

**MARATHON COUNTY BOARD SIZE TASK FORCE
AGENDA**

**NOVEMBER 30, 2020
3:00 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: 146 270 5670

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 22, 2020 AND NOVEMBER 12, 2020 MEETINGS;
2. REVIEW COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC LISTENING SESSION AND COMMENT PERIOD;
3. DISCUSS EVALUATION CRITERIA WITH THE 3 BOARD SIZE OPTIONS;
4. CREATE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE;
5. DISCUSS TASK FORCE REPORT FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND COUNTY BOARD;
6. NEXT MEETING DATE, TIME;
7. 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:

EMAILED OR 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: November 23, 2020
Time: 9:15 a.m.
By: cek
Time/By: _____

Date: _____
Time: _____ a.m. / p.m.
By: County Clerk

**MARATHON COUNTY BOARD SIZE TASK FORCE
MINUTES
October 22, 2020**

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

MEMBERS EXCUSSED: *Dave Eckmann*

OTHERS PRESENT: Kurt Gibbs, Dave Mack, Amanda Ley, Jamie Alberti

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 OCTOBER 7, 2020 MEETING

Action: MOTION / SECOND BY BUTTKE / MCEWEN APPROVE THE OCTOBER 7, 2020 MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE, NO DISSENT.

2. EVALUATION CRITERIA WITH DEFINED TERMS;

Mack explained the changes to the table based on the previous meetings discussion. All of the modifications were accepted by the members. Members agreed to the basic definitions identified below the table for the three terms: Service as Responsiveness and Accountability, Diversity as Inclusion of people with demographic or experiential differences; and Efficiency as Timeliness, Responsiveness, and Cost Effectiveness.

Robinson explained that the 4th column was the weight factor so all categories can be viewed equally but have a different number of questions for each category.

3. CREATE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNTY COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Robinson explained he obtained the additional information from absent members to finalize the chart and ask for comments. Discussion followed around how other counties identified the board size number first then determined the committee's size and structure later. Members agreed with this concept. Consensus of the members indicated that the committee size and structure discussion should wait until after the board size has been determined.

4. REFINE THE BOARD SIZE OPTIONS AND THEIR RATIONALE

Robinson review the table of board size options supplied by the task force members. Discussion on creating the three options to take to the public listening sessions. Members determined the "A" option was to keep the number at 38 supervisors. This number indicates the desire to keep things the same, why change if things are working?, larger board will allow rural people to keep their voice, larger board will provide for a more diverse board, and a larger board keeps the geographic size of the districts smaller and easier to communicate will.

MARATHON COUNTY BOARD SIZE TASK FORCE

October 22, 2020

Members then determined the “B” option would be 32 supervisors. This number represents a potential change in the number of committees and their membership. 5 members for each of 6 committees with 2 in leadership or 6 members each on 5 committees with 2 in leadership.

Members then determined the “C” option would be 27 supervisors. This represents the 5 member each on 5 committees with 2 in leadership.

5. DISCUSS PUBLIC LISTENING SESSION PRESENTATION MATERIAL:

Robinson went through the presentation in the packet that was similar to the one he gave last summer to the Towns Associations. Members discussed specific concepts for the presentation like: why are we doing this?, we want your feedback, what are the advantages and disadvantages of each option, how the public comments will inform the members and as input to go into the evaluation criteria that the task force will use to make decisions. All the members agreed with the way the presentation was put together and it should be used at the public listening sessions.

6. FINALIZE LOCATIONS FOR PUBLIC LISTENING SESSIONS:

Members discussed the lack of availability of different locations to host the Listening Sessions. The health issues in the County with COVID spiking all around the county forced the members to agree to a virtual and call in approach to the public listening session. It was determined that Robinson and McEwen will create a video presentation and post it on the county website, local municipal websites, social media and provide a press release to all media outlets that the presentation is available to view. An email account will be identified for comments and potentially an 800 number as well for leaving comments. The presentation will be created live during a WebEx meeting on November 11th or 12th for people to join in. The Public comment period will end on November 27th.

7. NEXT MEETING DATE, TIME: – November 30, 2020, 3:00 pm

Action: THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 30, 2020 AT 3:00 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 4:57 PM.**

Submitted by:

Dave Mack, Program Manager

Marathon County Conservation, Planning and Zoning

DM: CK

November 10, 2020

**MARATHON COUNTY BOARD SIZE TASK FORCE
MINUTES
November 12, 2020**

MEMBERS PRESENT; *John Robinson – Chair, Craig McEwen - Vice Chair, Tim Buttke, Sandi Cihlar, Rick Seefeldt, , Arnold Schlei,*

MEMBERS EXCUSSED; *Jacob Langenhahn, Dave Eckmann, Deb Hager*

OTHERS PRESENT; Kurt Gibbs, Dave Mack, Gerry Klein, Jean Kopplin

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 Vice Chairman McEwen at 7:08 p.m. via WebEx.

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

All were welcomed and introductions were made.

POLICY DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

1. PRESENTATION OF BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE TASK FORCE;

McEwen began the presentation regarding the background information the Task Force used in the previous seven meetings and will use to forward a recommendation to the Executive Committee of the County Board. McEwen discussed why the Task Force was created and who is on the Task Force. Robinson then discussed the Duties of the Task Force identified in the Charter created by the County Board. He then discussed the Process the Task Force has taken, what other counties in the state have done regarding their board sizes, the evaluation criteria to be used by the Task Force to make a recommendation, specific factors identified by the Task Force in their discussions, Cost impacts, and finally the 3 options for the public to make comment on. The options were a 27 member board, a 32 member board, and a 38 member board. Robinson then discussed the timeline and process for people to provide comments.

2. OVERVIEW OF THE PROCESS AND TIMELINES FOR COUNTY BOARD REVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Robinson explained the process and timeline as part of the presentation.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE OPTIONS;

There were 8 people, both in person or on Webex that wished to provide comment at this time.

Jim Schaefer, former County Board Supervisor - Mr. Schaefer would be in favor of the 27 or 32 member option. He believes the Administrator sets the tone for the county and over the past 6 years the committee structure has gotten a lot stronger with a lot of work being done at the committee level. Committees of 5 members can still get the work done, only 3 members per committee usually make the decisions anyway. When you are a supervisor, you owe it to your constituents to be at the meetings and make decisions.

Allen Opall, District 37 County Board Supervisor - Mr. Opall would like the board to stay at 38 members. He believes a larger board will provide for more diversity, not just race, but all types of diversity and will provide the rural areas of the county the same level of representation.

MARATHON COUNTY BOARD SIZE TASK FORCE

November 12, 2020

Jon Graveen, Village of Maine Board member - Mr. Graveen expressed that the rural areas of the county is where the representation is needed most. If the board would go to 32 members there would be 90% less representation and at 27 members 40% less representation. More diversity would be provided with a board of 38 members. Keep it the same.

Jean Maszk, District 24 County Board Supervisor - Ms. Maszk agreed with the others that there is a need for more diversity on the board. She indicated that the WI Counties Association information shows more negatives to reducing the board size than positives. She believes special interest groups can creep into the smaller boards, with some counties having regrets over reducing their board size. The National Association of Counties (NACo) has identified that WI provides the most human services at the county level. With those ideas, she would like the board to remain at 38 members.

Tom Seubert, District 27 County Board Supervisor - Mr. Seubert has received many calls from constituents asking why the board is looking at cutting the board size and how can they vote. We already have districts that are 144 and 154 square miles, reducing the board size would make those districts even bigger. He agreed with what others have said and would like to see the board stay at 38 members.

EJ Stark, District 17 County Board Supervisor - Mr. Stark has talked to a lot of constituents and not a single person wants the board to reduce its size. He is worried about the smaller committee sizes, the potential loss of representation in the rural areas because the issues are different in the rural areas vs. the urban areas. He would like to keep the board at 38 members.

Tom Mullaley, Village of Maine Board member – Mr. Mullaley agree with most everyone else and explained that the current board keeps the rural areas informed on matters and without that the rural areas will lose their voice. Keep the board the same at 38 members.

Matt Hildebrandt, former County Board Supervisor – Mr. Hildebrandt explained as a former Board member he noticed that Marathon County was identified as the largest board in the country, not for what it does. He questions how anything gets done with a board this size. He would like to see the board reduce its size to 27 to modernize and make things more efficient. The Board should look to the future on issues like diversity and will to communicate with the residents of the county better.

4. ADJOURN

Action: There being no further business to come before the members, **MOTION / SECOND BY BUTTKE / ROBINSON TO ADJOURNED THE MEETING OF THE MARATHON COUNTY BOARD SIZE TASK FORCE. MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE, NO DISSSENT, MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:55 PM.**

Submitted by:

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

DM:

November 19, 2020

Option on Board Member size	Reason for Selection
Maintain the present size of the Board at 38 members	Representation/diversity of the Board
Reduce the size of the Board to 27 members	Organizational Effectiveness
Reduce the size of the Board to 27 members	Efficiencies/Costs
Reduce the size of the Board to 27 members	Representation/diversity of the Board
Reduce the size of the Board to 27 members Maintain the present size of the Board at 38 members	Efficiencies/Costs Representation/diversity of the Board
Reduce the size of the Board to 27 members Maintain the present size of the Board at 38 members	Organizational Effectiveness Representation/diversity of the Board
Maintain the present size of the Board at 38 members	Representation/diversity of the Board
Maintain the present size of the Board at 38 members	Time Commitment
Maintain the present size of the Board at 38 members	Representation/diversity of the Board
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Maintain the present size of the Board at 38 members	Representation/diversity of the Board
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Reduce the size of the Board to 27 members	Organizational Effectiveness
Reduce the size of the Board to 27 members	Organizational Effectiveness
Maintain the present size of the Board at 38 members	Organizational Effectiveness
Reduce the size of the Board to 32 members	Organizational Effectiveness
Maintain the present size of the Board at 38 members	Organizational Effectiveness
Maintain the present size of the Board at 38 members	Representation/diversity of the Board
Reduce the size of the Board to 27 members	Organizational Effectiveness
Maintain the present size of the Board at 38 members	Representation/diversity of the Board
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Reduce the size of the Board to 27 members	Efficiencies/Costs
Reduce the size of the Board to 27 members	Organizational Effectiveness
Maintain the present size of the Board at 38 members	Representation/diversity of the Board
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Maintain the present size of the Board at 38 members

Representation/diversity of the Board

Reduce the size of the Board to 27 members

Representation/diversity of the Board

Maintain the present size of the Board at 38 members

Representation/diversity of the Board

Reduce the size of the Board to 27 members

Organizational Effectiveness

Additional Comments

Thank you for making time to listen to our concerns. I've heard supervisors state that they can't effectively represent citizens if the size is reduced. This is balderdash. I have sent emails to my supervisor and he never bothers to respond. So, he's not effective now.

Given the 3 choices, I would suggest going to the 27-member board. Frankly, that still seems more than necessary, 19 members sounded better, but if those are the only options 27 members is my suggestion.

Signed; Keith Grell Village of Stratford Board President

Hard to be effective at 38 members

Fewer supervisors means more phone calls (more citizens) for the same amount of pay. The needs are different in various areas. If there are systems in place that are not working within the board, then they should attempt to fix that vs. thinning out.

Board members are saying that it is hard to get anything done because there are so many committees and much back and forth. The solution to that problem lies not in less representation, but rather an internal restructuring of policies and procedures. Focus on budget and improvements to roads. Throw out all the foolish racism talk.

By restructuring committees, combining, the Committees that overlap duties. When I was on the board, there were many times, because of the size, I did not think some Board members knew what some of the Committees did. Smaller Board is more efficient

This would start as a board reduction, and then, we need a raise. Pretty soon we'll be spending the same amount of money for a board that gets less done because the individuals have more on their plate than they can accomplish.

Focus on resolving the deficit and putting taxpayer money towards efforts that improve the health and well-being of the citizens - encourage and educate people on diet, exercise, lifestyle choices instead of perpetuating hysteria not based in fact.

Bureaucracy thrives on largess, Marathon County Board effectiveness has been historically poor and decision making more argumentative than productive, therefore, fewer, more effective persons makes more sense without any predictable downside. Please don't make any changes that would allow for more government control.

Not at this time

Why do we feel this is worth doing? What drove this decision to conduct a working group? This is not worth the money and time spent doing, which makes me wonder what is really going on within our county leadership.

All Americans want representation. Hence the Boston tea party! We also want diversity in THINKING! This has nothing to do with color or ethnicity. We want good ethical conversation based on multiple facets of thinking and education.

Marathon County Department Heads are already making a lot of decisions that the County Board members and citizens do not have direct knowledge of. Government is supposed to be open and transparent and cost effective for the people it serves!

Please make change.

-----Original Message-----

From: Rich Wentzel [<mailto:rwent52@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Sunday, November 22, 2020 11:19 AM

To: Cindy Kraeger <Cindy.Kraeger@co.marathon.wi.us>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] County Board Size

I support maintaining the current county board size. Smaller size would result in each board member having to cover more area and a greater amount of residents, all resulting in less access and representation than now. The savings are minimal.

Richard Wentzel
215404 Cardinal Lane
Edgar, WI 54426
715-680-1676

From: Mary Gebert <mary.gebert@yahoo.com>

Subject: Town of Bergen letter to Marathon County Board (Please forward)

Date: November 15, 2020 at 11:01:46 AM CST

To: Sandi Cihlar <smcihlar@gmail.com>

Reply-To: Mary Gebert <mary.gebeert@yahoo.com>

Dear Marathon County Board,

The Town of Bergen is opposed to reducing the number of supervisors on the Marathon County Board. If the County would go forward with this action we are afraid that our input would not be heard. You would be stretching your supervisors way to thin. The County has so many rural areas which need to be heard, and the way they do this is thru our supervisors. A lot of towns have meetings on the same evenings or days and there is no way that they can be everywhere. Marathon County needs to have people like the supervisors to hear our input and suggestions for Marathon County to improve us as a County.

The Marathon County residents should have a say , and know what is all happening with this matter and we suggest it be presented on the April election ballot. We realize that the pandemic is in process but this is no excuse not to inform the public of what Marathon County is trying to do. We are a great County so lets keep it that way.

Sincerely,

Town of Bergen Town Board

From: Joe Pyzyk [<mailto:joepyzyk@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Saturday, November 7, 2020 11:57 AM

To: BBLAJ&Jenny Olander <olandeaj@gmail.com>; Amy Boyd <tzamisamyb@gmail.com>; BBLAmy Esker <amyrick2014@outlook.com>; BBLAnne Mieska <amieska59@gmail.com>; BBLAnne&Dan Burg <aburg@charter.net>; BBLBecca Franzen & Troy Rickart <beccafranzen@hotmail.com>; BBLBecky Iverson <beckyiver1@aol.com>; BBLBob and Jean Schultz <jsatthelake@aol.com>; BBLBryan Wulk <wulkenator@gmail.com>; BBLChris Hartleb <chartleb@uwsp.edu>; BBLDale Ruston <ruston8440@gmail.com>; BBLDan&Bernett Ryskosi <berrys551@gmail.com>; BBLDan&Linda Cutler <dangcutler@aol.com>; BBLDarren Garlock <darrengarlock@silverlakeauto.com>; BBLDave@Joyce Chekouras <daveandjoycechekouras@gmail.com>; BBLDean Perlick <deanperlick@gmail.com>; Diane Hanson <Diane.Hanson@co.marathon.wi.us>; BBLDiane Hartleb <dcaporal@uwsp.edu>; BBLDiane Kuhn <dianekuhn@gmail.com>; BBLGerry Gabor <ggabor@wi.rr.com>; BBLGreg&Kelly Kelch <gkelch@wi.rr.com>; BBLHarry Thompson <ffhtcon@wildblue.net>; BBLHerb Opitz <ynotdaguy@yahoo.com>; BBLJames and Jong Soon Senn <sennja44@yahoo.com>; BBLJay Cole <colejay30@gmail.com>; BBLJim Iverson <jiverson@accelgen.com>; BBLJoe Gollon <joegollon@gmail.com>; BBLJohn Erickson <john@ghjohnson.com>; BBLJudi Erickson <judi.erickson49@gmail.com>; BBLKelly Kelch <kelly.kelch@usafp.us>; BBLKevin Ritzenthaler <ritzenthaler.kevin@gmail.com>; BBLLaurie Glodowski <laurieglodowski@outlook.com>; BBLLinda Barnett <linda@barnettgraphicsinc.com>; BBLLinda Hordyk <lhordyk@gmail.com>; BBLLisa & Curtiss Dobberke <cmdobberkes@gmail.com>; BBLLisa Dobberke <ldobberke@gmail.com>; BBLLynn Behnke <luv2boat16@yahoo.com>; BBLMary Slagoski <maryslagoski@gmail.com>; BBLMary and Jim Gibowski <skeetieone@aol.com>; BBLMary&Michael Lemay <lemayfamily@att.net>; BBLMonica Suroviak <msuroviak@mosineeschools.org>; BBLMorey & Laurie Glodowski <lortandmort@wi-net.com>; BBLPerry Cebula <perrysjan@gmail.com>; BBLRick and Angie Steffens <ricksteffenselectric@yahoo.com>; BBLRoger Vervoort <rogervervoort@outlook.com>; BBLRoger&Linda Napiwocki <rjnapiwocki@gmail.com>; BBLRon & Debbie Arndt <ronald.arndt57@gmail.com>; BBLSally Redmond <psred1423@gmail.com>; BBLSandra Ruston <rustonsandra@gmail.com>; BBLSandy Wolf <swolf@wi.rr.com>; BBLSteve Hordyk <steve.hordyk@mortenson.com>; BBLSteve Wienke <swienke777@gmail.com>; BBLTerry Balke <basketm@aol.com>; BBLTina Trzebiatowski <tinatrzeb@gmail.com>; BBLTony Trzebiatowski <fishgetr@wi-net.com>; BBLTroy Rickert <trickert04@yahoo.com>; BBLWalter Dudzinski <dudzinske@hotmail.com>; BBLWilliam and Cindy Brophy <wilcinbro12@yahoo.com>

Cc: ajmaszk@aol.com

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hearing on Reducing Marathon County Supervisors

Dear Friends and Residents of Big Bass Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District,

I have been advised by one of our residents that the Marathon County Board has formed a task force to determine if Marathon County Board Supervisors should be kept at the same number of 38 or reduced to either 27 or 32.

The county quietly announced a hearing next week Thursday, November 12 at 7:00 PM. I have attached the information on the meeting. You can attend virtually by phone and can register to speak for 3 minutes. Otherwise, send letters and e-mails to the task force members and the County Board Chairperson, Kurt Gibbs. We don't need less representation, we need more, and in the end, hold these people accountable.

As a unit of state government, our lake district works closely with Marathon County Conservation and Zoning Department. In the future, I would like to see our elected county supervisor take a more active role in the management and protection of our district and lake.

I have copied our County District Supervisor, Jean Maszk on this e-mail. I hope you can all voice your opinion on this proposed reduction of supervisors by the county. Many thanks.

Enjoy the beautiful weekend.

***Joe Pyzyk Chairman
Big Bass Lake Protection and Rehab District***

4565 Shagbark Lane
Brookfield, WI 53005
joepyzyk@hotmail.com

Office: 262-781-6886

Fax: 262-781-0935

Cell: 414-397-9966

From: STEVE EFFERTZ [<mailto:seffertz99@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 8:18 AM
To: Cindy Kraeger <Cindy.Kraeger@co.marathon.wi.us>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] CPZ Assistance Size of council

Go down to the lowest number. Too many people on the county council. Thanks.

From: b jw [<mailto:rzlvbrb@aol.com>]
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 7:09 AM
To: Cindy Kraeger <Cindy.Kraeger@co.marathon.wi.us>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] board size

please keep the count at 38. downsizing would put too much pressure , and power , in fewer hands.
thanks. Barb Weis

TOWN OF CLEVELAND

Telephone
(715) 615-3233

125174 Balsam Road
Stratford, Wisconsin 54484

November 10, 2020

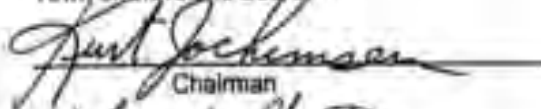
Members Marathon County Board of Supervisors:

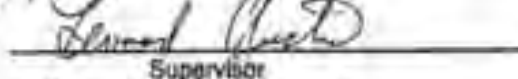
The purpose of this communication is to inform members of the Marathon County Board of Supervisors of the Town of Cleveland Town Board opposition to the proposal to reduce the size of the Marathon County Board of Supervisors.

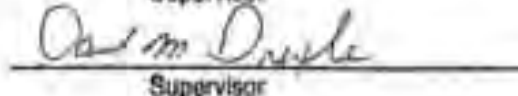
There are several reasons for our opposition to this proposal:

- 1) The argument that a large board (36) is ineffective. In our opinion, the committee reorganization that occurred several years ago has created the issue of Board ineffectiveness. There are enough Board members where committees could deal with specific concerns (agriculture, highway, finance, social services, sheriff's department, zoning, planning, extension, health care center). With the present committee structure, one committee has to deal with numerous agencies and departments. Because of this, many important issues dealing with the various departments are not given the valuable attention that is needed.
- 2) The proposal to reduce the Board size will create very large geographical rural districts where rural supervisors will be hard pressed to attend local Board meetings to get the important input from local officials concerning County matters.
- 3) Our biggest concern is "why is this proposal being rushed through now?" A proposal that will affect every Marathon County resident should have input from as many citizens as possible. To conduct public hearings now in November is absolutely the worst time of the year. Local officials are extremely busy with budget hearings and end-of-the-year projects. The proper thing to do is to wait until public hearings can be conducted where citizens can attend and voice their opinions in an open meeting. Virtual hearings will greatly reduce the amount of participants. After the COVID crisis subsides, then hearings could be scheduled to get as much local input as possible.
- 4) A matter of this importance that affects every Marathon County resident should be put to an advisory referendum. The April 2021 election would be an ideal time for this referendum as most local offices are on that April 2021 ballot.

Town of Cleveland Board


Chairman


Supervisor


Supervisor



County Board Citizen Feedback

We encourage you to review the presentation given on November 12th before you provide your comments.

Please provide your comments regarding the following questions.

Which of the following factors is the most important to determining the size of the County Board: *

- Representation/diversity of the Board
- Time Commitment
- Organizational Effectiveness
- Efficiencies/Costs

Choose one of the Board size options below: *

- Reduce the size of the Board to 27 members
- Reduce the size of the Board to 32 members
- Maintain the present size of the Board at 38 members

Why do you support this option

to cut costs and hopefully reduce the size of government in general.

Any other comments?

Given the 3 choices, I would suggest going to the 27-member board. Frankly, that still seems more than necessary, 19 members sounded better, but if those are the only options 27 members is my suggestion.



County Board Citizen Feedback

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- Efficiencies/Costs

Choose one of the Board size options below: *

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- Reduce the size of the Board to 32 members
- Maintain the present size of the Board at 38 members

Why do you support this option

It's still not small enough. Size should be reduced to 11 or 13.

Any other comments?



County Board Citizen Feedback

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- Representation/diversity of the Board
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- Maintain the present size of the Board at 38 members

Why do you support this option

This is the best alternative. The Board is much too large. Ideally, you should reduce the board size to no more than 13 members. 27 is still way too many.

Any other comments?

I've heard supervisors state that they can't effectively represent citizens if the size is reduced. This is balderdash. I have sent emails to my supervisor and he never bothers to respond. So, he's not effective now.



County Board Citizen Feedback

We encourage you to review the presentation given on November 12th before you provide your comments.

Please provide your comments regarding the following questions.

Which of the following factors is the most important to determining the size of the County Board: *

- Representation/diversity of the Board
- Time Commitment
- Organizational Effectiveness
- Efficiencies/Costs

Choose one of the Board size options below: *

- Reduce the size of the Board to 27 members
- Reduce the size of the Board to 32 members
- Maintain the present size of the Board at 38 members

Why do you support this option

As a rural Marathon County citizen, I want us to maintain the 38 member County Board. Many of us living in the rural areas want to be represented by someone who also lives in the rural area and understands our concerns.

Any other comments?

Thank you for making time to listen to our concerns.



County Board Citizen Feedback

We encourage you to review the presentation given on November 12th before you provide your comments.

Please provide your comments regarding the following questions.

Which of the following factors is the most important to determining the size of the County Board: *

- Representation/diversity of the Board
- Time Commitment
- Organizational Effectiveness
- Efficiencies/Costs

Choose one of the Board size options below: *

- Reduce the size of the Board to 27 members
- Reduce the size of the Board to 32 members
- Maintain the present size of the Board at 38 members

Why do you support this option

In line with other counties of similar size

Any other comments?

Hard to be effective at 38 members



County Board Citizen Feedback

We encourage you to review the presentation given on November 12th before you provide your comments.

Please provide your comments regarding the following questions.

Which of the following factors is the most important to determining the size of the County Board: *

- Representation/diversity of the Board
- Time Commitment
- Organizational Effectiveness
- Efficiencies/Costs

Choose one of the Board size options below: *

- Reduce the size of the Board to 27 members
- Reduce the size of the Board to 32 members
- Maintain the present size of the Board at 38 members

Why do you support this option

feel strongly that size is needed to adequately represent the RURAL/farming communities and not just the city

Any other comments?



County Board Citizen Feedback

We encourage you to review the presentation given on November 12th before you provide your comments.

Please provide your comments regarding the following questions.

Which of the following factors is the most important to determining the size of the County Board: *

- Representation/diversity of the Board
- Time Commitment
- Organizational Effectiveness
- Efficiencies/Costs

Choose one of the Board size options below: *

- Reduce the size of the Board to 27 members
- Reduce the size of the Board to 32 members
- Maintain the present size of the Board at 38 members

Why do you support this option

Thirty Eight members, no wonder we can't get anything accomplished. Granted Marathon is the largest county in the state but that does not mean we are entitled to have the largest board in the country. Only Texas should be able to brag about size. Honestly, with the horrendous 2020 we are about to complete saving money is the biggest issue. Dropping nine salaries from the budget expenses won't be a huge gain, but it's still a gain.

Any other comments?

Signed; Keith Grell Village of Stratford Board President

TOWN OF EMMET

Telephone
(715) 693-2847

210901 County Road S
Mosinee, Wisconsin 54455

November 10, 2020

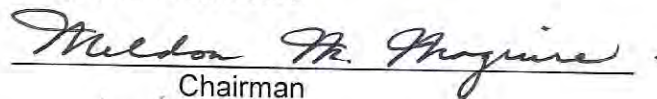
Members Marathon County Board of Supervisors:

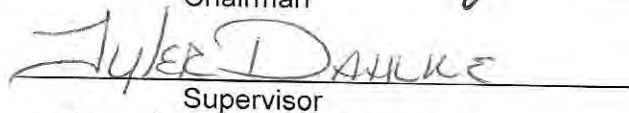
The purpose of this communication is to inform members of the Marathon County Board of Supervisors of the Town of Emmet Town Board opposition to the proposal to reduce the size of the Marathon County Board of Supervisors.

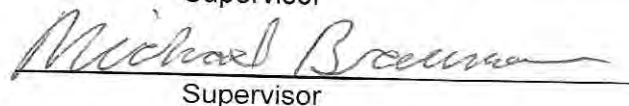
There are several reasons for our opposition to this proposal:

- 1) The argument that a large board (38) is ineffective. In our opinion, the committee reorganization that occurred several years ago has created the issue of Board ineffectiveness. There are enough Board members where committees could deal with specific concerns (agriculture, highway, finance, social services, sheriff's department, zoning, planning, extension, health care center). With the present committee structure, one committee has to deal with numerous agencies and departments. Because of this, many important issues dealing with the various departments are not given the valuable attention that is needed.
- 2) The proposal to reduce the Board size will create very large geographical rural districts where rural supervisors will be hard pressed to attend local Board meetings to get the important input from local officials concerning County matters.
- 3) Our biggest concern is "why is this proposal being rushed through now?" A proposal that will affect every Marathon County resident should have input from as many citizens as possible. To conduct public hearings now in November is absolutely the worst time of the year. Local officials are extremely busy with budget hearings and end-of-the-year projects. The proper thing to do is to wait until public hearings can be conducted where citizens can attend and voice their opinions in an open meeting. Virtual hearings will greatly reduce the amount of participants. After the COVID crisis subsides, then hearings could be scheduled to get as much local input as possible.
- 4) A matter of this importance that affects every Marathon County resident should be put to an advisory referendum. The April 2021 election would be an ideal time for this referendum as most local offices are on that April 2021 ballot.

Town of Emmet Board


Chairman


Supervisor


Supervisor

October 21, 2020

Dear Members of the Marathon County Task Force on County Board Size,

The Marathon County Farm Bureau is aware of the task force that was authorized to evaluate the current size of the Marathon County Board of Supervisors and develop a recommendation on the optimum number of county supervisors for the next decade.

After thoughtful discussion and careful consideration by the Marathon County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, we wish to express our opposition to reducing the size of the Marathon County Board of Supervisors from its present number of 38 members. Our main concern with any supervisor reduction would be that it would lead to a significant decrease in representation on matters of governance for the rural parts and small municipalities in Marathon County. The majority of our members reside from areas outside of the greater Wausau area and we are concerned that the rural voices will be diminished significantly if the number of supervisors was reduced.

Our county is the largest in the state of Wisconsin geographically and has a very diverse nature. If the county board were to be downsized, we feel it would greatly harm the diversity that the Marathon County Board presently has which allows them to represent all of its citizens fairly. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Marathon County Farm Bureau

Wednesday, November 11, 2020

Happy Veterans Day Marathon County,

The Town of Green Valley is opposed to reducing the number of supervisors on the Marathon County Board. Our reasoning is that the supervisors would be stretched too thin. They wouldn't be able to make it to meetings in each township. If not present in the community how can they serve the community?

A change of this magnitude should have input from Marathon county residents preferably on the ballot in April. Not just slipped in via a zoom meeting during a pandemic.

Sincerely,

Green Valley Town Board

In a message dated 11/9/2020 7:53:30 AM Central Standard Time, joepzyk@hotmail.com writes:

Below are e-mails from Anne Mieska for the Marathon County task force that are making recommendations to possibly reduce Marathon County Supervisors. In addition comments from the Town of of Guenther.

john.robinson@co.marathon.wi.us, craig.mcewen@co.marathon.wi.us,
tim.butke@co.marathon.wi.us, jacob.langenhahn@co.marathon.wi.us,
arnold.schlei@co.marathon.wi.us, rick.seefeldt@co.marathon.wi.us,
sandi.cihlar@co.marathon.wi.us, ajmaszk@aol.com

Subject: Reducing the Size of Marathon County Board

Dear Marathon County Task Force:

The Guenther Town Board would like each of you on the task force to know that the Town of Guenther is adamantly against the Marathon County Board of Supervisors considering reducing the member size. We, as a very rural town, feel we will not be represented if the board size is reduced!

We also feel that voting should be postponed until COVID-19 is over so that an in person meeting can be held with a question and answer series.

We care about our county board representation!

From: Joanne Leonard <jleonard@pcpros.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 4:59 PM
To: John Robinson
Subject: [EXTERNAL] County Board Size Task Force

John,

Sorry this is so late. But just wanted to encourage you to speak out about keeping the board at 38 members. Downsizing the board was discussed off and on while I was on the board but never materialized. The main reason I think it should stay at 38 is because the committee system works efficiently, giving more constituents an opportunity to participate in the political process. As we have witnessed in the national elections, rural communities are literally disenfranchised in the election process if they are not allowed to have fair representation. The costs have been investigated many times and it was found, the cost savings would not occur as members would need extra staff time AND their own personal time to manage the many functions of the county. IF the time is spread out, it also gives board members more opportunities to be involved with the many committees and become more knowledgeable about the needs of both rural and urban citizens. There is plenty of work for everybody now, to downsize would be devastating to efficiency of the board. As I looked at the graph about board size 38, remain the same size, was overwhelming either Option 1 or Option 2.

Thank you for your time.
Joanne Leonard

TOWN OF KNOWLTON

205220 OLD HWY. 51

MOSINEE, WI 54455

715-693-9512 twknowl@mtc.net

November 10, 2020

Members of the Marathon County Task Force on County Board Size,

The members of the Knowlton Town Board would like to express our opposition to reducing the size of the Marathon County Board of Supervisors. Our concern is that a reduction in size will lead to less representation for Town of Knowlton residents and other small municipalities across Marathon County. In addition our experience has been that our County Supervisors have been very responsive to the needs and concerns of our residents but that level of responsiveness would be difficult to maintain if the size of rural districts were greatly increased.

We appreciate your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Town of Knowlton Board of Supervisors

Brian Feit, Chairman

Kevin Brown, Supervisor

James Morris, Supervisor

Board Size Task Force Listening Session – Public Meeting

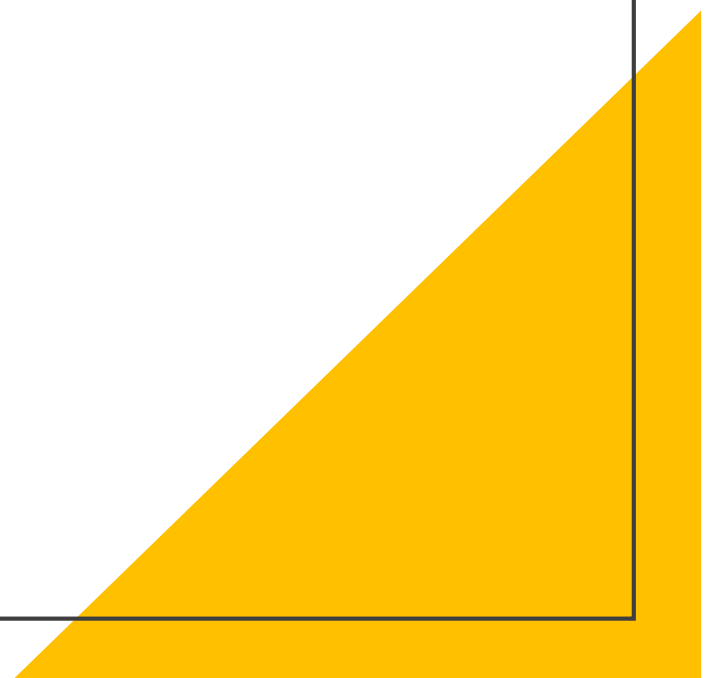
November 12, 2020

There were 8 people, both in person or on Webex that wished to provide comment at this time.

1. Jim Schaefer, former County Board Supervisor - Mr. Schaefer would be in favor of the 27 or 32 member option. He believes the Administrator sets the tone for the county and over the past 6 years the committee structure has gotten a lot stronger with a lot of work being done at the committee level. Committees of 5 members can still get the work done, only 3 members per committee usually make the decisions anyway. When you are a supervisor, you owe it to your constituents to be at the meetings and make decisions.
2. Allen Opall, District 37 County Board Supervisor - Mr. Opall would like the board to stay at 38 members. He believes a larger board will provide for more diversity, not just race, but all types of diversity and will provide the rural areas of the county the same level of representation.
3. Jon Graveen, Village of Maine Board member - Mr. Graveen expressed that the rural areas of the county is where the representation is needed most. If the board would go to 32 members there would be 90% less representation and at 27 members 40% less representation. More diversity would be provided with a board of 38 members. Keep it the same.
4. Jean Maszk, District 24 County Board Supervisor - Ms. Maszk agreed with the others that there is a need for more diversity on the board. She indicated that the WI Counties Association information shows more negatives to reducing the board size than positives. She believes special interest groups can creep into the smaller boards, with some counties having regrets over reducing their board size. The National Association of Counties (NACo) has identified that WI provides the most human services at the county level. With those ideas, she would like the board to remain at 38 members.
5. Tom Seubert, District 27 County Board Supervisor - Mr. Seubert has received many calls from constituents asking why the board is looking at cutting the board size and how can they vote. We already have districts that are 144 and 154 square miles, reducing the board size would make those districts even bigger. He agreed with what others have said and would like to see the board stay at 38 members.
6. EJ Stark, District 17 County Board Supervisor - Mr. Stark has talked to a lot of constituents and not a single person wants the board to reduce its size. He is worried about the smaller committee sizes, the potential loss of representation in the rural areas because the issues are different in the rural areas vs. the urban areas. He would like to keep the board at 38 members.
7. Tom Mullaley, Village of Maine Board member – Mr. Mullaley agree with most everyone else and explained that the current board keeps the rural areas informed on matters and without that the rural areas will lose their voice. Keep the board the same at 38 members.
8. Matt Hildebrandt, former County Board Supervisor – Mr. Hildebrandt explained as a former Board member he noticed that Marathon County was identified as the largest board in the country, not for what it does. He questions how anything gets done with a board this size. He would like to see the board reduce its size to 27 to modernize and make things more efficient. The Board should look to the future on issues like diversity and will to communicate with the residents of the county better.

MARATHON COUNTY BOARD SIZE TASK FORCE

November 12, 2020



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)
- Amendment to 2020 budget to cut the size of the board in 1/2
- Concerns led to the creation 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 Listening Sessions
 - Towns & Villages Association
 - Chamber of Commerce and other business groups
 - The general public

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

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

TASK FORCE MEETINGS

- June 17
- July 15
- August 19
- September 17
- October 7
- October 22
- November 12 Listening Session
- November 30

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

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 for Supervisors

FINDINGS

- Marathon County Board at 38 is the largest in the nation
- State statutes allow between 3 and 47 members
- 1,600 County Board Supervisors in 72 counties, the Ave. is 22.2
- Average Board size of peer counties is 26.45 members
- Representation range from 369 in Florence Co. to 52,652 Milwaukee Co.

FINDINGS

- Marathon County Supervisor represents approximately 3,600
- Districts are based on population not geographic size
- Several counties have reduced the size of their boards
- Changing board size did not have a significant impact on contested elections

OPTIONS

- After reviewing information, the Task Force is seeking comments on the following three options:
- **27** members
 - 5 standing committees plus Board Chair and Vice-chair
- **32** members
 - 6 standing committees plus Board Chair and Vice-chair
- **38** members
 - Maintain present size and similar structure

COSTS

Title	Annual Salary	#	Total 38	Total 32	Total 27
Chair	\$30,000	1	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
Vice Chair	\$8,991	1	\$8,991	\$8,991	\$8,991
Committee Chairs	\$6,091	5-6	\$36,546	\$36,546	\$30,455
Members	\$5,491	20-30	\$164,730	\$131,784	\$109,820
			\$240,267	\$207,321	\$179,266
Social Security/Medicare 7.65%			\$18,380	\$15,860	\$13,714
Total			\$258,647	\$223,181	\$192,980

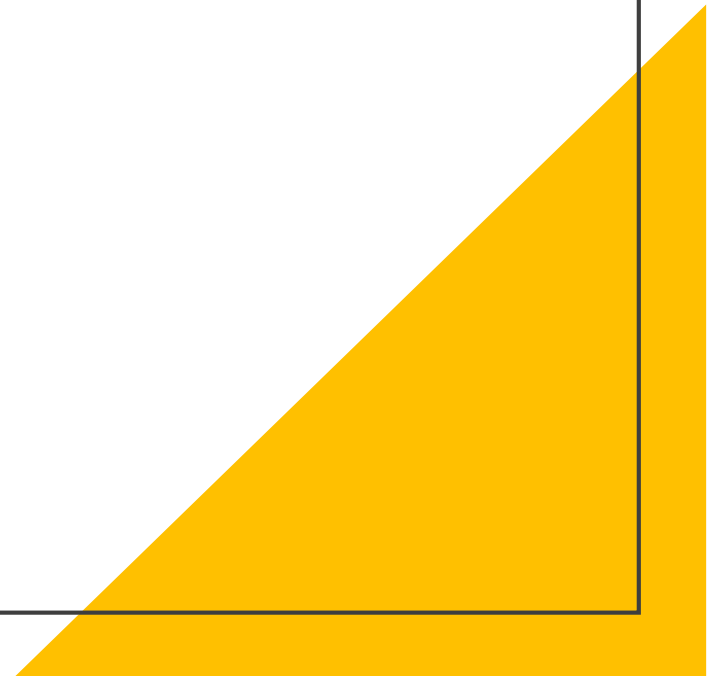
TIMING

- 2020
 - June initial meeting
 - Summer research; develop evaluation criteria
 - Fall Develop options
 - November listening session
 - December recommendations to County Board
- 2021
 - Feb. – March County Board action on Board size. Redistricting process begins
 - Develop redistricting plan, public hearing
 - December nomination papers
- 2022
 - Elections

NEXT STEPS

- Public Comment Period **November 12th – 27th**
 - In writing: Marathon County CPZ, 210 River Dr., Wausau, WI 54403
 - Phone (715) 261-1444
 - Email: cpz@co.marathon.wi.us
 - County website
- Task Force will evaluate input and apply evaluation criteria
 - November 30th
- Develop final recommendation for Executive Committee
- Present report to County Board
 - Opportunity for public involvement

COMMENTS



		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	2.78	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 question:

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

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

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

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 different types of people with demographic and experiential differences.

Efficiency: Timeliness, Responsiveness, cost effective,