



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

## AGENDA

Date & Time of Meeting: **Thursday, March 7, 2019, at 12:00 p.m.**

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

EEED members: Sara Guild, Chair; Romey Wagner, Vice-Chair; Gary Beaström; Alyson Leahy, Ka Lo, Jean Maszk; Rick Seefeldt

Infrastructure: John Robinson, Chair; Richard Gumz, Vice-Chair; Allen Opall; Jeff Johnson, Thomas Seubert; Alan Christensen; Sandi Cihlar

**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)*

**Extension, Education & Economic Development 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.*

**Infrastructure Committee Mission:** *Provide leadership for the implementation of the Strategic Plan, monitoring outcomes, reviewing and recommending to the County Board policies related to technology and infrastructure initiatives of Marathon County, which includes, but is not limited to, highways, airways, waterways, etc.*

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment Period (15 minute limit)
3. Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion
  - A. Review of the work done at the direction of the Extension, Education & Economic Development Committee relative to the expansion of high-speed internet service throughout Marathon County.
4. Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination
  - A. Consideration of next steps relative to expansion of high-speed internet service throughout Marathon County.
    1. **ACTION:** Direct Marathon County Administration to prepare a Request for Proposal for a High-Speed Internet Feasibility Analysis in light of the information from the Extension, Education & Economic Development Committee and identify funding for securing the consultant.
5. Announcements:
6. 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/ John Robinson  
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: \_\_\_\_\_



**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
MARATHON COUNTY



TO: Extension, Education, and Economic Development Committee  
Infrastructure Committee

FROM: Melinda Osterberg - Extension Marathon County  
Jason Hausler - Extension Marathon County

DATE: March 1, 2019

RE: **Broadband Feasibility Study RFP**

A Broadband Feasibility Study would assist Marathon County in developing a comprehensive approach on how to facilitate the provision of county-wide high speed internet access, an objective of the Marathon County Strategic Plan 2018-2022. Major deliverables expected as part of the planning process include:

- An update to the 2009 Broadband Gap Analysis including a map of current levels of service at the municipal level, and summary of the current supply of broadband communication assets, products and services in the County. This information is critical to effectively access Federal grant programs;
- An evaluation of the current and future broadband consumer market in Marathon County;
- Strategic guidance in the planning of a broadband connectivity project (or projects) that can be implemented as cost-effectively and efficiently as possible for the purpose of enabling economic development and citizen connectivity in currently underserved areas;
- A completed engineering and feasibility report that provides multiple potential recommendations relative to mechanisms for high-speed internet service delivery (eg. FTTP, wireless, fiber/wireless hybrid, etc.) including suggested infrastructure and backhaul routes for each recommendation.
- Assessment of potential construction and operational relationships with public, private, and membership-owned companies in the service area and with publicly and privately funded networks as suitable for interconnection.
- Identification of potential wired network routes and interconnected points as well as potential tower site recommendations to support and maximize coverage.
- Information on potential funding sources and strong justification for funding to serve as the bases for a grant/loan application to support project implementation.

The final report will present alternatives to address the engineering and business parameters for deploying broadband services throughout Marathon County. The analysis would consider a wide continuum of business models and engineering options. It will also highlight associated costs, alternative financing methods including other funding sources, as well as risk, timing and service quality considerations. The report will conclude the analysis by identifying a recommended strategy and associated action plan for its implementation.