



MARATHON COUNTY EXTENSION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Thursday, August 6, 2020, at 4:00 p.m.

Courthouse Assembly Room, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI

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

Others Present: Lance Leonhard, Gerry Klein, Mary Palmer

VIA WEB: Ralph Illick, Jason Hausler, Ann Herda-Rapp, Vicki Resch,

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:**

3. **Approval of the Minutes** of the July 2, 2020, Extension, Education & Economic Development Committee (EEED) Meeting.

**MOTION BY VOLL, SECOND BY LO, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 2, 2020, EXTENSION, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING.
MOTION CARRIED.**

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

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

6. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**

A. Reports from Committee-Affiliated Departments and Organizations

1. UW Madison Division of Extension

- General update on staff education efforts
- Relationship of local Master Gardener groups with Extension
- Horticulture position – potential sharing of position with Wood County

Discussion:

In the written report that is in the packet, Jason Hausler highlighted the various programs.

In previous years administrative support was provided by (UWEX) UW Madison Division of Extension for the Master Gardner's program. Through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) the Master Gardner's are aligning with UW Madison's mission and vision and will not be allowed to sign anything on behalf of the University. UW Madison is looking to create a position in Madison to streamline support for all Master Gardner groups throughout the State, freeing up about 12 hours in Marathon County. Marathon and Wood Counties have the largest Master Gardner groups in the State.

Being creative with the streamlining of Master Gardener support hours and staying in the reduced budget for 2021 for Marathon County the Horticulture position will be reduced by .2 or .3 and those hours will be given to Wood County to share this person keeping the position as full time. It is desirable to have the educators out in the field rather than doing administrative work. This is supported by both Wood and Marathon Counties.

Follow Through:

No follow through needed at this time.

2. UW-Stevens Point Wausau

Discussion:

Ann Herda-Rapp, Wausau Campus Executive. The finance committee went through with CIP approval for an RFP for a new apartment building/dorm. The money in their fund has been approved to be used on the apartment building/dorms and grounds. Other CIP carpet replacement, pool work, roof, etc. are complete. Students will be in classes this fall. The courses will be a mix of in person, virtual and a combination of both. So far it looks like freshman class will be up 34% over last year and over all up around 11%. It's believed that these numbers will increase.

Administrator Leonhard is meeting with the Mayor and a City Planner from the City of Wausau on Monday to see if the city is willing to commit to a partnership for the RFP.

Follow Through:

No follow through needed.

3. MCDEVCO

Discussion:

Vicki Resech, Director, is working on vetting about 300 applications for loans and has started writing checks. She is also talking to small business from Abbotsford to Hatley. Growth, Entrepreneurs, Accessible, Resources, Support (GEARS) program will start 9/14/20 through 1/11/21 via Zoom. There will be thirty hours of instruction, will have a counselor and will work with entrepreneurs to approve business plan, financial plan and Dolphin Tank (like Shark Tank where center users can pitch ideas and receive constructive criticism). It's budget time at MCDEVCO.

Follow Through:

No follow through needed.

4. Marathon County Public Library

a) Reopening Plan

Discussion:

Ralph Illick, Library Director, at the Library Board meeting on August 17. He is working with Health Department to consider more openings. Currently road side and drive up service is available in Marathon and Wausau. Appointments are available at Wausau for computer access and branches have limited access and intentional browsing. If you touch you take home or the book/periodical is quarantined for 4 days. They will have home schooling type materials in each community. Putting extra emphasis on this through social media. Hopefully will help with parents for teaching at home.

To work with reducing their budget they have cut back on purchases of materials where redundancy is there. Like rather than buying 10 copies only buy 6. Longstanding issues with main building are being resolved. New windows will be installed in the next few weeks thanks to a good discount from Kolbe and Kolbe. Flashing, etc. are also being rectified. If the roof can't be done by the end of this year, it will be finished in the spring. Inside and outside are looking good.

Follow Through:

No follow through needed.

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

A. Future committee calendar

- The next meeting will be Thursday, September 3, 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 LO, SECOND BY SEEFELDT TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:50 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.**

Minutes prepared
by Mary Palmer