



MARATHON COUNTY EXTENSION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019, at 4:00 p.m.

Courthouse Assembly Room, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI

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

Others Present: Lance Leonhard, Ann Herda-Rapp, Kelly Kapitz, Kelly Borchardt, Brian Kowalski, Melinda Osterberg, Lee Webster,

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:**

Lee Webster, Wausau School Board member, expresses that the school district's annual budget resulted in a reduction in the mill rate attributable to the district. Webster also indicates that Wausau School Board has taken a leadership role in petitioning the State to end the use of Native American mascots in schools throughout Wisconsin.

3. **Approval of the Minutes** of the August 20, 2019, Extension, Education & Economic Development Committee Meetings.

Action:

MOTION BY SEEFELDT, SECOND BY BEASTROM, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 20, 2019 MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

4. **Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination:**

A. Resolution Proclaiming October 23, 2019, as Early Childhood Development Awareness Day in Marathon County

Discussion:

Chair Guild explains that the resolution before the committee today is in response to the work of the Early Years Coalition and the Baby Business Committee work being done in our community. Kelly Kapitz and Kelly Borchardt appear before the committee and discuss the important impact that child care availability, workforce, cost, and quality have on our community, particularly young families.

Borchardt explains that since 2010 there has been a 55% decrease in the number of regulated (certified and/or licensed) child care programs in Marathon County, which correlates to a loss of 1,000 slots in these regulated environments. Borchardt and Kapitz explain that the workforce compensation rate is extremely low relative (approximately \$11 per hour) to other employment opportunities in our area, while the costs of child care for a one child family is \$9,575 and a two-child family is \$17,925 per year. In Marathon County, 47% of Child Care providers have a Youngstar rating of 3 or higher, far below the State target rate of 74%.

Kapitz explains that in addition to the benefit to a child to be in a high quality care environment, increased availability of high quality child care is important for economic development. Kapitz invites members to attend the Baby Business event on October 23 at the Westwood Conference Center to learn more about the issues facing Marathon County relative to this important issue and the importance to view early child care as an investment in our future.

Members discuss the importance to further examine “next steps” at future meetings.

Action:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION BY WAGNER, SECOND BY LEAHY.

MOTION TO AMEND THE SECOND PARAGRAPH TO INSERT “ENGAGE IN EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES” AFTER “BRAIN DEVELOPMENT” BY LO, SECOND BY WHITE. MOTION CARRIED.

VOTE ON MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION, AS AMENDED. MOTION CARRIED.

Follow up: Resolution to be forwarded to the County Board for consideration.

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

6. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**

A. Presentation from the Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce about the new regional talent attraction and retention website

Discussion:

Chair Guild explains that she was contacted yesterday by a representative from the Chamber of Commerce, indicating that the Chamber would need to postpone its presentation until next month’s meeting.

Follow through:

Item to be placed on next month’s agenda.

B. UW Madison Division of Extension Update – discussion of work of educators, including efforts relative to Broadband Feasibility Study

Discussion:

Melinda Osterberg appears before the committee and answers any questions from members regarding the work of local educators. With respect to the Broadband Feasibility Study, Osterberg explains that DesignNine is working to revise the draft study by the end of November.

Follow through:

None at this time.

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

A. Future committee calendar

1. November 19, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. in the Assembly room

Chair Guild explains that at the next meeting she intends to have presentations from the Wausau Region Chamber of Commerce relative to their website efforts and Greater Wausau Prosperity Partnership.

2. Chair seeking input relative to scheduling of 2020 meeting dates and times

8. **Adjourn**

There being no further business to discuss, MOTION BY SEEFELDT, SECOND BY LEAHY, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. Meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m. MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes prepared

by Lance Leonhard on October 15, 2019.