



# MARATHON COUNTY EXTENSION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

## AGENDA

Date & Time of Meeting: **Tuesday, April 16, 2019, at 4:00 p.m.**

Meeting Location: **MCDEVCO GEARS CENTER, 1415 Merrill Ave, Suite 140, Wausau WI 54401**

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

**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 March 7, 2019, Extension, Education & Economic Development Committee Meeting and the March 7, 2019, joint meeting of the Extension, Education & Economic Development Committee and Infrastructure Committee.
4. Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination
  - A. Review of [Wisconsin Counties Association summary of the 2019-21 State Biennial Budget](#)
    1. Committee identification of the two most pressing issues in the budget from the perspective of the Extension, Education, Economic Development Committee
    2. UW-Stevens Point at Wausau Campus capital improvement projects (Domestic Water, Pool, and Fieldhouse)
      - a) Should the Committee recommend modifying the previously approved capital projects? (Review of the previously approved projects and recommendation from County Administrator)
5. Operational Functions required by Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution:
  - A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee
    1. Annual Update on Committee’s Progress related to Assigned Strategic Plan Objectives – Board Vice-Chair McEwen
  - B. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee to Forward to the County Board for its consideration – None
6. Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion
  - A. Update on High-Speed Internet / Broadband project
    1. Funding for feasibility study identified and request for proposals has been released
  - B. Report from UW Extension Area Director – update on recent programming by local educators and upcoming regional meetings
  - C. Update from MCDEVCO on new location and programming
7. Announcements, Next Meeting Date and Time:
  - A. Future committee calendar
    1. May 21, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. – UW-Stevens Point at Wausau Campus
8. Adjourn

**AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING, COMMITTEE MEMBERS WILL TAKE PART IN A TOUR OF THE MCDEVCO GEARS CENTER AND WORKING SPACE FROM MCDEVCO STAFF. NO FORMAL COMMITTEE DISCUSSION OR BUSINESS WILL BE DISCUSSED AND NO FORMAL ACTION WILL BE TAKEN.**

**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,

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE

FAXED TO: and Other Media Groups

FAXED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

FAXED DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

FAXED TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

TIME: \_\_\_\_\_



# MARATHON COUNTY EXTENSION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

Thursday, March 7, 2019 – 1:00 p.m.

Courthouse Assembly Room, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI

Attendance:	Present	Absent
Sara Guild, Chair	X	
Romey Wagner, Vice Chair		EX
Gary Beastrom	X	
Jean Maszk	X	
Alyson Leahy	X	
Rick Seefeldt	X	
Ka Lo	X	

**Others Present:** Lance Leonhard, Melinda Osterberg, Jason Hausler, Ralph Illick, James Warsaw, Gerard Klein, Brian Kowalski

1. **Call Meeting to Order**

The Extension, Education & Economic Development Committee meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Chair Guild.

2. **Public Comment** – None

3. **Approval of the Minutes of the December 11, 2018, Extension, Education & Economic Development Committee Meeting.**

**MOTION BY MASZK, SECOND BY LO, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 11, 2018, EXTENSION, EDUCATION & 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. Update from Marathon County Library Director Ralph Illick

**Discussion:**

Marathon County Library Director Ralph Illick appears before the committee to discuss several of the most prominent ongoing efforts within the Marathon County Library System.

**LENA Start Marathon County** – Illick explains that LENA stands for (Learning ENvironment Aalysis) and is aimed at improving the language development of children from birth to the age of three. Illick explains that this period of development is extremely important and that this program was developed to help bridge the gap that is often found between affluent families and less-privileged families. Marathon County is one of only three public libraries in the country that are currently leading such a program. The

Marathon County program relies upon 5 local partners and is currently envisioned to last at least five years.

**Public Library Redesign Project** – Illick explains that the Public Library Redesign Project was a multi-year project that was aimed at determining the best method to deliver library system services in the State. Illick indicates that as a result of the project, a great deal of information was gathered and Marathon County could pursue significant changes in how it operates. Illick explains that currently Marathon County is a member of the Wisconsin Valley Library System; however, the library board may consider moving to the South Central Library System to link itself to additional resources. Moreover, to improve statewide delivery of library materials, the Wausau Library will serve as the secondary delivery hub (Dane County currently serves as the only hub for statewide delivery).

**Library Renovations** – Illick explains that each of the 9 library locations will be undergoing renovations to varying degrees, including improvements in technology, in the near future.

**Surveys of Library customers** – Illick indicates that the library system will be releasing a survey to gain insight into customer expectations and desires relative to hours of operation and other information with the intent to improve customer service and employee safety at each of the locations.

B. Discussion of the County Administrator’s Work Plan – Extension, Education & Economic Development Committee goals

**Discussion:**

Chair Guild explains to the committee that the Administrator’s work plan was recently presented to the County Board and she thought it valuable to recap the specific goals within the plan that are within the purview of this committee.

Deputy Administrator Leonhard explains that with respect to the first goal (e.g., the evaluation of the pool and fieldhouse to determine their relevance going forward), Administrator Karger will be delivering a report to the committee at its April meeting. With respect to the second goal (e.g., expanding high speed internet access), Chair Guild indicates that this committee has completed much of its work; however, it will be responsible for some level of ongoing monitoring with the Infrastructure Committee. Finally, with respect to the third goal (e.g., increasing the student population attending UW Stevens Point @ Wausau), Deputy Administrator Leonhard explains that Administrator Karger is currently working on clarifying the goals and action steps under that objective. Chair Guild indicates that she will attempt to coordinate Campus Executive Ann Herda-Rapp attending the committee’s April meeting. A committee member references that the committee may seek to examine whether to take a policy position on the state’s role in funding higher education or allowing expanded revenue options for universities.

C. Report from UW-Extension Area Director – recent programming by local educators

**Discussion:**

Area Director Hausler references the recent hiring of educator Melinda Osterberg to coordinate the county’s broadband expansion efforts. Hausler reviews the work of the other educators, as referenced within the written report and answers questions from the committee. Hausler notes that a joint meeting of all the county extension agents within the multi-county area over which Hausler serves as Area Director will be held on May 7, 2019.

**Follow through:** Administrator to post a non-meeting notice relative to the meeting in the event that a sufficient number of committee members indicate they will be attending the May 7 meeting.

**7. Next Meeting Time, Location, Announcements and Agenda Items:**

A. Committee members are encouraged to reach out to Chair Guild with potential topics for future meetings. Chair Guild explains that MCDEVCO recently moved its office to 1415 Merrill Avenue and will be opening the GEARS Center on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**B. Next Meeting Date and Time**

**1. April 16, 2019 at 4:00 pm at the new MCDEVCO Offices at 1415 Merrill Avenue**

**8. Adjourn**

**MOTION BY BEASTROM, SECOND BY MASZK, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.**

Meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

Minutes prepared

by Lance Leonhard on March 20, 2019.



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

## MINUTES

Thursday, March 7, 2019 – 12:00 p.m.

Courthouse Assembly 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		EX
Alan Christensen	X		Gary Beaström	X	
Sandi Cihlar	X		Alison Leahy	X	
Jeff Johnson	X		Ka Lo	X	
Allen Opall	X		Jean Maszk	X	
Thomas Seubert	X		Rick Seefeldt	X	

**Also Present:** Lance Leonhard, Jason Hausler, Melinda Osterberg, Gerard Klein, Jim Warsaw

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

John Robinson and Sara Guild called their respective committees to order at 5:30 p.m.

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

**3. Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**

- A. Review of the work done at the direction of the Extension, Education & Economic Development Committee (EEEDC) relative to the expansion of high-speed internet service throughout Marathon County.

**Discussion:**

Chairs Guild and Robinson recap how the issue of high-speed internet expansion became a priority project for each of their respective committees, explaining that County Board Chair Gibbs had articulated that because high-speed internet access was vital to our educational systems and our economic development efforts and because this service is best understood as crucial infrastructure, he wanted both committees to play lead roles. Specifically, Guild and Robinson indicate that the EEEDC was tasked with developing information relative to why high-speed access was important and what the community's needs were, while Infrastructure would be tasked with developing information relative to how we meet those goals.

Deputy Administrator Leonhard and UW Extension Area Director Hausler provide an overview of the work done by the EEEDC, beginning with undertaking a review of the work done in 2009 (e.g., the Broadband Gap Analysis) and 2015 (e.g., the Connectivity Task Force presentation). Leonhard and Hausler explain that they arranged for a community forum with leaders from across our county, including business, education, and agriculture sectors. Staff also express that they examined successful initiatives from other counties in Wisconsin, counties in Minnesota, and initiatives in several other states.

Leonhard and Hausler summarize the results of the information gathering as follows:

- There is not a one size fits all answer – there are numerous approaches that have proven successful given the varying nature of each project.
- Marathon County did not have the combination of technical skill and capacity to develop a plan without assistance
- Community engagement needs to be a substantial focus in this effort

Leonhard and Hausler explain that in light of what was learned, Marathon County did the following:

- Secured a ½ time UW Extension Educator position to assist in our broadband expansion efforts,

- particularly in the area of community engagement
- Began putting together a Request for Proposal for an Engineering Study and Analysis
  - o This effort included discussions with the EEEDC that identified the following core elements to address in the RFP:
    - Speed – the committee asked that we consider gigabyte service as a standard, but it recognized that scalability was an essential deliverable.
    - Service Targets – ultimately, the EEEDC deemed it important that any solution deliver coverage to all towns/communities.
    - Cell service – to the extent possible, the EEEDC asked that our plan also consider how to expand cell coverage.

Melinda Osterberg, the UW Extension educator hired to work on our high-speed internet expansion efforts explains the process the team is utilizing to build the RFP. Deputy Administrator Leonhard then explains the next steps in the process, including the need for County Administration to identify a funding source for the study.

**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.

**Infrastructure Committee: MOTION (AS PROVIDED ABOVE) BY JOHNSON, SECOND BY CHRISTENSEN. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Extension, Education & Economic Development: MOTION (AS PROVIDED ABOVE) BY MASZK, SECOND BY BEASTROM. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Follow Through:**

County Administration to identify potential funding source for engineering study and analysis.

**5. Announcements:** None

**6. Adjournment**

**MOTION BY CHRISTENSEN, SECOND BY JOHNSON, TO ADJOURN THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:55 P.M.  
MOTION BY MASZK, SECOND BY BEASTROM, TO ADJOURN THE EXTENSION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING, MOTION CARRIED.  
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:55 P.M.**

Minutes Prepared  
By Lance Leonhard and Brad Karger  
on March 20, 2019.



**Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

## MARATHON COUNTY EXTENSION

April 2019 Update

*A report generated for the Marathon County Board of Supervisors Extension, Education and Economic Development Committee*

**FOODWISE COORDINATOR – TAMMY HANSEN**

**FOODWISE EDUCATORS - PAULA HILL, GAONOU THAO AND MELISSA YATES**

- **FoodWise Educators concluded the five lesson Kindergarten nutrition series and began the four lesson 4-K nutrition series with qualifying schools in the Wausau School District. They also conducted the monthly Healthy Eating Series, the Hmong StrongBodies strength training/nutrition series, pantry food demos and various other nutrition lessons.**
- **Gaonou and Tammy attended the Youth Mental Health First Aid Training.**
- **Tammy began working on the FY20 FoodWise grant renewal/program plan.**
- **Tammy facilitated the Marathon County Hunger Coalition Nutrition subcommittee meeting. Plans were developed for conducting the “Share the Harvest” food gleaning project at the Wausau Farmers’ Market this summer and the group began a strategic planning process to develop a two year action plan.**

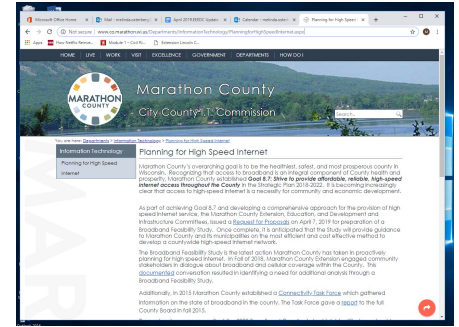
**AGRICULTURE EXTENSION EDUCATOR – HEATHER SCHLESSER**

- **Attended Youth Mental Health Training**
- **Attended Farm Stress Training.**
- **Finalized preparations for Animal Well-Being Conference and presented at conference in Platteville.**
- **Presented at National Extension Risk Management National Conference on Farm Succession Focus group results.**
- **Continue to work on updating Dairy Worker Training Modules.**

*An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX and the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) requirement.*

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EDUCATOR – MELINDA OSTERBERG

- Attended meetings with the Conservation, Planning and Zoning Department, Wausau Area Chamber of Commerce and Hmong American Association to discuss potential areas of collaboration and economic development in Marathon County
- Attended the April Diversity Affairs Commission meeting
- Assisted Administration with issuing a Request for Proposals for a Broadband Feasibility Study, the RFP can be found at:  
<http://www.co.marathon.wi.us/Home/Announcements/tabid/66/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/915/Broadband-RFP-and-Notice.aspx>
- Publicized the Broadband Feasibility study by working with CCITC to create an updated Broadband website  
(<http://www.co.marathon.wi.us/Departments/InformationTechnology/PlanningforHighSpeedInternet.aspx>), interview on AM1450 and directly informing vendors of the RFP



## 4-H PROGRAM COORDINATOR – KAITLYN BERNARDE

- Facilitated 4-H Leaders Orientation, Marathon County 4-H Leaders Federation bi monthly meeting, as well as, Intermediate Camp Counselor Training with Wood, Taylor, Portage and Waupaca Counties.
- Collaborated with Brianna Wright to plan National Volunteer Week to recognize the 430+ Extension Marathon County volunteers. We created a banner on the teaching garden, yard signs, an appreciation celebration, Extension Coffee Hour and social media posts.
- Worked with the Junior Fair Board Committee and the Wisconsin Valley Fair to complete the 2019-2020 Premium Book for all participants.
- Attended the Marathon County Central Time News Editorial Board and wrote 4 articles for the newsletter.

## HORTICULTURE EDUCATOR – BRIANNA WRIGHT

- Prepared and provided four seminars on Microgreens, Herb Gardening, Container Gardening, and Gardening for Adults at our Wausau, Mosinee, Rothschild, and Edgar Marathon County Library Branches. Evaluations from these programs were positive, with many questions asked, and ideas for future programs provided by the 48 attendees.
- Master Gardener Level 1 Training continued this month with 12 new UW-Extension volunteers being trained by Extension staff and other experts across Marathon and Portage counties. Tuesday night classes began on March 5 and continue until May 22.
- Collaboration with Big Brothers Big Sisters and Hsu's Growing Supply led to our first, of four, gardening classes aimed to get youth into the gardens this summer! Five matches participated in our



first program on April 4 at Hsu's. Lessons used during this series are being developed by UW-Extension Horticulture and Hsu's Growing Supply, and are linked to Wisconsin State Teaching Standards for others to use. More information can be found here: <https://marathon.extension.wisc.edu/youth-gardening-series/>.

**AREA EXTENSION DIRECTOR – JASON HAUSLER**

- Continued to work with staff in preparation for our Civil Rights Review on April 16th. This review looks to examine our intentional efforts to reach all audiences in Marathon County.
- Assist, as part of a state group of leaders, in conversations with the Wisconsin Association of Fairs to discuss the roles and responsibilities of Extension educators with fairs. Presented at all Spring District meetings in April.
- Assist Bryce Luchterhand (Clark County Ag & Extension Committee member) to prepare for the joint committee meeting on May 7th.