



MARATHON COUNTY EXTENSION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday, June 18, 2019 – 4:00 p.m.

COURTHOUSE Assembly Room (B-105), 500 Forest St, Wausau WI

| Attendance: | Present | Absent |
|--------------------------|---------|--------|
| Sara Guild, Chair | X | |
| Romey Wagner, Vice Chair | X | |
| Gary Beastro | X | |
| Alyson Leahy | X | |
| Rick Seefeldt | X | |
| Ka Lo | X | |
| Loren White | X | |

Others Present: Brad Karger, Lance Leonhard, Kurt Gibbs, Craig McEwen, Jean Maszk, EJ Stark, Katie Rosenberg, Jeff Johnson, Yee Leng Xiong, Tricia Zunker, Kristin Conway, Christopher Norfleet, Joel Lewis, Cassandra Ambrosius, Jeannie Russell, William Litzer, Lisa Snydergard, Michael Brust, Jeff Kocha

1. Call Meeting to Order

The Extension, Education & Economic Development Committee meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Chair Guild.

2. Public Comment

Public comment was received from the following individuals that registered to speak prior to the meeting:

Tricia Zunker expresses her support for the resolution declaring June as Pride Month in Marathon County, explaining the significant impacts of bigotry and discrimination on youth in our community.

Kristin Conway expresses support for the resolution declaring June as Pride Month in Marathon County, expressing that diversity and inclusion are more than buzz words

Chris Norfleet expresses support for the resolution declaring June as Pride Month in Marathon County and expresses thanks for the committee putting the topic on the agenda for discussion.

Jeff Johnson expresses support for the resolution, explaining that the resolution supports the county's vision of being the healthiest, safest, and most prosperous county in the State of Wisconsin.

Joel Lewis expresses support for the resolution.

Cassandra Ambrosius expresses support for the resolution declaring June as Pride Month in Marathon County and in support of amending the county's Strategic Plan to include Comprehensive Plan Objective 3.8.

Jeannie Russell expresses support for the resolution declaring June as Pride Month in Marathon County.

William Litzer promotes the Rural Life and Outdoor Power Show and Swap Meet as a potential driver of economic development.

Lisa Snydergard expresses support for the resolution declaring June as Pride Month in Marathon County, explaining her professional work as a social worker caused her to make numerous observations of the significant challenges faced by youth in the LGBT community.

Michael Brust speaks in opposition to the resolution declaring June as Pride Month in Marathon

County.

Jeff Kocha expresses that the community should welcome and accept all individuals, regardless of an individual's underlying attributes. Kocha also challenges the county board to take action beyond simply the passage of a resolution.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the May 21 2019 Extension, Education & Economic Development Committee Meeting.

Section 5.A.2. to be corrected and minutes to be considered at future meeting.

4. Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination

A. Resolution Declaring June as Pride Month in Marathon County – from Diversity Affairs Commission

Discussion:

Chair Guild begins the discussion by noting that this issue is of significant importance to the community, as evidenced by the public comments offered today and those she has received prior to the meeting. Guild offers that one potential option to address some of the concerns referenced by the public would be to alter the resolution to highlight June as Inclusivity Month in Marathon County and deliver a subsequent resolution designating a single-day within the month as LGBTQ day in Marathon County. Discussion was had by members of the committee and comments were offered by other members of the full County Board.

Action:

MOTION BY LEAHY, SECOND BY LO, TO FORWARD THE RESOLUTION FROM DIVERSITY AFFAIRS TO THE FULL COUNTY BOARD.

MOTION TO AMEND THE MOTION TO CALL FOR DEBATE ON THE RESOLUTION TO TAKE PLACE AT THE JULY COUNTY BOARD MEETING BY WAGNER, SECOND BY BEASTROM. MOTION DENIED.

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION CARRIED.

Follow through:

Resolution to be moved to County Board for consideration at the June meeting.

Meeting suspended at 5:38 pm for a brief break; meeting resumes at 5:44 pm.

B. Directive from Executive Committee regarding potential amendment of the Strategic Plan to include Comprehensive Plan Objective 3.8: Ensure Marathon County is an open, inclusive, and diverse place to live and work

- 1. What should an amendment proposal from the Diversity Affairs Commission include when it is submitted to this Committee for review? (see pages 158-59 of the [Marathon County Comprehensive Plan](#))**

Discussion:

Chair Guild explains that the Executive Committee has asked that the Diversity Affairs Commission and this committee consider whether the county's Strategic Plan should be amended to include Objective 3.8 of the Comprehensive Plan. Guild indicates that the Wausau Region Chamber of Commerce's Economic Development Strategic Plan was the impetus to the conversation at the Executive Committee. Administrator Karger expresses that in his conversations with leaders in the business community, talent recruitment is of utmost concern.

Action:

MOTION BY WAGNER, SECOND BY LEAHY, TO DIRECT THE DIVERSITY AFFAIRS COMMISSION TO DEVELOP A PROPOSAL CONTAINING ADDITIONAL STRATEGIES AND OUTCOME MEASURES RELATIVE TO COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OBJECTIVE 3.8 FOR INCLUSION IN THE STRATEGIC PLAN.

MOTION CARRIED.

Follow through:

Administration to forward the committee's action to the Diversity Affairs Commission

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

6. Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion

A. UW-Madison Division of Extension

1. Update on efforts of local educators, including broadband feasibility study

Discussion:

Jason Hausler appears before the committee and answers questions regarding the written update document contained in the packet. Hausler indicates that Horticulture Educator Brianna Wright will be resigning her position in August of this year. Hausler elaborates on the recruitment process that will be undertaken to fill the position, provided the county is interested in doing so. Hausler explains that the broadband feasibility study contract is under review by the Corporation Counsel's Office at this time and should be completed in the near future.

2. Discussion of dissolution of Wisconsin Associated County Extension Committees (WACEC)

Hausler explains the nature of the Wisconsin Associated County Extension Committees (WACEC) and how the transition of Extension under the University of Wisconsin – Madison has led to discussion of whether WACEC should be dissolved. Hausler explains the proposal from the Wisconsin Counties' Association is that County Board Extension Committee members consider consenting to dissolution of WACEC and the creation of a new entity under the purview of the Wisconsin Counties' Association.

Follow through: None

B. Update on leadership transition at Marathon County Development Corporation (MCDEVCO)

Discussion:

Chair Guild explains that Jim Warsaw retired from his position at MCDEVCO at the end of May and that Vicki Resech is now serving in the capacity of Interim Executive Director.

Follow through: Chair Guild indicates that she will reach out to Resech to arrange future presentations to the committee.

7. Announcements, Next Meeting Date and Time:

A. Future committee calendar

1. July 16, 2019 at 4:00 pm – Chair Guild informs the committee that she is in discussion with the Marathon County Historical Society as to whether the committee can hold its July meeting at the Historical Society. Guild advises that she will inform the committee of the meeting location as soon as it is finalized.
2. A committee member recommends having an informational presentation from the Chamber of Commerce relative to the TIP Strategies Economic Development Study and the website design work.

8. Adjourn

MOTION BY SEEFELDT, SECOND BY WAGNER, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m. MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes prepared

by Lance Leonhard on June 18, 2019.