



MARATHON COUNTY
EXTENSION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Date & Time of Meeting: **Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.**

Meeting Location: **Courthouse Assembly Room, (B105), Courthouse, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI**

Attendance:	Present	Absent
Sara Guild, Chair	W	
Ka Lo, Vice Chair	W	
Gary Beastro	W	
Becky Buch	W	
Tom Rosenberg	X	
Rick Seefeldt		excused
Chris Voll		X

Others Present: Lance Leonhard, Jason Hake, Kurt Gibbs, Scott Corbett, Toshia Ranallo

VIA WEB/Phone: Craig McEwen, Sandi Cihlar, Jean Maszk, Michelle VanKrey, Vicki Resch, Ralph Illick, Jason Hausler, Lee Webster, Ann Herda-Rapp, Carrie Edmondson, Liz Holbrook, John Robinson, Mike Puener, Mary Detmering, Joyce Chekouras, Marla Stepnafski, Brian Kowalski, Chris Wendt, Ann Hamlin, Lee Webster, Joshua Klebenow, Jamie Mackek and six unidentified callers.

1. **Call to Order**

The Extension, Education & Economic Development Committee meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chair Guild.

2. **Public Comment (15 Minutes):**

Chair Guild received a request to postpone agenda item 4a., identifying a date for a public hearing related to the Marathon County Library.

Lee Webster, 155617 Pine Bluff Rd, Wausau, reported the Wausau School Board meeting agenda for Monday, February 8, 2021 will include discussion on a renewed referendum and relaunching the schools for full participates as of March 1, 2021.

Supervisor Jean Maszk, District 24, 277 Old HWY 51, Mosinee stated she is a former member of this committee and appreciates that she still receives reports from Dairy/Agriculture educator Heather Schlessler. This informs her on available programs and resources that can be accessed through Extension. She requests that all the UW Extension educators provide these reports and send them to all members of the County Board.

Maszk also is in support of the public comment process that was completed in regards to the Board Size Task Force and would like to see the same process done for the Marathon County Library discussion listed below in 4a. The process was transparent and the feedback received by utilizing our website for public comment was well done.

Joyce Chekouras, 204699 Lake Dr., Rosholt, stated she is a rural resident and retired teacher. As an educator she is concerned of the process to accommodate the rural community's library needs.

3. **Approval of the Minutes:**

MOTION BY ROSENBERG, SECOND BY LO, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 7, 2021, EXTENSION, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

4. **Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination**

A. **Identification of Date for a Public Hearing related to the Marathon County Public Library Board's Recommendation to Seek Membership in the South Central Library System**

Discussion:

This item was postponed for a later date.

Follow Through:

Postponed until after library board meets.

B. **UW Extension 2021 Situational Analysis Development Processes (Jason Hausler)**

Discussion:

Jason Hausler gave a brief overview on the process to develop a Situational Analysis in order to strategize the county's major needs currently and moving forward. The committee shared their ideas using strategic plan objectives 10.6 and 10.10 and developed the framework outlining the following topics:

- Skilled and flexible workforce; research impacts of salaries; evaluate/assess barriers
- Rural Health; access to health care; mental health (farmers, young generation); horticultural therapy
- Broadband Expansion and education to rural communities
- Childcare alternatives and impact on workforce
- Local government research
- Agriculture vitality; worker and food safety; diversification; marketing

Hausler commended the committee for the discussion and encourage them to reach out to him to share more ideas.

Follow Through:

Hausler will meet with Administrator Leonhard and Chair Gibbs as a next step in the process.

5. **Operational Functions required by Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution:**

None

6. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**

A. **North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to give a Presentation on Regional Recovery Work (Carrie Edmondson)**

Discussion:

Carrie Edmondson a planner with North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC), gave an overview on their current Regional Recovery Project. The NCWRPC provides both regional and local assistance in the areas of economic development and grant writing, geographic information systems (GIS), intergovernmental coordination, land use & community planning, and transportation. The full presentation can be accessed in the [packet here](#).

Follow Through:

No follow through needed.

B. **County Administration to Report on Work of Historical Society in 2020 Pursuant to Budget Allocation**

Discussion:

Administrator Leonhard provided a brief background on why this committee receive this report. During the 2020 Budget discussions, it was recognized to change from a contribution basis to a payment for services for all non-profit organizations. The county board directed County Administration to have a contract in place before funding is issued. The goal is to tie the county's funding to the efforts of these nonprofits that align with specific county departments. The Historical Society (HS) aligns with the work of the library which includes educational presentations that informs our residents and community. The HS contract is separated into two elements in which they focus their efforts. Programming and digitization of records. This committee is the liaison for the HS.

Follow Through:

No follow though needed.

C. **Reports from Committee-Affiliated Departments and Organizations**

1. **UW-Stevens Point Wausau**

Discussion:

Ann Herda-Rapp reported they continue to do community COVID-19 testing in the fieldhouse every Monday and Wednesday and will continue to do so through April 11th. She indicated they would be interested in being a vaccination site.

They launched a new lecture series called *Hank Talks* which features their faculty. The series is a free live-stream community outreach event.

Herda-Rapp emphasized they are different than most universities and are a community hub for organizations and other universities. There is space available for possible non-profits organizations or others that are in need of a location.

2. UW-Madison Division of Extension

Discussion:

Hausler reported he met with Mayor Rosenberg and the City of Wausau to discuss UW-Madison Extension housing resources. His full report can be accessed in the [packet here](#).

3. Marathon County Public Library

Discussion:

Ralph Illick gave a library update including the following:

- Last November put together technical team to assist with the WIPPS Program WI Institute for Public Policy
- New furnishings soon to arrive
- A Health Dept. liaison will join the Library Board at their meeting on February 15th to discuss their limited service and balancing safety and service.

4. MCDEVCO

Discussion:

Vicki Resch gave an update on the following MCDEVCO activities

- Public Hearing presentation was given for a CDBG-CV application that is due on 2/26/2020 to help with small businesses suffering from the impacts of COVID-19
- Women's small business \$1,000 grants
- Working with municipalities on a survey surviving Covid-19 and employment
- 4 month leadership program will start on 2/16/21
- Lunch & Learn in March for advertising and marketing
- Working on the Broadband Task Force
- Transitions, entrepreneurial and working center, retirement plans
- Regional Planning Task force.

7. Announcements and Future Meetings:

A. Future Committee Calendar

1. Next meeting Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 4:00 pm

8. Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, **MOTION BY LO SECOND BY BUCH TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:38PM MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectfully submitted by,
Toshia Ranallo