



# MARATHON COUNTY EXTENSION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

## AGENDA

Date & Time of Meeting: **Tuesday, February 18, 2020, at 4:00 p.m.**

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

Committee Members: Sara Guild, Chair; Romey Wagner, Vice-Chair; Gary Beaström; Alyson Leahy, Ka Lo, Rick Seefeldt, Loren White

**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.*

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment Period (15 minute limit)
3. Approval of the Minutes of the December 11, 2019, Extension, Education & Economic Development Committee Meeting and the December 17, 2019, Joint Meeting with Extension, Education & Economic Development Committee and Infrastructure Committee.
4. Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination – none
5. Operational Functions required by Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution:
  - A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee – None
  - B. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee to Forward to the County Board for its consideration – None
6. Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion
  - A. Discussion on the work of the committee during this session relative to the 2018 – 2022 Marathon County Strategic Plan
  - B. Update from MCDEVCO on recent economic development activities
  - C. UW Madison Division of Extension Update – discussion of work of educators, including efforts relative to Broadband Feasibility Study and Lunar New Year activities
7. Announcements, Next Meeting Date and Time:
  - A. Future committee calendar
    1. March 17, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. in the Assembly room
    2. Chair seeking input relative to scheduling of 2020 meeting dates and times
8. Adjourn

**Any person planning to attend this meeting who needs some type of special accommodation in order to participate should call the County Clerk's Office at 715-261-1500 or e-mail [infomarathon@mail.marathon.co.wi.us](mailto:infomarathon@mail.marathon.co.wi.us) 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: M. Palmer  
FAXED DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
FAXED TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE  
BY: M. Palmer  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
TIME: \_\_\_\_\_



# MARATHON COUNTY EXTENSION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

Tuesday, December 11, 2019, at 4:00 p.m.

Courthouse Assembly Room, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI

Attendance:	Present	Absent
Sara Guild, Chair	X	
Romey Wagner, Vice Chair	X	
Gary Beastro	X	
Alyson Leahy	X	
Ka Lo	X	
Rick Seefeldt	X	
Loren White	X	

**Others Present:** Mary Palmer, Lance Leonhard, Eric Giordano, Craig McEwen, Yee Leng Xiong, Melinda Osterberg, Donna Krause,

1. **Call Meeting to Order**

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

2. **Public Comment:** None

3. **Approval of the Minutes** of November 19, 2019, Extension, Education & Economic Development Committee Meetings.

**Action:**

**MOTION BY WAGNER, SECOND BY WHITE, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 19, 2019 MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.**

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

A. Resolution Recognizing Lunar New Year in Marathon County on an Annual Basis

**Discussion:**

Last year the Diversity Affairs Committee was approached by a citizen to recognize the Lunar New Year and also asked for assistance in starting a Lunar New Year celebration. This year the focus of the discussion will be on economic trade. There is no other celebration in Wisconsin for the Lunar New Year.

Diversity Affairs is making a recommendation to this committee to recognize the Lunar New Year (or Chinese New Year) which is celebrated by many Southeast Asian communities.

**Action:**

**MOTION BY WAGNER; SECOND BY WHITE TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR IN MARATHON COUNTY ON AN ANNUAL BASIS AND FORWARD TO COUNTY BOARD. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Follow Through:**

Forward to County Board.

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

6. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**

A. Presentation from Wisconsin Institute on Public Policy and Service on Family Friendly Workplace Study

**Discussion:**

Eric Giordano from the Wisconsin Institute of Public Policy and Service - This committee helped create a family friendly workplace study survey. Giordano went through a Power Point Presentation which shows that early childhood development is a smart investment.

Local data was needed for financial support from the greater Wausau Region Economic Development Plan. Good, quality childcare has an impact on business. Part of the issue through this project is how do businesses work with government, nonprofits and parents to provide good, quality, affordable childcare?

The Project Goals are – using local data:

- Develop a better understanding of how people working in Marathon County view family-friendly workplace policies, programs, and benefits;
- Enable employers and the community to develop more evidence-based strategies to attract and retain talent;
- Evaluate policies that may impact absenteeism and presenteeism; and
- Catalyze how we approach work-life balance in our community so that children and families have a strong foundation for a productive life.

Information will be confidential. Employers can request data from their company only. Data will be generalized.

Doing a soft release right now. There will be an electronic version (preferred) or a paper copy.

How can the county help?

- Have Marathon County formally endorse the Employee/Employer Survey
- Have employees take the survey
- Encourage businesses to participate
- Encourage the general population to participate

It is a well-funded survey. Multiple foundations and business have donated funds toward this.

We are interested in what employee concerns are. The employer doesn't have to participate. It will be kept open at least through February and maybe longer. There will be a community presentation to share the results in April or early summer.

**Follow Through:**

Encourage participate in the survey.

**B. Update on Strategic Plan****Discussion:**

Vice-Chair McEwen is touching base with all Standing Committees on the Strategic Plan. He is looking for statistics and data on policies passed through this committee for the report he will make to the County Board in March. Looking for outcome measures that we are successful with already and want to show progress on some of the objectives and strategies used. This committee is the lead on four objectives.

Chair Guild looked at all the agendas to see what has been done and were things are going since the beginning of the year. Committee members could do the same and at the February meeting will compare data to take to the vice-chair. Broadband will be a big one, multiple resolutions to recognize diversity of our community, WIPPS discussion and UW Extension and ask staff to look at what they have been doing. Also look where there might be gaps and if there are things that should be worked on.

**Follow Through:**

Committee members were to look at past and future initiatives relating to the strategic plan for the February meeting.

C. Update from UW Madison Division of Extension on work of educators, including Broadband Feasibility Study update

**Discussion:**

Design 9 is working on revisions to the study. The Committee is planning to make a presentation to County Board at the February meeting. When reviewing the study, ask yourself what are the real questions that you have and that County Board will need. Then we will let Design 9 know prior to the February committee meeting. After the December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting committee member will have a month to read the study. Design 9 will need our feedback at least 10 days prior to the January board presentation. What do you want Design 9 to put in their presentation?

The next step is what do we do with the study since we don't have broadband? Also, did Design 9 meet the answers to our questions and do we have the information we need?

**Follow Through:**

Committee member will read the report and let Chair Guild know of questions they want answers to.

**7. Announcements, Next Meeting Date and Time:**

A. Future committee calendar

The chair will work to schedule upcoming meetings to not conflict with other County Board meetings

Educator report – The contract is signed and UW-Madison, Marathon County (UWEX) are here for 2020. A horticulturist should be hired by mid-January. They have been invited to participate in the career fair in April with UW-Stevens Point- Wausau

Standardizing all meeting dates after new rules accepted. January – March meetings. There will not be a January, 2020, meeting. If necessary, a meeting will be called otherwise the next meeting will be February 18<sup>th</sup> and then March 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

**8. Adjourn**

There being no further business to discuss, **MOTION BY SEEFELDT, SECOND BY BEASTROM, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m. MOTION CARRIED.**

Minutes prepared  
by Mary Palmer



# JOINT MEETING OF THE MARATHON COUNTY EXTENSION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

Tuesday, December 17, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.

Employee Resources Conference Room, 500 Forest Street, Wausau, WI 54403

Attendance:	Infrastructure	Present	Absent	EEEDC	Present	Absent
John Robinson, Chair		X		Sara Guild, Chair	X	
Richard Gumz, Vice-Chair		X		Romey Wagner, Vice-Chair	X	
Alan Christensen		X		Gary Beastro	X	
Sandi Cihlar		X		Alison Leahy	X	
Jeff Johnson		X		Ka Lo	X	
Allen Opall			EX	Jean Maszk		EX
Thomas Seubert		X		Rick Seefeldt	X	

**Also Present:** Lance Leonhard, Katie Rosenberg, Melinda Osterberg

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

John Robinson and Sara Guild called their respective committees to order at 6:31 p.m.

**2. Public Comment (15 minute limit) - None**

**3. Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**

A. Broadband For Marathon County: Broadband Assessment and Plan

1. Discussion of timeline for release of plan and for educational presentation to the County Board

**Discussion:**

Chairs Guild and Robinson explain the structure of the upcoming County Board educational meetings relative to the Broadband Assessment and Plan.

Chairs Guild and Robinson solicit any input from the Committee members on areas that they recognize will need additional explanation during the presentation from Design Nine at January 16<sup>th</sup> County Board meeting. Members of the Committees express a desire that the consultants address the following:

- Does the county have a role in the delivery of broadband services?
- The funding and regulatory systems in the State of Wisconsin.
- Are there certain areas of the county that are cost prohibitive for expansion?
- Clarification of the reference in the summary document that “a few towers” can lead to 100% coverage.
- Examples of other counties that have assumed a role and been successful.
- How can we get broadband providers to the table?
- How soon can we get service to the areas of the county?
- What is our responsibility to the residents relative to public safety, when landlines don’t work?
- Will deployment plans depend on geography and topography and why would the proposed phases start in some areas as opposed to others?
- Are people going to be able to afford it?
- What role are townships going to play?
- How much will it cost, how much coverage will we get, and when can it be completed?
- What amount of grant money is available?
- How does this plan set us up to be sustainable given future technology needs?

Chair Guild and Robinson express to the Committee that this plan is the first step in the process of moving broadband expansion forward in Marathon County and that supervisors are encouraged to reach out to the Chairs to convey questions.

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

5. Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination: None

6. **Announcements:** None

7. **Adjournment**

**MOTION BY CHRISTENSEN, SECOND BY JOHNSON, TO ADJOURN THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:58 P.M.**

**MOTION BY BEASTROM, SECOND BY WAGNER, TO ADJOURN THE EXTENSION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING, MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:58 P.M.**

Minutes Prepared  
By Lance Leonhard  
on December 17, 2019.



## Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
MARATHON COUNTY

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# February 2020 Educator Update

## FoodWise Education - Tammy Hansen, Gaonou Thao

- Gaonou taught six one-hour group Healthy Eating Series lessons in December and January with 61 participants. The food demonstration lesson in December focused on altering recipes for better health and January's lesson was adding variety with winter vegetables. A post survey with 15 participants at one of the winter vegetables lesson found that 100% of participants who were not already doing so planned to fill half of their plate with fruits and vegetables. 100% of participants also planned to try one new thing in regards to vegetables in the week after the lesson with 47% (7) of respondents planning to eat more than one color of vegetable each day. Participant comments included, "I can make something like this at home so I can not only have it to eat when I normally wouldn't have, but also making it at home will be cheaper than a restaurant." and "Eating rutabaga turnip and sweet potatoes raw was surprisingly yummy. I plan to use these vegetables in my cooking now."
- Gaonou continued to conduct monthly nutrition/ food tasting lessons at the Neighbors' Place, First Presbyterian Church, and Hmong Mutual Alliance Church Food Pantries during pantry food distributions.reaching 108 participants in December and January.
- Tammy completed the five lesson kindergarten series with six kindergarten classes at Lincoln, Grant and Hawthorn Hills Elementary Schools.
- In January, Tammy facilitated a meeting of the Marathon County Hunger Coalition Nutrition and Education Committee. The main focus of the meeting was to further refine the plan for the Share the Harvest Farmers' Market Gleaning Initiative for next summer so it can be shared at the the market's vendor meeting in March.
- Tammy met with three new potential partners to plan joint nutrition programming. New lessons with the WIC Fit Families Program and Bridge Community Health Clinic will take place in April.
- Tammy attended the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Inservice and assisted at the Chinese New Year celebration on January 25th
- Tammy worked closely with FoodWise nutrition educators in all three counties who were submitting Title Progression Requests ,

## 4-H Youth Development - Kaitlyn Bernarde

- In December I completed 6 afterschool programming sessions at Weston Elementary ranging from 20-30 kids per session. This wrapped up my Mindfulness curriculum which focused on affirmations, mindful eating, mood management and describing feelings.
- In January, I attended the Marathon County MLK Day On Inservice. I also presented a session as a member of Marathon County's Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) team. As a part of this team, I am also working with the Diversity Affairs Commission to develop objectives for Strategic Plan Objective 3.8.
- I worked with Wisconsin 4-H leaders to have Extension Marathon County be the Northern Host site for a 2020 Area Animal Science Day which will be held on Friday, June 12 in Marathon Park. This event provides 4-H youth the opportunity to evaluate livestock and dairy cattle, as well as,

participate in small animal workshops on topics such as dogs, goats, cats and tropical fish. This event is expected to bring 300 people to Marathon County.

- I attended the 2020 Wausau School District Community Connections Partner Agency meeting to plan the summer school program. Community Connections is an eight week summer school program at five different schools in Wausau.
- I attended Marathon County Market Animal Show and Sale meetings (one in December, two in January, one in February)
- Continued to plan summer 2020 programs: Leadership Washington Focus, Junior Camp, Intermediate Camp)
- Met with my AED and Wisconsin Valley Fair representatives to review relationship and find ways to be more efficient and ensure there are appropriate roles.

### Agriculture Education - Heather Schlessner

- January has been busy with programs and preparation for programs.
- We hosted Joe Lauer in early January for the annual Agronomy update.
- We also had the Farm Pulse Kickoff meeting in Abbotsford. Farm Pulse is a program that seeks to teach farmers about the importance of understanding their financials.
- The Automated Milking Machine Meeting in Abbotsford was the highlight of the month, with 45 people attending. The meeting focused on the logistics and feasibility of installing a robot. Three area farmers that currently utilize robots were part of a panel where they got to discuss their experience with robots.
- During this time I have continued to update the Animal Wellbeing conference website and prepare the proceedings booklets for printing.
- I have also been working on the Farm Couples Weekend Workshop that will be held in February.

### Community Development Education - Melinda Osterberg

- Attended and provided support for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Inservice
- Disseminated the Marathon County Broadband Assessment Study prepared by Design Nine
- Attended the January Agricultural Professional Breakfast and Western Towns Association meeting to provide information regarding the status of Broadband in the County



On January 24th and January 25th Marathon County residents celebrated the Chinese New Year at the only community Festival in the State of Wisconsin.

- On Friday January 24th, 47 individuals attended the U.S. - China Trade Tensions Discussion at UWSP-Wausau. This panel was moderated by Pam Jahnke (the “Fabulous Farm Babe”) and included Interim DATCP Secretary Romanski, productive agriculture representatives and an economist from UW-Madison. The discussion focused on how the current trade situation is impacting Wisconsin’s economy and proposed DATCP rural development programs. The full program is available online: <https://waam.viebit.com/player.php?hash=4BjIOaPyi5Fs>
- On January 25th, over 750 individuals attended the Central Wisconsin Chinese New Year Festival. Attendees learned about Chinese culture through gardening presentations, education on ginseng,



calligraphy, storytelling, crafts, language lessons, cooking demonstrations and world recognized entertainment. Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes attended the event and provided the welcome.

- The Chinese New Year Event led to increased knowledge of Extension, between January 1, 2020 and January 26, 2020, 29 individuals followed Marathon County Extension on Facebook and one post generated over 1,000 organic likes. The Festival was widely covered by the media, including the Lieutenant Governor’s social media sites, the local and Madison news markets. Affirming Marathon County’s role as a culturally inclusive community.
- The event was a collaboration between Extension and the Wausau Marathon County Parks Department. The Parks Department provided their expertise, staff and other resources to ensure a successful event.
- Given the scale of the event, the entirety of the Extension Office assisted in ensuring a successful event, from volunteering during the Festival or assisting in preparations, the team stepped up to ensure Marathon County and Extension were well represented.
- The event also illustrated productive agriculture’s role in the Marathon County community. The Ginseng Board of WI, Hsu’s Ginseng and Heil Ginseng were all Gold Event Sponsors.



### Horticulture Education - Janell Wehr

- Attended the Marathon County MLK inservice, NCWGM Garden Visions Conference, Marathon County LIFE Report Forum, Driving a Positive Food System Change Forum and Career Expo for Marathon County HS students .
- Attended the following webinars: The Real Economics of Local Food, Food & Social Equity: Detroit’s Approach to Financing the Food System, State MG Coordinator Discussion
- Participating in online course for professional development: Achieving the Extension Mission Through Volunteers
- Met with Mike Frankel and Amy Fromm with Community Clubhouse. Developed a five month programming calendar. Will begin 1 hour therapeutic horticulture programming once a week beginning March 5th.
- Met with Kris Lemke from Headstart. Started developing programming for Head Start.
- Met with Paul Kage of Bridge Clinic Community Gardens to develop horticulture programming.
- Began planning Gaining Grounds Garden programming.
- Attended NCWGMGA General Membership, Board, and Membership Committee meetings.
- Hosted “Sensational Succulents” program at Project Discovery Days in Wood County.

### Area Director Update - Jason Hausler

- Attended and assisted at the Chinese New Year celebration on January 25th, supporting the work of Melinda Osterberg and the volunteers she engaged with to make the event happen.
- Began working with office colleagues on the Annual Report for 2020 (highlighting the impact of Extension in 2019), with the hope to have it finished by the end of March. As with last year, the hope

is to provide a quick in person report to the County Board either later in the spring or during the summer.

- Assist with the onboarding of Janell Wehr (new Hort Educator) to the Marathon County Office.
- Begun the 2019 Annual Reviews with all staff, with completion of all reviews being due at the end of March.
- Participated in meetings with the Partnership for Progressive Ag regarding the partnership with Extension. Educational impact was highlighted and something that will guide our partnership with the group into the future.