



# MARATHON COUNTY EXTENSION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

Date & Time of Meeting: **Thursday, October 6, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.**

Meeting Location: **Courthouse Assembly Room, Courthouse, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI** Committee

Members: Rick Seefeldt, Chair; Becky Buch, Vice-Chair; David Baker; Bobby Niemeyer; Tom Rosenberg; Kim Ungerer; Crystal Bushman

**Marathon County Mission Statement:** *Marathon County Government serves people by leading, coordinating, and providing county, regional, and statewide initiatives. It directly or in cooperation with other public and private partners provides services and creates opportunities that make Marathon County and the surrounding area a preferred place to live, work, visit, and do business. (Last updated: 12-20-05)*

**Committee Mission Statement:** *Provide the leadership for implementation of the Strategic Plan, monitoring outcomes, reviewing and recommending to the County Board all policies related to educational and economic development initiatives of Marathon County.*

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 #: 1-408-418-9388**

**Access Code: 146 235 4571**

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

The meeting will also be broadcast on Public Access or at <https://tinyurl.com/MarathonCountyBoard>

- 1. Call Meeting to Order**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Public Comment** *(Any person who wishes to address the committee during the "Public Comment" portion of meetings, must provide his or her name, address, and the topic he or she wishes to present to the Marathon County Clerk, or chair of the committee, no later than five minutes before the start of the meeting. All comments must be germane to the jurisdiction of the committee)*
- 4. Approval of the Minutes of the September 2022, Extension, Education & Economic Development Committee Meeting**
- 5. Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination:**
  - A. Continued Discussion of Recommendations to Executive Committee for updates to the Strategies, Objectives, and Expected Outcomes Found in the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan
    1. Educational Presentation on Proposed Kowalski Rd / I-39 Interchange
    2. Updates to Objective 10.6 and 10.8 (Supervisor Baker)
- 6. Operational Functions required by Statute, Ordinance, Resolution or Policy: None**
- 7. Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**
  - A. Discussion of Wisconsin Counties' Association conference presentation on Housing & Homelessness
  - B. MCDEVCO's Monthly Report
  - C. UW-Extension Monthly Report
  - D. Library Monthly Report
- 8. Next Meeting Time, Location, Announcements and Agenda Items:**
  - A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion
  - B. Next Scheduled Meeting Thursday, November 3, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.
- 9. Adjournment**

*\*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 261-1500 or e-mail [countyclerk@co.marathon.wi.us](mailto:countyclerk@co.marathon.wi.us) one business day before the meeting*

**SIGNED** /s/ Rick Seefeldt  
Presiding Officer or

Designee

EMAILED TO: Wausau Daily Herald, City Pages, and other Media Groups  
EMAILED BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE & TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE & TIME: \_\_\_\_\_



## EXTENSION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA WITH MINUTES

Date & Time of Meeting: **Thursday, September 1, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.**

Meeting Location: **Courthouse Assembly Room, Courthouse, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI**

Committee Members:

Rick Seefeldt	Present
Becky Buch	Present
David Baker	Present
Bobby Niemeyer	Present
Tom Rosenberg	Present
Kim Ungerer	Present
Crystal Bushman	Present (W)

Staff Present: Lance Leonhard, Chris Holman, Michael Puerner, Jason Hausler, Nicole Houdek

Others Present: Jennifer Aarrestad, Craig McEwen, Ozalle Toms

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Public Comment:** None.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the August 1, 2022, Extension, Education & Economic Development Committee Meeting.**  
Motion by Rosenberg, Second by Ungerer to approve the minutes. Motion carried on a voice vote, unanimously.
5. **Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination:**
  - A. Continued discussion of recommendations to Executive Committee for updates to the strategies, objectives, and expected outcomes found in the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan.
    1. New strategies to be added to the existing Objectives in the plan.
    2. Strategies to be prioritized within existing objectives.
    3. Strategies or objectives from the 2016 Comprehensive Plan to add to the Strategic Plan.  
Objective 10.8 - Discussion was had regarding the Kowalski Road Interchange. Additional information or presentations on this was requested by the committee for next meeting.  
Objective 10.10 - Proposal was made by Supervisor Baker to add MCDevco informational pages to the County's website by the end of next year.  
Approve the Proposed Updates to the Strategic Plan  
Motion by Baker, Second by Ungerer to approve the motion. Motion carried on a voice vote, unanimously.
6. **Operational Functions required by Statute, Ordinance, Resolution or Policy:** None
7. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**
  - A. Monthly Summary of the Marathon County Public Library
  - B. UW Extension August Report – Jason Hausler provided an update on staffing and horticulture. Jason stated that he has accepted a promotion with UW-Extension where he will be the supervisor of his current role. Additional information can be found in the packet.
  - C. MCDEVCO August Update – Kim gave an update how MCDEVCO continues to provide businesses with GAP financing in Marathon County, host quarterly municipality meetings,

- and events. Additional information can be found in the packet.
- D. UW-Stevens Point Update – Ozalle Toms mentioned how UW-Stevens Point is looking for volunteers for the café on campus. Students will arrive and classes will begin on September 6<sup>th</sup>. Additional updates can be found in the packet.
  - E. Update from Administrator on MACo conference discussion relative to accessible housing – Administrator Lance Leonard gave an update on the issue of accessible housing. He will be sending a link from the conference. Administrator touched on workforce shortages are related to lack of childcare or childcare costs, affordable housing, and new employees/retiree’s ratio.
  - F. Mandates and Statutes pertaining to County funding of the Marathon County Public Library – Corporation Counsel Michael Puerner provided a presentation on how the library is funded and funding requirements. Administrator Lance Leonard spoke on tax levy. Questions were asked and answered. Presentation is included in the packet.
- 8. Announcements:**
- a. Next meeting will be on October 6, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.
- 9. Adjournment**
- Motion by Rosenberg, Second by Baker to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Nicole Houdek, Administrative Specialist

DRAFT

## Proposed Updates to EEED Strategic Plans Objective 10.6

(Proposed by Supervisor Baker)

Objective 10.6 : Ensure the future availability of a skilled and flexible workforce prepared to meet the needs of both existing and emerging industries and technologies.

### Strategy A

Existing:

Work with the North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board, (NCWWDB) to ensure a well-trained workforce.

Proposed: Unchanged

### Strategy B

Existing:

Seek out additional opportunities to partner with local education providers (secondary and post-secondary)

Proposed: Unchanged

## **Outcome Measure 1**

Existing: By December 31, 2022, the current workforce participation rate will increase by 5%.

Reported Results: From 69.20% to 67.90%, -1.9% decrease

Proposed Simple Update: By December 31, 2024, the current workforce participation rate will increase by 2%.

Proposed Alternate Outcome Measure 1: By December 31, 2024, the number and percentage of self-sufficient households in Marathon County will increase or remain the same.

### **Civilian labor force participation rate, seasonally adjusted**

Click and drag within the chart to zoom in on time periods



Hover over chart to view data.

Note: Shaded area represents recession, as determined by the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



US Data - Source: [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

## **Outcome Measure 2:**

Existing: By December 31, 2022, the number of vacant positions within Marathon County will be reduced.

Reported Results: Average monthly postings from June 2021 to May 2022 was 995.

Average monthly postings from 2017 was 771.

For Discussion: Is “vacant positions” interpreted as total job listings or unfilled job openings? Which of these do the reported results represent? If “vacant positions” represents total job listings, is it beneficial to have a reduction?

Simple Update: By December 31, 2024, the number of unfilled job openings within Marathon County will be reduced.

Do we have a metric for unfilled job openings?

Proposed Alternate Outcome Measure 2:

On an annual basis, the number of graduates from each of NTC’s 10 largest associate programs is more than 60% and less than 110% of the related aggregate Marathon County entry level openings.

## Proposed Updates to EEED Strategic Plan Objective 10.8

(Proposed by Supervisor Baker)

Objective 10.8 – Encourage development and redevelopment of key employment centers in areas that possess strong market potential, provide good transportation access for workers, and promote the efficient movement of goods.

### Strategy A

Existing: Support efforts to engage the public and private sectors to provide leadership for county economic development efforts:

Proposed: (Unchanged)

### Strategy B

Existing: Engage local municipalities on how county infrastructure development can contribute to business and industrial park growth.

Proposed: (Unchanged)

Strategy C (New): Support efforts to develop a Kowalski road I39 interchange **to enhance job creation and accelerate housing development.**

### Outcome Measure 1:

Existing: By December 31, 2022, utilization of available, vacant business and industrial park space will increase by 5%.

Proposed Change to: (From Comp Plan, page 131-132)

**Maintain a 5-8 year inventory of developable land within the municipal business and industrial parks.**

Outcome Measure 2:

Existing: By December 31, 2022, the number of full-time and part-time employee positions in Marathon County will increase or be maintained.

Proposed Change to:

By December 31, 2024, the number of private full-time and part-time employee positions in Marathon County will increase or be maintained.

New Proposed Outcome Measure 3:

~~By December 31, 2023, amend the Wausau MPO Long Range Transportation Plan to include the Kowalski Road Interchange.~~

By December 31, 2024, complete an Interchange Justification Report for the proposed Kowalski Road I39 Interchange.



## MCDEVCO, Inc. – October 2022 Report

### GAP FINANCING

MCDEVCO continues to work with businesses throughout Marathon County to provide *GAP* financing.

#### **MCDEVCO Economic Development Updates:**

- Marketing Workshop Attendees: 12
- Successful Selling Attendees: 10
- Women's Read Attendees: 4
- UW Law Business Law Basics Attendees: 15
- 16 Week *GEARS* Certificate of Excellence Attendees: 17
- POWTS Update
- *GAP* Loan Program Update

### COVID-19 GRANTS

MCDEVCO continues to administrate the Marathon County Microbusiness Grant.

- Total Grantees Awarded: 36
- Total Amount Disbursed to Marathon County Businesses: \$180,000.00
- MCDEVCO is still marketing, receiving and processing these applications.



### ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT

#### **2022 Educational Programming**

MCDEVCO has had great success with its 2022 Programming Calendar.

#### **PAST EVENTS:**

- **March 5, 2022:** HWCC Networking Event and Tour of EEC.
- **March 29, 2022:** DC Everest Youth Entrepreneur Field Trip of EEC and MCDEVCO.
- **May 12<sup>th</sup> and May 19<sup>th</sup>:** Marketing Workshop led by Elina Van Natta of Creative Shock Marketing.
- **June 1<sup>st</sup> and June 8, 2022:** Successful Selling in 2022 with Tim McKeough of Q Up Success.
- **June 28<sup>th</sup>:** MCDEVCO spoke with a group of upcoming graduates at the Wisconsin School of Cosmetology about starting businesses.
- **August 10<sup>th</sup>:** UW Madison Law in partnership with MCDEVCO hosted a Business Law Basics Event which consisted of a Q and A session as well as one on one mentoring with Supervising Attorney Jeffrey Glazer and two UW Madison Law Students.

- **August 23, 2022:** Mosinee Chamber of Commerce in partnership with MCDEVCO hosted an Information Session to highlight economic development resources available to businesses through MCDEVCO as well as at the Entrepreneurial & Education Center.
- **September 24, 2022:** MCDEVCO attended a resource session presented by the Hmong American Center, educating local business owners about the grants and loans available to them through MCDEVCO.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Monthly:** MCDEVCO will be partnering with the DC Everest Junior High School Youth Entrepreneur Program on a monthly basis to enhance the curriculum as it relates to business start-up and expansion for youth entrepreneurs.
- **September 13<sup>th</sup> through December 19, 2022:** 16 Week *GEARS* Entrepreneurial Certificate Program.
- **October 14, 2022:** *Moving the Needle: Ideas to Action.* MCDEVCO will be hosting an event in response to Women's Small Business Month in partnership with Heidi Lewerenz of HL Strategies.
- **November 15, 2022:** Quarterly Information Session for New Business Owners



## Municipalities

MCDEVCO hosts Quarterly Municipality Meetings at the Entrepreneurial & Education Center.

## EEC Management

Occupancy Update:

- January 2021 Occupancy: 61%
- December 2021 Occupancy: 74%
- August 2022 Occupancy: 82%

**Kimm Weber**, Executive Director - MCDEVCO



**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
MARATHON COUNTY

# September 2022 Report

*We teach, learn, lead, and serve,  
connecting people with the University of Wisconsin, and engaging with  
them in transforming lives and communities.*

## **4-H – Positive Youth Development**

Holly Luerksen, 4-H Program Educator

Jasmine Carbajal, 4-H Associate Educator

Welcome Back Kate! Kate Loucks is our new AmeriCorps Marathon County 4-H Program Assistant. Kate is a sophomore at UW Green Bay and a member of Collegiate 4-H. As a 4-H Program Assistant, she will be providing 4-H programs on the weekends and during vacations. She will also support virtual 4-H programs. Kate will be with us through August 2023.



You may remember Kate as she was one of our 2022 Summer Program Assistants. She enjoyed working with 4-H Camps, traveling with several 4-H experiences, and the Discover 4-H Activity Stations at Fair. We look forward to seeing what new programs Kate will bring to Marathon County 4-H. Please join us in welcoming Kate back to the 4-H/Extension staff.

- 2022-23 Enrollment is currently open for youth members and adult volunteers. Educators are supporting club recruitment by creating interest flyers and banners, providing 4-H merchandise for open houses, and project engagement materials.
- Planning fall educational programs is underway. Programs will feature options for the whole family as well as for select age groups or interest areas.
- Educators are meeting with community partners to understand how we can support community based programs such as after school events, Hmong & Hispanic Network, Marathon City Latinx, and more.
- Club reporting of Annual Financial Reports is underway. 4-H club leaders submit a review of the previous fiscal year's finances. Educators review them. Then, Administrative Assistant completes the reporting process by completing the IRS e-postcard and uploading all documents to the Wisconsin 4-H SharePoint site.
- Onboarding and supporting a new AmeriCorps 4-H Program Assistant who will be focusing on weekend programs, projects in a box, and some in school 4-H programs throughout the school year.
- A bi-weekly email newsletter for 4-H families where they learn about local, state, and national program opportunities and project resources. This effort is designed to increase communication while efficiently utilizing resources.



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
MARATHON COUNTY

# September 2022 Report

## Agriculture

Heather Schlessner, Dairy Agent

- Planning for an animal handling program for EMS personnel in collaboration with District 8 Farm Bureau. The goal of this effort is to train EMS personnel how to handle various livestock animals effectively, so that they do not get injured when responding to a call involving Livestock.
- Planning for a survey of QuickBooks users in collaboration with other educators that are part of the North Central Extension Risk Management Education grant. The goal of this effort is to identify what areas of training are needed in QuickBooks, so those producers can have a better financial understanding of their farming operations.
- Planning for an Artificial Insemination course for dairy and beef producers. The goal of this effort is to provide cattle producers with the skills they need to breed cattle so that they can breed their own cattle and are not dependent on breeding companies.
- Planning for bi-annual Midwest Manure Summit for farmers, managers, agronomists, engineers, nutrient management consultants, manure haulers, consultants, and other agri-business professionals. The goal of this effort is to teach individuals the latest, unbiased, university-based research on manure handling technologies, so that they can improve environmental sustainability and increase farm business viability.
- Preparation and submission of a grant to study the success or failure of passive immunity in young calves, specifically comparing the care of replacement dairy heifer calves to their male and crossbred counterparts destined for the beef market.

## FoodWise

Mallory McGivern, FoodWise Administrator  
Gaonou Thao, FoodWise Educator

Welcome to our new FoodWise Administrator Mallory McGivern. Mallory is serving as the FoodWise Nutrition Administrator for Clark, Marathon, Portage, and Wood Counties. She will work with Area 7 Nutrition Educators and community partners to provide direct education to help to make the healthy choice, the easy choice. She graduated from UW-Stevens Point with a BS in Sociology and has a passion for health, food security and food equity. She is thrilled to join the team!



- Monthly nutrition/food demo series for Hmong women participating in a domestic abuse support group where participants taste new foods and learn healthy ways to prepare them. The purpose of this program is to improve the quality of their families' diet and increase their ability to manage their food resources.
- Monthly nutrition/food demonstration for adults with limited incomes where participants learn to improve the quality of their families' diet and increase their ability to manage their food resources. The goal of the lessons is for participants to increase eating more fruits, vegetables and whole grains and increase their willingness to try or prepare new foods.



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
MARATHON COUNTY

# September 2022 Report

## Horticulture

Janell Wehr, Horticulture Educator

- An in person horticulture course where Marathon County Master Gardener Volunteer Trainees learn the fundamental principles of IPM based gardening to increase awareness and knowledge of resources to address environmental contamination and pollution due to overuse of horticulture chemicals in urban and suburban environments.
- A therapeutic horticulture program (Gaining Ground Garden) for Marathon County residents with court mandated community service hours, where participants learned gardening skills to increase the use of positive self-management practices (self-care and wellbeing activities).
- A class for members of the Mosinee community where participants learned indoor gardening best practices to increase awareness and knowledge of resources to address environmental contamination and pollution due to overuse of horticulture chemicals in urban and suburban environments.
- A class for community members aged 55+, where participants learned indoor gardening best practices to increase awareness and knowledge of resources to address environmental contamination and pollution due to overuse of horticulture chemicals in urban and suburban environments.
- A presentation for Marathon County Master Gardener Volunteers, where members learned techniques for selecting and saving seeds from their harvest. The goal of this effort was to address environmental contamination and pollution due to overuse of horticulture chemicals in urban and suburban environments.
- An interactive web based class for novice gardeners with limited resources, where participants learned proper garden sanitation, harvest, and storage techniques. This effort was designed to increase awareness and knowledge of resources to address environmental contamination and pollution due to overuse of horticulture chemicals in urban and suburban environments.
- An interactive web based class for novice gardeners with limited resources, where participants learned UW-Madison Extension resources available to Wisconsin gardeners. This effort was designed to increase awareness and knowledge of resources to address environmental contamination and pollution due to overuse of horticulture chemicals in urban and suburban environments.
- A social media outreach campaign for consumer gardeners in Wisconsin, where Facebook and Instagram users engaged with Extension resources, including the UW-Madison Extension Horticulture Topic Hub publications and YouTube videos. This effort is designed to increase awareness and knowledge of resources to address environmental contamination and pollution (due to overuse of horticulture chemicals in urban and suburban environments).
- Planning for a multi county educational program series for community gardeners. The goal of this effort is to increase gardeners' knowledge, promote best gardening practices and provide university based resources to community gardeners, which improves the health and productivity of their garden plots.



**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
MARATHON COUNTY

# September 2022 Report

## Upcoming Programs

- 4-H Open Enrollment – Contact Holly Luerssen at [holly.luerssen@wisc.edu](mailto:holly.luerssen@wisc.edu)
- FoodWise Healthy Eating Series – Contact Gaonou Thao at [gaonou.thao@wisc.edu](mailto:gaonou.thao@wisc.edu)
- Fall into Winter Gardening Mini Series - Join the UW-Madison Division of Extension Horticulture Program for the Fall into Winter Gardening series of webinars. Learn how to get your landscape ready for winter, protect young trees from damage, and take care of your festive houseplants. <https://bit.ly/3rdVqly>

Jason Hausler  
*Area Extension Director*

Janell Wehr  
*Horticulture Educator*

Kathy Johnson  
*Administrative  
Assistant*

Heather Schlessler  
*Dairy Agent*

Mallory McGivern  
*FoodWise Administrator*

Holly Luerssen  
*4-H Program Educator*

Gaonou Thao  
*FoodWise Educator*

Jasmine Carbajal  
*4-H Associate Educator*

Kris Tiles  
*NRI Program Manager*



## Monthly Summary of the Marathon County Public Library for the Marathon County Extension, Education, and Economic Development Committee

October 2022

### WVLS Mobile Hotspots Request

MCPL has expressed interest in a pilot of a mobile hotspot lending program currently in development by WVLS. We have reserved 18 of the devices - 2 for each location. The goal of the program is to determine whether lending these devices can viably provide more of our patrons with internet access when they are not at the library.

WVLS has provided this context about the program:

Requesting hotspots does not obligate the library to follow through with participation but will secure at least the number of devices requested for the library. After the initial round of cataloging and deployment we will attempt to reach out to remaining libraries to expressly confirm non-participation intent before assigning those devices to participating libraries. More information will be provided regarding lending requirements, statistical information gathered for federal reporting, policy templates which can be used to meet federal requirements for "declaration of need," and cost-to-continue information when grant funding is complete. Once the initial round of deployments are completed and libraries have all of the necessary information, they will be able to choose to move forward with lending or withdraw from participation. Libraries that begin lending but then choose to withdraw for any reason may do so at any time and return the devices to WVLS for redistribution to other libraries. There is no cost to the libraries for this program through December 2022, and no cost-obligation for libraries after that date.

### Automated Materials Handling System Update

The MCPL Board approved the issuing of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for a new Automated Materials Handler (AMH) at the August 15th meeting. Staff drafted the RFP with guidance from Corporation Counsel and the RFP was published on September 1, 2022. Staff then notified known vendors of the opportunity to provide proposals. Proposals are due on September 30th. Staff will then review all of

the proposals and give a recommendation on which one to accept at the October 17th meeting. Proposers will be notified by October 21st of the decision.

## 'That Day in September' Event Summary

*That Day in September: An Air Traffic Controller's Perspective on September 11th* was held in Spencer at the Lucille Tack Center for the Arts on August 29th, with a remarkable turnout of over 350 people! Chris Tucker, the guest speaker, did an amazing job describing what he as an air traffic controller was in charge of on that momentous day, as well his feelings when he realized the planes had just crashed. He also spoke of what he went through after those days, and how he dealt with what he saw. Audrey Kohlbeck, Spencer Branch Coordinator, who planned and executed the event describes it in her own words: "Chris told stories that were so intense, and yet told stories that make you smile. I have received so much positive feedback from people who attended."


**THAT DAY IN SEPTEMBER**  
AN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER'S PERSPECTIVE

**MARATHON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
OFF-SITE EVENT: LUCILLE TACK CENTER, 400 N. SCHOOL ST., SPENCER, WI

**Monday, August 29, 2022**  
5:30–7:00 p.m.

**ADULTS** Chris Tucker was working in New York City as an air traffic controller when the World Trade Center was attacked on September 11, 2001. In this presentation, Tucker will discuss what it was like to make split-second decisions about airline traffic in one of the busiest cities in the world on that tragic day. He'll also talk about the duties and responsibilities of an air traffic controller.

*Free and open to the public. No registration.*  
*This MCPL event is co-sponsored by the Spencer History Club.*

715-659-3996 | [info@mcpl.us](mailto:info@mcpl.us)  [www.mcpl.us/events](http://www.mcpl.us/events)

This is not a school district sponsored event, and the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the school district or its personnel.

## 2022 Central Wisconsin Book Fest

The sixth-annual Central Wisconsin Book Festival ([mcpl.us/cwbf](http://mcpl.us/cwbf)) took place Sept. 21-25 with events at various locations in Wausau, Stevens Point and Wisconsin Rapids, including the libraries in all three cities.

For the first time in several years, COVID-19 is not our biggest concern, which means more in-person events than were organized in 2020 or 2021 (though we still had several virtual events in 2022.) Joining



us this year were some familiar faces from past festivals, such as Jerry Apps and Patricia Skalka, and we also had a number of authors joining us for the first time in our short history, including well-known and acclaimed authors Quan Barry, Nickolas Butler and Jennifer Chiaverini.

As always, we organized events with more well-known authors and mixed that together with events highlighting authors from around Central Wisconsin – some of whom recently published their first books! Along with author readings were several writing workshops and we also worked with the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets on our first-ever Poetry Walk with two dozen poems displayed in storefronts around downtown Wausau throughout September.



## Library Services

Library Services kept busy this month with a full slate of programs and educational activities for the public. Our Summer Library Program (SLP) wrapped up this month across all MCPL locations. A total of 679 books were given away to 397 kids and teens who participated in the full SLP. A very popular Plant Swap was held throughout the week of August 15 outside the library, and approximately 100 plants were taken and/or given. Grab and go activity kits put together by our creative staff remained popular with all ages. Additionally, several partnerships started and continued in August. We partnered with Children's Wisconsin to provide 'Play and Learn' story time on Wednesdays throughout the fall, sent library staff to the Brown County Public Library to learn and collaborate with peers, and continued collaborating with the Marathon County Historical Society to provide several virtual and in-person events.

## Branches

Our summer library program was a success at all of our branches! We held many outdoor book clubs, special programs, and story times at all locations, and many children turned in book reviews and collected their free books.

Grab and Go craft kits continue to be popular at all locations. In August, we collectively handed out 374 goldfish craft kits for kids and 190 sailor's knot bracelets for adults.

Fifty patrons attended Stratford's Stuffed Animal Campout on Aug. 17. We enjoyed some camping-themed books, action songs, and crafts together, and then the children left their stuffed animals with us for an overnight sleepover. The SLP Youth Volunteer Team had a blast later that afternoon staging the stuffed animals into various fun poses so we could create a fun, magical photo display for the younger children.

Katelyn, our Library Services Manager, visited Athens, Hatley, and Spencer to meet our staff and learn more about each community.

On August 31st, Laura, branch team lead, and Taylor, children's services librarian, went on a field trip to the Brown County Library where they received a tour and met staff. Everyone involved enjoyed the experience and exchanged ideas about library roles, services, collections, and programs. WVLS arranged this wonderful learning opportunity.

*\*Thank you to Alexander, Stephanie, Chad, Audrey, Katelyn, and Laura for your updates and contributions.*



# Wausau UW-Stevens Point

## Report to the Extension, Education, and Economic Development Committee October 2022

- 1. Volunteers Needed** – If anyone is interested in volunteering to work in our Union Café (7:30-10:00am) please contact Ozalle Toms [otoms@uwsp.edu](mailto:otoms@uwsp.edu) or 715-261-6269.
- 2. Taste of Jamaica-** Taste of Jamaica is open Monday-Thursday (11am-2pm) and Friday (11am-7pm)
- 3. Fall 2022 Enrollment** -Our fall enrollment is 402 students. Sixteen percent of our students are students of color. Our retention of returning students is up from last year. Most of our students are taking 12-16 credits.
- 4. Voter Registration-** On October 18, Kaitlyn Bernarde, city clerk will be on the UWSP at Wausau campus to assist students and community members with registering to vote. This session will be held in the Terrance room (12-2pm).
- 5. Hank Talks-** Please join us for our fall Hank Talks (Tuesday evenings at 7pm in the Veninga Theater)
  - 10/18 - Jason Siewert - “The Pessimist’s Guide to Good Mental Health”
  - 11/15 - Tim Buchholz - “Music and Maps: A Perspective Through the Eyes of a Jazz Musician and Adventure Racer”
- 6. ViewPoint Days** – ViewPoint Day is a time for prospective students to learn about our campus. The day includes information about admissions, a mock class, student panel and a walking tour of our campus.
  - Friday October 21st from 9am-11am
  - Wednesday November 9 from 6-8pm
  - To reserve your spot, register online at <https://apply.uwsp.edu/portal/all-visits-wausau>
- 7. Women Trailblazer & Entrepreneurs Conference-** UWSP at Wausau is the host site for the Women Trailblazer & Entrepreneurs Conference. The event will be held on Thursday, October 27, 2022 (8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) please access the link below for more information and to register

<https://www3.uwsp.edu/conted/Pages/Women-Trailblazers-Entrepreneurs-Conference.aspx>

**8. Degree Programs Offered** – Below is a list of the degree programs we offer on the Wausau campus.

a. Associate Degrees

Associate of Arts and Sciences Degree  
Human Services  
Leadership and Project Mgt  
Pre-Engineering

b. Bachelors programs

Business Administration  
Nursing  
Social Work  
Sociology  
Engineering (UW-Platteville Partnership)

c. Master's Degrees

Business Administration (Main Campus)  
Physician Assistant Program (UW-Madison Partnership)  
Social Work (UW-Green Bay Partnership)

Submitted by Ozalle Toms, Campus Executive

# 139-Kowalski Rd Interchange

**Dave Mack**

Planning Manager/Wausau MPO Director



# History

- 1997 – Kronenwetter requests that WisDOT build an interchange at Kowalski Rd and I39
- 1999 – State Legislature includes the interchange in the Budget Bill asking FHWA for a waiver of the criteria needed to construct the interchange.
- 2000 – SEH completes a Feasibility Study (Interchange Access Justification Report) and concludes FHWA would likely not grant the waiver.

# History

- 2003 – FHWA denies WisDOT’s request for a waiver
- 2007 – WisDOT identifies work on Cedar Creek Interchange will be done, indicating no need for a Kowalski Interchange
- 2019 – V. of Kronenwetter adopts resolution to seek improved access to I39 including an interchange at Kowalski Rd. and creates an Ad Hoc Committee to investigate the issue
- 2021 – V. of Kronenwetter budgets money for a Feasibility Study

# Wausau MPO

- Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
- FHWA Criteria (Interchange Assess Justification Report)
  - Must be in an MPO Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)
- Traffic Modeling Process
- Last 4 LRTP's
  - 2006 very extensive discussion on the interchange and roadway alternatives
  - 2011 not identified in plan, no problem identified to alleviate
  - 2016 identified as a future project to “Evaluate the ability to construct an interchange at I39 and Kowalski Rd.”
  - 2022 same language as in 2016.



# 2022 LRTP

## ILLUSTRATIVE ROADWAY PROJECTS

The following are projects that have been identified by the communities or by MPO staff as potentially needing to be evaluated or studied to indicate the benefits to the metropolitan area or community road networks. Map 6-1 shows the locations of these projects.

### Village of Kronenwetter:

- Extend Kowalski Road easterly to connect with Martin Road.
- Evaluate the ability to construct an interchange at I39 and Kowalski Road.
- Expand to a 4-lane roadway, County Highway X from County Highway XX to Howland Road.
- Develop the northeast quadrant of the Maple Ridge Road interchange as a Commercial/ Business Park

# Planning Perspective

- In the past 20 years, the traffic models are not showing any deficiencies in the transportation system that needs to be fixed by an interchange
- WisDOT & FHWA haven't seen the purpose and need for an interchange
- FHWA is all about the traffic on the freeway
- Transportation Planning is not just about Roads – its about the land uses that roads influence.
- Could an interchange provide better access to the east and northeast in the Villages of Kronenwetter and Weston?  
Probably !

# Other Influences

- An interchange at Kowalski Rd. could influence Economic Development:
  - Housing - The sandier soils in Weston and Kronenwetter make it easier and less expensive to build and provide Sewer and Water,
  - Retail Development – Easy access to one of the state’s busiest north/ south corridors,
  - Commercial/ Industrial –
    - Near the crossroads of the State with STH 29.
    - Also provides the last mile access for the trucking industry.
    - Potential rail access in the corridor as well.

# County Involvement

- Adding an interchange to the interstate system will involve:

Village of Kronenwetter

State DOT

FWHA

MPO

County –

Being a member of the MPO

Supporting those above

