



**MARATHON COUNTY
EXTENSION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
AGENDA**

Date & Time of Meeting: **Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.**

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

Committee Members: Sara Guild, Chair; Ka Lo, Vice-Chair; Gary Beaström; Becky Buch; Tom Rosenberg; Rick Seefeldt, Chris Voll

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.*

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 Extension, Education & Economic Development Committee members and the public to attend this meeting remotely. Instead of attendance in person, Committee members and the public may attend this meeting by **telephone conference**. If Committee 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 #: 1-408-418-9388

Access Code: 146-159-7938

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

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Public Comment (15 Minutes)**
3. **Approval of the April 1, 2021, Extension, Education & Economic Development Committee Minutes**
4. **Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination**
5. **Operational Functions required by Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution:**
6. **Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports**
 - A. Reports from Committee-Affiliated Departments and Organizations
 1. Marathon County Public Library
 2. MCDEVCO
 3. UW-Madison Division of Extension
 - A. Potential Modification of UW Extension Contract to Include Office Assistance
 4. UW-Stevens Point Wausau
 - A. Discussion of UWSP Letter to County Administration in Regards to the UWSP Dorm Agreement
7. **Next Meeting Time, Location, Announcements and Future Agenda Items:**
 - A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion
 - B. Next meeting: **Thursday, June 3, 2021 at 4:00 pm**
8. **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 715-261-1500 one business day before the meeting.

SIGNED /s/ Sara Guild
Presiding Officer or Designee

FAXED TO: Wausau Daily Herald, City Pages,
FAXED TO: and Other Media Groups
FAXED BY: T. Ranallo
FAXED DATE: 4/30/2021
FAXED TIME: _____

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE
BY: T. Ranallo
DATE: 4/30/2021
TIME: _____



**MARATHON COUNTY
EXTENSION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Courthouse Assembly Room, (B105), Courthouse, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI

Members	Present/Web-Phone	Absent
Chair Sara Guild	W	
Vice Chair Ka Lo	W	
Gary Beastro	W	
Becky Buch	W	
Tom Rosenberg	X	
Rick Seefeldt	W	
Chris Voll	W	

Also Present: Lance Leonhard, Jason Hake, and Toshia Ranallo.

VIA Web or Phone: Craig McEwen, Jean Maszk, John Robinson, John Happli, Vicki Resch, Ralph Illick, Jason Hausler, Renee Krings, and Ann Herda-Rapp.

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Guild called the meeting to order at 4:02pm.

2. Public Comment (15 Minutes) - None

3. MOTION BY ROSENBERG SECOND BY LO TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 4, 2021 EXTENSION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination

A. Greater Wausau Prosperity Partnership request for funding for economic impact study – should this committee recommend funding and forward this matter to the HR, Finance & Property Committee?

Discussion:

Renne Krings an Economic Development Specialist with the Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce, gave a presentation requesting \$2500 for an economic study as part of a recreation assessment for Rib Mountain State Park. The full presentation can be accessed [here in the packet](#). She further explained how this project aligns with their Strategic Plan goals as well as Marathon County's objectives below:

- 5.2 (Promote sound land use decisions that conserve and preserve natural resources in decisions with economic development and growth)
- 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.)
- 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.)
- 10.10 (Create an innovative atmosphere to foster an entrepreneurial-supportive environment.)

Supervisors questioned whether or not the State of Wisconsin and the Town of Rib Mountain have contributed to these efforts. The State of Wisconsin had designated funds to gather expertise in mountain biking and alpine skiing, but when the pandemic hit, they had to reallocate those funds. The Greater Wausau Prosperity Partnership offered support to keep that process moving. The Town of Rib Mountain was not approached to contribute funds for the economic impact study.

Administrator Leonhard provided additional background and informed the committee he and Parks Director Jamie Polley have been involved with the guiding task force team. He further explained the expansion being considered is important to the Strategic Plan and the priorities the County Board has identified, as well as the Comprehensive goals. There is a lot of opportunity to make Marathon County an outdoor recreational focal point envisioned in the Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce Strategic Plan as well as the Marathon County's Comprehensive Plan. An estimated 1000 jobs would be created as well as an increase in tax revenue. A significant portion of this study is working to identify opportunities to link resources from Rib Mountain State Park and the Granite Peak Ski area, to Marathon County 9 Mile Forest Park. The ask of the committee today is to identify whether or not there is value in using county funds to pursue an economic impact analysis which will provide our State partners with the best information when making decisions. If so, further discussions would be

forwarded on to the HR Finance Committee. The Impact study could also be utilized to benefit other municipalities or groups seeking funding in the future.

A motion was made by Rosenberg to amend the motion below to include *the Greater Wausau Prosperity Partnership does additional outreach to other affected communities (Wausau, Rib Mountain, Weston, Rothschild and Schofield.)* Due to a lack of a second, the motion for amendment failed. However, it was suggested and encouraged the other municipalities are made aware in hopes they would contribute appropriately.

Action:

MOTION MADE BY BUCH; SECOND BY VOLL TO APPROVE A RECOMMENDATION AND FORWARD IT TO THE HR FINANCE & PROPERTY COMMITTEE TO FUND THE \$2500 REQUEST TOWARDS THE ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY. 6 YES 1 NO, MOTION CARRIED.

Follow-up:

Forward to the HR Finance & Property Committee to be discussed at their meeting on Tuesday, April 6, 2021.

5. **Operational Functions required by Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution:** None

6. **Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports**

A. Strategic Plan Objectives Progress (8.7, 10.6, 10.8, 10.10)

Discussion:

1. What was accomplished in 2020 by this committee relating to implementation of the Strategic Plan?

Objective 8.7

- Broadband Expansion is still an ongoing goal to be met.

Objective 10.6

- UWSP Campus (housing, security cameras, CIP funding) – The number of students enrolled are positive.
- Revisiting Westside Master Plan (future development)
- Working with the North Central Workforce Development Board (Nov 2020 presentation)
- Regional Planning Commission Board on Regional Recovery Work (Feb 2021)
- Renewed membership with the WI Extension Association
- Support state funding in the Governor’s Budget for Workforce Development Expansion
- UWSP – What they need to be successful and partner with the County to meet those needs; Internal internship Program

Objective 10.8

- Today’s Economic Impact Study Presentation
- MCDEVCO – (\$41,000 small business grants and Private Onsite Waste System Grants)

Objective 10.10

- Marathon County Library Updates
- MCDEVCO – Dolphin Tank (entrepreneurs pitching ideas and receive constructive criticism)
- Today’s Economic Impact Study Presentation
- MCDEVCO – Moved to the EEDC Center and transformed the educational programs.
- EEDC Contract is now MCDEVCO contract

2. What are the plans for 2021 relating to the implementation of the Strategic Plan?

- Extension Situational Analysis (Feb 2021) creating policies, support staffing and resources
- Westside Master Plan – (UWSP Dormitory)
- Marathon County Public Library Board to Seek Membership in the South Central Library
- Broadband – (MCDEVCO to support broadband initiative)
- MCDEVCO – (Continuation with Educational Programming)
- North Central Workforce Development Board (Committee engage w/staff)
- County to receive 13.1 million dollars under the American Rescue Plan – Focus on economic recovery; broadband expansion and engaging Towns

3. Does this committee understand their role for implementing the Strategic Plan?

Chair Guild pointed out the EEED Committee doesn't have a county based department compared to other committees such as the ERC. Although, the EEEDC has great relationships with partners, the EEEDC members need to identify what should be done and bring it to the partners to help achieve strategic goals. How can we support our current partners and finding new opportunities worth exploring?

B. Reports from Committee-Affiliated Departments and Organizations – The following April 2021 reports can be viewed in the packet located on our [website here](#).

1. Marathon County Public Library
2. MCDEVCO
3. UW-Madison Division of Extension
4. UW-Stevens Point Wausau

7. Next Meeting Time, Location, Announcements and Future Agenda Items:

A. Next meeting: **Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 4:00 pm**

8. Adjournment

MOTION BY LO SECOND BY VOLL TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 5:52 P.M. MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted by
Toshia Ranallo

**Monthly Summary of the Marathon County Public Library Operations for the Marathon
County Environment, Education, and Economic Development Committee**

April 2021

Items of note-

Newly revised Branch library agreements have been returned for signature from three municipalities. Corp Counsel is reviewing them for a May board president signature.

Wi-Fi agreements have also been returned by three municipalities. One requested no Wi-Fi upgrade to parking lot, one made changes under review by Corp Counsel, and one asked for enhanced Wi-Fi from 5am to midnight.

MCPL board has agreed to spend the remaining months of calendar year to promote listening sessions in branch library municipalities to inform the public of the value in changing library systems. A request for the statutorily required public hearing will be forwarded to EEEDC at a Date later in 2021.

Library operations are cautiously anticipated to return to a more normal service model on June 1st per the board approval at its April 19 meeting. Service teams are re-training staff.

New furnishings and public service desks have been delivered and installed. Annual funds transferred in March allow for the final orders for shelving and installation to be placed in March.

Friends of the Marathon County Public Library are hopeful to renew book sales after the June 1 re-opening date.

For the comprehensive April 2021 MCPL Board Packet, please follow this link:

https://www.mcpl.us/sites/default/files/attachments/board_packet_2021-04.pdf

MCDEVCO, Inc. - April 2021 Report

GAP Financing

MCDEVCO currently is working with four (4) new small businesses regarding GAP financing and their new small businesses throughout the County.

Entrepreneurial Development

The Entrepreneurial Leadership course began on Feb 16 and will end with a dolphin tank on May 27. The 18 entrepreneurs in the class are busy meeting one-on-one with mentors, having their business plans proofed, and preparing for their dolphin tank presentation. In April I met with 14 entrepreneurs in regards to starting new small businesses to be located throughout Marathon County. These meetings have resulted in requests for mentors, business planning, and educational classes. We are excited for their final presentations and the opening of these new businesses.

Planning has begun for our summer at the EEC. MCDEVCO will be offering a *Farm Market Experience* the 4th Thursdays of June, July, August, and September from 3pm – 7pm. TDS will be our sponsor for the Thursday's and will be mailing out 13,000 postcards to their clients throughout Marathon County to let them know what is happening. They will also be sponsoring children projects each of the Thursday to consist of 1) planting your own flower garden, 2) make your own bird feeder with peanut butter and seeds, 3) Let's make and eat dirt cakes, and 4) pumpkin painting are currently scheduled. Also, with the farm vendors MCDEVCO will be hosting our POP UP Shops for new small business, proof of concepts, the EEC tenants, and youth entrepreneurs!. MCDEVCO will also give tours of the EEC at 4 and 5 pm for those interested. Food will be available with our kitchen tenants and food trucks. Mark your calendars to join us!

Fall will begin with some new programs for entrepreneurs, another leadership class, and a women's program with Allison Liddle as our keynote speaker on **November 5th**. Watch for additional details.

Municipalities

We continue to coordinate semi-monthly meetings with Marathon County and the municipalities. MCDEVCO's business survey has gone out to Weston, Mosinee, South Area Businesses, Marathon County, and Wausau.

Discussions are taking place on the American Rescue plan and possible countywide collaborations with the funding.

Businesses

MCDEVCO is excited that Marathon County has received the \$1.1M CDBG funding for small businesses and housing. We are honored to be the County's administrator for the small business funds. MCDEVCO is currently updating our forms to be tailored to this program, updating our website for ease of applying, and advertising to include a direct mail to micro-ag businesses throughout the County.

FUTURE Collaborations

Create Portage County and NCWRPC have received a federal funded grant to establish – CREATE your community. To satisfy the terms of the grant, CREATE and the NCWRPC will:

- work with county, economic development, and arts leaders to develop an opportunity map that identifies at least three key projects per county that will strengthen the local creative ecosystem;
- work with communities to open five satellite locations for its IDEA Center;
- expand its established business accelerator program, Surge; and
- replicate technology used to produce high-need PPE during the onset of the pandemic so that IDEA Center satellites can assist in production should the need arise.

MCDEVCO has filled out the application materials to represent Marathon County in this seven (7) county project for the future.

Vicki Resech

Executive Director - MCDEVCO



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
MARATHON COUNTY

May 2021 Educator Update

The following work was completed in the month of April by Marathon County Extension Educators and staff. The following objectives were pulled from the Marathon County Strategic Plan where the Extension, Education and Economic Development Committee has been designated as either the lead committee or support committee.



OBJECTIVE 6.3: Protect and enhance the quantity and quality of potable groundwater and potable surface water supplies.

- Present a training to Marshfield Ag Research Station staff on Prairie Filter Strips, a conservation BMP capable of reducing groundwater contamination and nutrient loss from landscapes when used strategically. This practice also increases ecosystem resources for pollinators and other native wildlife. (Rachael Whitehair - Regional Natural Resources Educator)



OBJECTIVE 8.7: Strive to provide affordable, reliable, high-speed internet access throughout the County.

- Support of the [April 19th Broadband Task Force](#) meeting, including preparation of the agenda and minutes and meeting attendance.
- Research on Federal grant programs related to broadband and preparation of a summary report. Although most programs included as part of the American Rescue Act are direct to consumers, the most substantial program is the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. A copy of the summary is available through the link above. The Emergency Broadband Benefit is a direct to consumer program that assists low income individuals with the cost of broadband and connected devices. This is a great program for that population: <https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit>
- On April 1st, in partnership with Extension Local Government Education, I conducted a workshop webinar on Civility-Diversity. Over 50 individuals from across the State attended this webinar. Members of Marathon County government were able to attend this webinar free of charge.
- Participation on the United Way's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force. I was asked to serve on the Task Force, which met for the first time this month.
- At the request of Supervisor Chilar, I attended the Town of Cleveland Annual Town Meeting on April 21st to provide an update on the Broadband Task Force's work and expansion of broadband in Marathon County.



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.

- Reached out to local farms to identify a host farm for the October Artificial Insemination Course.
- Worked with local 4-H educators and state animal specialists to plan an Area Animal Science Day in Marathon County in June, which will expose local youth to current trends in the Dairy industry and animal sciences, as well as, additional AASDs focusing on Livestock Judging Contests and Meat Judging Contests.



OBJECTIVE 10.12: Maintain infrastructure to support economic growth.

- Worked with WIPPS to set up on farm COVID19 vaccination sites.

Additionally, the following work has been completed by our local educators, meeting the diverse needs of Marathon County residents and Wisconsinites.

FoodWise Education - Tammy Hansen, Gaonou Thao, Melissa Yates

- All FoodWise staff continued to participate in webinars on food security, health equity, and creative virtual teaching ideas. Tammy and Melissa completed the eight session, biweekly, “Healthy Schools Bootcamp” training that looks at many different ways to work with schools to create policy change, including district wellness policies, classroom snack policies, fitness breaks, etc.
- The virtual “Healthy Eating Series” lesson in April on the topic of making easy meals from what you have on hand in your pantry was cancelled due to low enrollment. These monthly nutrition/food demonstration lessons are open to residents from Marathon, Lincoln and Langlade Counties. We are planning to increase our promotion of the May “Healthy Beverage Basics” lesson with current FoodWise partners in the hope of recruiting new participants. Tammy and Gaonou also have a virtual meeting planned in May with other FoodWise Coordinators from counties with significant Hmong populations to discuss the potential for offering a statewide virtual Hmong Healthy Eating Series.
- Staff have begun planning for in-person summer youth programming including Summer School at Lincoln Elementary and Community Connections with G.D. Jones and Hawthorn Hills.
- Tammy has been working hard to complete the various components of our FY22 FoodWise grant. While our grant must be renewed annually, FY22 marks the beginning of our next three-year programming plan. The entire grant process has been split into three phases. The first two parts including the budget and programming plan for FY22 and the county-specific in-depth community assessments are due by the end of April. The final phase including FoodWise partner surveys, focus groups, key informant interviews, and staff training on health equity will begin in May and will continue through the summer.

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Como empleador que brinda igualdad de oportunidades en el empleo y acción afirmativa (EEO/AA, por sus siglas en inglés), la University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension, proporciona igualdad de oportunidades en el empleo y en sus programas, incluyendo los requisitos del Título VI, Título IX, y de la ley federal para personas con discapacidades en los Estados Unidos (ADA, por sus siglas en inglés).

Tus Tswv Hauj Lwm Ntawm (EEO/AA), ntawm lub Tsev Kawm Ntawv Qib Siab (University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension) pab rau kev ncaj ncees txog kev hauj lwm thiab kev pab cuam, xws li nyob rau hauv Title VI, Title IX, thiab ntawm tsab cai Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) yuav tsum kom muaj.

4-H - Kaitlyn Bernarde

- Participated in a **Change Management** professional development course through UW-Madison in order to assist 4-H volunteers in the changes within the program including Wisconsin 4-H, National 4-H, Extension and COVID.
- Joined a listening session on **Advancing Equity** with PolicyLink with equity leaders from across the country. This webinar expanded on ideas from the GARE work in 2019.
- Facilitated a **Virtual Family Night** with Franklin Elementary school families. This program utilized the 4-H Fresh Chefs cookbook, where participants baked mini blueberry pies along with me while thinking about kitchen safety, following directions through a recipe, and sharing creations with others.
- Worked to finalize the 4-H schedule for **Community Connections** within the Wausau School District. In June and July, we will lead at least 42 sessions with elementary school youth exploring the Olympics through hands-on activities incorporating teamwork, global citizenship, mindfulness, and confidence.
- Worked on **Volunteer Development** including creating materials to recognize the 250+ 4-H volunteers in Marathon County during National Volunteer Week. I also facilitated two Spring District meetings with leaders from all 30 4-H community clubs for continuing education and program updates. I also participated in the WI 4-H Volunteer Development team as we are planning training, resources, and communications for volunteers starting this Fall around Youth-Adult Partnerships.
- Planned **Cloverbud Take & Make Kits** for this Spring/Summer for Marathon County youth in grades 5K-2. These kits will provide hands-on learning activities focused around growing, for youth to complete on their own or with their families. There will also be an optional Zoom connection for families to participate in. I also applied for a grant to help families cover the cost for the kits.

Horticulture - Janell Wehr

- **Planting the Vegetable Garden.** In this program I developed and delivered, participants learned which garden crops are best suited for direct sowing and which should be transplanted. Learners were also introduced to techniques for direct sowing seeds and transplanting started plants. All participants reported either prior confidence in both objectives or an increase in confidence in ability going forward.
- **Volunteer Recognition.** The inaugural Master Gardener Volunteer Week was successful across the statewide volunteer audience as well as locally. I will continue to serve on the statewide committee to develop continuing recognition efforts.
- **Foundations in Horticulture.** The steering committee is refocusing efforts from evaluation to development for the next iteration of FIH. I will be offering FIH in Marathon County this fall. I will be creating tools of engagement for the course.
- **Girl Scout Troop 7462.** Provided guidance to members of Girls Scout Troop 7462's service project for Bronze Award Pollinator Garden to be located at Camp Del O'Claire. Conducted site analysis and provided resources and recommendations.
- **Choosing Woody Ornamentals in the Landscape.** In this interactive program, participants learned how to apply the principles of Right Plant, Right Place to home landscaping when choosing woody plants. Applying Right Plant, Right Place principals reduce use of unnecessary inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides in the environment. This program was hosted in collaboration with Woodson YMCA-The Landing.

Community Development - Melinda Osterberg

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- At the request of the Diversity Affairs Commission, I assisted in facilitating the A Community for All Town Hall on April 22nd. The meeting was well attended with many community members sharing their thoughts on the proposed resolution.
- Heather Schlessner, Kaitlyn Bernarde and I prepared a poster to present at the Joint Council For Extension Professionals conference regarding our work on the Road to Women's Suffrage in Marathon County. This program was developed in the summer of 2020 and highlighted the journey to women's suffrage in Marathon County.

Agriculture - Heather Schlessner

- Worked with the various state teams to outline program priorities for the 2021- 2022 Programming season.
- During this month I had conversations with the local Farm Bureau about the possibility of farm tours this summer. Due to the feeling of farmers and potential participants it has been decided to do a virtual tour this year. In the coming months as things start to green up I will work with local farmers that have agreed to be part of the virtual farm tour on collecting video and editing.
- Collected data on Beef x dairy calves as part of a University research project.
- Worked with WIPPS to identify farms that were willing to serve as local COVID-19 vaccination sites.
- Worked with PPA to organize the logistics for this year's June Dairy Breakfast.

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Wausau UW-Stevens Point

Report to the Extension, Education, and Economic Development Committee May 2021

1. COVID-19 testing – We will continue to offer COVID-19 testing on campus (Mondays and Thursdays) through the end of the semester. Testing may continue after that date, though perhaps with reduced hours or days. The testing site has been moved to the Art building for the duration. Testing is open to students, staff and community members. An appointment must be made at www.doineedacovid19test.com.
2. Fall preparations – three updates:
 - Athletics returns to the field house this fall. We will field women’s volleyball and men’s basketball teams in a new statewide conference, the Wisconsin Competitive Sports League, with non-conference play as well. And Intramurals will return to the field house. We will also re-open the fitness center and the pool,
 - Our Union is being spruced up for the fall as well with a new multi-player gaming system, big tv, sound system, soft seating, and lighting. The idea is to center student life in these two locations: the field house and the Union.
 - We are cooking up an innovative way to bring a new food service vendor to campus. I’ll be reaching out to Vicki for ideas and possible collaboration.
3. Market analysis – We continue to explore new degree offerings for the campus and are teaming up with UPCEA, a research firm, to identify regional needs (especially as they may have evolved over the last year) and look at options for stackable credentials, articulations, and new programs. That analysis, which will look across 14 counties in the region, is due back in June.
4. Enrollment – Applications are picking up for the fall. We were a bit slower earlier in the year (though still ahead of two years ago), but now that students have a better sense of what the fall looks like, new apps have picked up. And we’re seeing strong interest at our visit events.
5. Manufacturing engineering – We have been collaborating with UW-Stout and NTC to propose a bachelor’s degree in manufacturing engineering for the Wausau area. The state legislature is considering a funding request, brought forward by the Greater Wausau Prosperity Partnership, to support the initiative. Fingers crossed.

Submitted by Ann Herda-Rapp, Campus Executive



April 20, 2021

Lance Leonhard, Marathon County Administrator
500 Forest St.
Wausau WI 54403
sent via email only to lance.leonhard@co.marathon.wi.us

Dear Administrator Leonhard,

With much regret but also much gratitude, on January 1, 2022, the UW-Stevens Point at Wausau campus will turn over Marathon Hall to Marathon County for all operations. While our campus and the county have enjoyed a long and fruitful collaboration to operate the residence hall, the campus no longer needs to house students in dormitory-style housing.

Hence, at the end of this calendar year, all obligation for operating and maintaining the building, including utilities, will fall to the county. All utilities are currently metered separately for the hall, so responsibility can be transferred to the county on January 1. The exception is heat, which comes from the central heating plant that heats the rest of the campus. Should the county decide to continue to heat the building, we can certainly make arrangements to bill the county for heat.

The university could also gift the county with enough dressers, bed frames, mattresses, desks, and chairs to furnish rooms on the first two floors, if the county needs the furnishings to house 4-H kids during fair week. If that is the county's preference, please let me know by July 1, 2021.

The Wausau campus has a long history on these grounds and the relationship with the county has been positive and productive. Our ability to deliver a high-quality but affordable education to local students has been possible because of the county's investment and commitment. While our collaboration in operating a residence hall is ending, know that we value the county as a strategic partner and look forward to many more years of working together to serve the residents of Marathon County.

Please share our thanks with the county board of supervisors for their enduring support.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas Gibson".

Thomas Gibson
Chancellor

UWSP Dormitory presentation:

- Overview of the relationship
 - o Lease in existence
 - Roles of UW
 - Roles of MC
 - o Efforts to renovate
 - Lack of success
 - o Agreement with 4H usage
 - Historical usage
 - Obligations under agreement
 - Lease with UW is from 1990; however, it expired in 2016
 - Under that previous agreement, there was reference to a MOU dated July 27, 1982 between Marathon County Agricultural Society and MC
- Next steps:
 - o Find the 1982 MOU between the county and the Agricultural Society
 - o Reach out to the Agricultural Society and inquire if they are interested in utilization of the facility during the fair.
 - If so, they will be responsible for the costs of de-winterization, utilities for the period of time, and then re-winterization.
 - Is this permitted?