



# MARATHON COUNTY EXTENSION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

Thursday, July 2, 2020, at 4:00 p.m.

Courthouse Assembly Room, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI

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

**Others Present:** Lance Leonhard, Kurt Gibbs, Mary Palmer, Ann Herda-Rapp, Scott Corbett, Media  
**VIA WEB:** Ralph Illick, Jason Hausler, Melinda Osterberg, Gary Radunz

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:** The Public Comment portion of the agenda has been temporarily suspended, pursuant to Marathon County Resolution # R-18-20, dated March 17, 2020.

3. **Approval of the Minutes** of the June 4, 2020, Extension, Education & Economic Development Committee (EEED) Meeting.

**MOTION BY BUCH, SECOND BY VOLL, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 4, 2020, EXTENSION, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING.  
MOTION CARRIED.**

4. **Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination:** None

A. Should Marathon County Explore a Public-Private Partnership to Address Student Housing Needs at the UW-Stevens Point Wausau Campus?

**Discussion:**

Marathon County owns the dormitory at the University and they are not in good shape. Does the committee feel there is enough merit for us to explore the possibility of new dorms?

Ann Herda-Rapp, Wausau Campus Executive – This is a county effort and the county would need to make the decision. The dorms were built in 1968, there are 3 floors, 54 rooms on each floor with 2 restrooms on each floor. There were some updates done a long time ago. The dorm houses UW and NTC students. Feedback from the student is that the hall is outdated, there is no air conditioning, lack of temperature control, paint is chipping and it's just dingy. A hall can be an important recruitment piece for a university. Interest remains in the hall, especially if it can be upgraded. With BA programs being added we may have juniors and seniors living in the dorms and they prefer suite living to share with roommates. This fall the hall will not be occupied. What can be done to improve the living conditions on campus? Now's a good time to have this conversation.

The history of the dorms gives us options;

- The County can preserve the status quo between the county and the university with a public/public partnership; or
- Return to what the relationship was before 1990 which was we own/operate/provide housing

- on behalf of the partnership and be a direct service provider; or
- Have a county/university/private provider to operate and deliver with a public/public/private partnership. This option would take away maintenance responsibility from county and the university would get out of the student housing business. Maintenance and direct operation would be handled by the private provider. That's the policy question before you today. Is it something the County should look into as an option?

This is a good time for a conversation on these considerations. There are no students in the dorm right now through next year. The lease we have expired in 2016. We need to take a good hard look at this.

- A suggestion was made that we contact NTC on the public/private housing they have and how that option works. Leonhard stated it has been explored, but could be explored further
- How do we keep the cost affordable/quality/safety/security of student housing with a private partner?
- Can we find a private party to do renovations without using county funds?
- There is a fund with about \$239,000 that the university has that could be used for an RFP or renovations. The university is willing to relinquish those funds for a new facility.
- Students would rent through a property manager if we go public/public/private.
- It could be possible to retain a block of rooms each year so students would have the option for housing and then open it up to non-students as well.
- We have a 50+ year old building that needs many updates. Exploring a public/public/private partnership makes the most sense. If the UW changed and they didn't need the use, we need to explore this option.
- There is a lot of flexibility with the public/public/private partnership

**Action:**

**MOTION BY ROSENBERG; SECOND BY LO TO SEND THIS TO HR/FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE TO CONTINUE TO EXPLORE A PUBLIC/PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FOR STUDENT HOUSING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF STEVENS POINT – WAUSAU CAMPUS. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Follow Through:**

Send to HR/Finance, and Property Committee.

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

- A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee to Forward to CIP Committee for Consideration
1. UW-Stevens Point Wausau Campus 2021 Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Requests
    - a) Parking Lot C Replacement
    - b) Heating Plant Roof Replacement
    - c) Building HVAC Control System Upgrade

**Discussion:**

Gary Radunz, Director of Facilities for UW-Stevens Point, Wausau Campus, went through the Capital Improvement Projects named above. Detailed information is in the request forms in the packet.

If these upgrades happen, and the University would pull out of Wausau, we would still need to have heating/cooling in the buildings for other uses.

Enrollments are increasing. It doesn't appear the UW will be going anywhere, anytime soon.

**Action:**

**MOTION BY BEASTROM; SECOND BY ROSENBERG TO MOVE THE THREE PROJECTS NAMED ABOVE TO THE CIP COMMITTEE FOR THEIR EVALUATIONS AND RANKING. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Follow Through:**

Move the CIP requests to the CIP Committee.

**6. Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**

- A. Reports from Committee-Affiliated Departments and Organizations

1. UW Madison Division of Extension

a) Update on CAF II Broadband Implementation Progress in Relation to Strategic Plan Objective 8.7, Outcome 1 Goals

**Discussion:**

Jason Hausler gave highlights on UW Madison, Division of Extension [report](#) – Food in a Box, 4-H Development, Horticulture Education, and pointed out that the Annual Report for 2019 is online. Staff is looking to begin returning in July. Moving to in-person programming following CDC recommendations, but still doing telework.

Melinda Osterberg – the Broadband Task Force will not meet their [CAF II](#) (Connect America Funding Phase II) broadband implementation relating to Strategic Plan Objective 8.7, Outcome 1 Goals. Frontier is not providing information and it's not easy to find any information. The Public Service Commission (PSC) is willing to provide information. All grants in Marathon County are met according to the agreements. It's difficult to find out how the CAF II funds were used. The speed Frontier provided was relatively slow. Frontier mainly used the funds for decaying DSL services.

**Follow Through:**

No follow through needed at this time.

2. UW-Stevens Point Wausau

**Discussion:**

Covered above in 4A.

**Follow Through:**

No follow through needed.

3. MCDEVCO

**Discussion:**

See [MCDEVCO's](#) written report included in the packet.

**Follow Through:**

Contact Vicki Resech from MCDEVCO with any questions.

4. Marathon County Public Library

a) Reopening Plan

**Discussion:**

The [Reopening Plan](#) is provided in the packet. Attendance is up for online programs. Right now the Library has started taking computer appointments and have curbside/drive thru pick in Wausau and Marathon. With Library Board approval a "walking" Library will open in late July.

**Follow Through:**

None needed.

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

A. Future committee calendar

- The next meeting will be Thursday, August 6, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. Let Mary Palmer and/or Chair Sara Guild know if you are unable to attend.
- No announcements.

8. **Adjourn**

There being no further business to discuss, **MOTION BY ROSENBERG, SECOND BY BUCH TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. Meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m. MOTION CARRIED.**

Minutes prepared  
by Mary Palmer