



# MARATHON COUNTY EXTENSION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

Thursday, September 3, 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	W	
Becky Buch	W	
Tom Rosenberg	X	
Rick Seefeldt	W	
Chris Voll	W	

**Others Present:** Lance Leonhard, Jason Hausler, Mary Palmer

**VIA WEB/Phone:** Ralph Illick, Ann Herda-Rapp

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 the August 6, 2020, Extension, Education & Economic Development Committee (EEED) Meeting.

**MOTION BY LO, SECOND BY BUCH, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 6, 2020, EXTENSION, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.**

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

A. Marathon County WEXA Dues Renewal Request

**Discussion:**

Chair Guild went over what we used to do and why we participated in Wisconsin Extension Association (WEXA) in the past. It provides support for extension departments. If this committee decides to approve the invoice, it will be sent to Finance Department for payment.

**Action:**

**MOTION BY SEEFELDT; SECOND BY LO TO APPROVE THE \$50.00 MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR THE WISCONSIN EXTENSION ASSOCIATION (WEXA) FOR 2020. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Follow Through:**

Administration will forward the invoice to finance for payment.

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

a) Horticulture position – implementing position sharing with Wood County in 2020

**Discussion:**

Jason Hausler highlighted the FoodWise Program and the fresh fruit and vegetables that are going to the Marathon County Hunger Coalition “Share the Harvest” after the Saturday Farmer’s Market. Also highlighted the Kaitlyn Bernarde – 4-H Development and planned Fall programs and Heather Schlessler developing and recording interviews with Extension educators to create alternative med

of factsheet delivery. The Horticulture position should be up and running in the next couple of months in 2020. 70% Marathon County and 30% Wood County. Master Gardner program

**Follow Through:**

Supervisors should contact Jason Hausler if there are some areas of interest you would like reported on.

2. UW-Stevens Point Wausau

**Discussion:**

Ann Herda-Rapp said that the school year has started out and it is strange. Everything is going smoothly both virtual and in person sessions. Both Wausau and Stevens Point are seeing students dropping out at the last minute, but the numbers are still up.

Resident Hall for the residents Request for Proposal (RFP) is moving forward and should be let next week.

**Follow Through:**

No follow through needed.

3. MCDEVCO

a) Entrepreneur and Small Business owner Educational Leadership Program

**Discussion:**

The Entrepreneur and Small Business Owner Educational Leadership Program is coming up in a couple of weeks and is in the packet.

**Follow Through:**

No follow through needed.

4. Marathon County Public Library – update on MCPL System Membership task force

**Discussion:**

The MCPL System Membership Review Task Force – Marathon County Public Library is currently a member of the Wisconsin Valley Library System and is looking to switch to South Central Library System (SCLS). The recommendation by the Task Force to switch and they will work with Corporation Counsel to work through what needs to be done. Our membership would be more equitable, if we move to the SCLS.

If we move, the oversight would fall to this committee to oversee the public hearing and then the committee would recommend to the county board whether to switch or not

We pay a fee to belong to any system. As the largest Library in the WVLS our fees go to the other counties. If we move we may pay more, but we will receive more services for our dues.

Ralph will send a link to the task force meeting minutes. 715-261-7211 is Ralph Illick's direct phone number.

**Follow Through:**

Supervisors are encouraged to review the documents that will be posted by Ralph Illick.

*B. Discussion regarding County Board educational presentation on Implicit/Explicit Bias and institutional/structural discrimination and their impact on Marathon County's ability to achieve its goals (presentation available here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6lxZlSeZJI>)*

1. What opportunities do you see to improve our policies and practices to enhance diversity and inclusion and help us meet Objective 3.8 of the Comprehensive Plan?

**Discussion:**

The recent presentation to the County Board was one of the tools to address Implicit and Explicit Bias to help reach our Strategic Plan goals.

Marathon County Government has been developing training related to diversity and inclusion. Some things we have done are created the MLK, Jr. Day-On, which we use as a professional development day. Some topics are specifically aimed at bias, health equity, trauma informed care and more. This

year we will be going virtual. Through the Administrator's Work and Strategic Plans, a trauma informed care report addressing issues on diversity and inclusion led to a diversity and inclusion survey in 2018. The Life Report names this as the number one issue in the County. We are looking at ways internally to attract and retain talent. We have submitted an application to UW Madison for the UniverCity Program. This program is when a municipality (or county) can enter an agreement suggesting potential projects to move forward that align with existing curriculum or develop new curriculum. We have done a lot, but we have a lot more to do.

Our goal today is what can we do to find opportunities to move forward?

- Our committee recommends using our education partners, as a resource for diversity and adverse actions through other standing committees as information, not in an influential capacity.
- Provide a counter response to the last presentation that we are a nonpartisan board.

**Follow Through:**

No follow through needed.

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

A. Future committee calendar

- The next meeting will be Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. Let Mary Palmer and/or Chair Sara Guild know if you are unable to attend.
- Update on how the Fair went this year. (Supervisor Seefeldt) (Beastrom – Athens Fair)
- Announcement:
  - Rick Seefeld – 9/16-20 at Marathon Park will be North American Midway will bring in food stands approx. noon to 7:00 p.m.

**8. Adjourn**

There being no further business to discuss, **MOTION BY SEEFELDT, SECOND BY ROSENBERG TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:22 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.**

Minutes prepared  
by Mary Palmer