahn
- Arnold Schlei
- Rick Seefeldt
- David Eckmann, citizen member
- Deb Hager, citizen member

DUTIES

- Familiarize with research/literature on effective governance
- Collect info from other WI Counties about governance structure
- Consider whether the county's current structure should be updated
 - Committee consolidation or new committees
- Estimate financial implications of various options

DUTIES

- Predict how the new structure will:
 - Change the number of candidates that will seek election
 - Impact underrepresented groups such as women and minorities
- Actively seek out public opinion through a series of public hearings
 - Towns & Villages Association
 - Chamber of Commerce and other business groups

Duties

- Predict the impact of any proposed change on:
 - Expectations of time commitments
 - Ability of county to interact with other
 - Local government
 - Community groups,
 - Individual constituents

Duties

- Actively seek out public opinion through a series of public hearings
- Actively seek out public opinion through a series of public hearings
 - Towns & Villages Association
 - Chamber of Commerce and other business groups

Process

What information do members need

- Organizational effectiveness
 - Number of committees
- Efficiencies/Cost
 - Cost savings
- Representation
 - Diversity
 - Contested seats
 - Size and population of districts

Process

- Other Counties experience
- Board self-evaluation
- Developing criteria to evaluate options
- Develop options
- Public input
- Final recommendations
- Presentation to County Board

Process

Committee reviewed information from

- Wisconsin Counties Association
- Wisconsin County Officials Directory
- Local Government Education University of Wisconsin Division of Extension
- Washington County Board Structure Advisory Committee Summary Report 2019
- Evaluated Wood, Chippewa, St. Croix, and Fond Du Lac Counties
- Survey of County Board Leadership and Members
- Other sources

Other Counties

- Board size changes occurred because of:
 - Citizen petition/referendum (actual or perceived threat of)
 - Part of decennial adjustments with census
 - Looking at organizational effectiveness
 - Based on number of functioning standing committees and members

Task Force Meetings

- June 17
- July 15
- August 19
- September 17
- October 7
- October 22

Evaluation Criteria

- Efficiencies/Costs
- Representation
- Time Commitment
- Organizational Issues

Factors

- Population per Supervisor
- Administration Type (Exec, Administrator, Coordinator)
- Square Miles per Supervisor
- Number of Standing Committee
- Size of Standing Committees
- Cost per Supervisor

Options

- After reviewing information, the Task force is seeking comments on the following three options:
 - Reduce the size to 27 members
 - Reduce the size to 32 members
 - Maintain current size 38 members

Timing

- 2020
 - June 1st meeting
 - Summer research; develop evaluation criteria
 - Fall Develop options
 - October/November listening sessions
 - December recommendations for County Board
- 2021
 - February County Board action on recommendations
 - Summer draw maps
 - December nomination papers
- 2022 elections

Questions?

