



MARATHON COUNTY EXTENSION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday, December 11, 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: Mary Palmer, Lance Leonhard, Eric Giordano, Craig McEwen, Yee Leng Xiong, Melinda Osterberg, Donna Krause,

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 November 19, 2019, Extension, Education & Economic Development Committee Meetings.

Action:

MOTION BY WAGNER, SECOND BY WHITE, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 19, 2019 MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

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

A. Resolution Recognizing Lunar New Year in Marathon County on an Annual Basis

Discussion:

Last year the Diversity Affairs Committee was approached by a citizen to recognize the Lunar New Year and also asked for assistance in starting a Lunar New Year celebration. This year the focus of the discussion will be on economic trade. There is no other celebration in Wisconsin for the Lunar New Year.

Diversity Affairs is making a recommendation to this committee to recognize the Lunar New Year (or Chinese New Year) which is celebrated by many Southeast Asian communities.

Action:

MOTION BY WAGNER; SECOND BY WHITE TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR IN MARATHON COUNTY ON AN ANNUAL BASIS AND FORWARD TO COUNTY BOARD. MOTION CARRIED.

Follow Through:

Forward to County Board.

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

6. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**

A. Presentation from Wisconsin Institute on Public Policy and Service on Family Friendly Workplace Study

Discussion:

Eric Giordano from the Wisconsin Institute of Public Policy and Service - This committee helped create a family friendly workplace study survey. Giordano went through a Power Point Presentation which shows that early childhood development is a smart investment.

Local data was needed for financial support from the greater Wausau Region Economic Development Plan. Good, quality childcare has an impact on business. Part of the issue through this project is how do businesses work with government, nonprofits and parents to provide good, quality, affordable childcare?

The Project Goals are – using local data:

- Develop a better understanding of how people working in Marathon County view family-friendly workplace policies, programs, and benefits;
- Enable employers and the community to develop more evidence-based strategies to attract and retain talent;
- Evaluate policies that may impact absenteeism and presenteeism; and
- Catalyze how we approach work-life balance in our community so that children and families have a strong foundation for a productive life.

Information will be confidential. Employers can request data from their company only. Data will be generalized.

Doing a soft release right now. There will be an electronic version (preferred) or a paper copy.

How can the county help?

- Have Marathon County formally endorse the Employee/Employer Survey
- Have employees take the survey
- Encourage businesses to participate
- Encourage the general population to participate

It is a well-funded survey. Multiple foundations and business have donated funds toward this.

We are interested in what employee concerns are. The employer doesn't have to participate. It will be kept open at least through February and maybe longer. There will be a community presentation to share the results in April or early summer.

Follow Through:

Encourage participate in the survey.

B. Update on Strategic Plan**Discussion:**

Vice-Chair McEwen is touching base with all Standing Committees on the Strategic Plan. He is looking for statistics and data on policies passed through this committee for the report he will make to the County Board in March. Looking for outcome measures that we are successful with already and want to show progress on some of the objectives and strategies used. This committee is the lead on four objectives.

Chair Guild looked at all the agendas to see what has been done and were things are going since the beginning of the year. Committee members could do the same and at the February meeting will compare data to take to the vice-chair. Broadband will be a big one, multiple resolutions to recognize diversity of our community, WIPPS discussion and UW Extension and ask staff to look at what they have been doing. Also look where there might be gaps and if there are things that should be worked on.

Follow Through:

Committee members were to look at past and future initiatives relating to the strategic plan for the February meeting.

C. Update from UW Madison Division of Extension on work of educators, including Broadband Feasibility Study update

Discussion:

Design 9 is working on revisions to the study. The Committee is planning to make a presentation to County Board at the February meeting. When reviewing the study, ask yourself what are the real questions that you have and that County Board will need. Then we will let Design 9 know prior to the February committee meeting. After the December 17th meeting committee member will have a month to read the study. Design 9 will need our feedback at least 10 days prior to the January board presentation. What do you want Design 9 to put in their presentation?

The next step is what do we do with the study since we don't have broadband? Also, did Design 9 meet the answers to our questions and do we have the information we need?

Follow Through:

Committee member will read the report and let Chair Guild know of questions they want answers to.

7. Announcements, Next Meeting Date and Time:

A. Future committee calendar

The chair will work to schedule upcoming meetings to not conflict with other County Board meetings

Educator report – The contract is signed and UW-Madison, Marathon County (UWEX) are here for 2020. A horticulturist should be hired by mid-January. They have been invited to participate in the career fair in April with UW-Stevens Point- Wausau

Standardizing all meeting dates after new rules accepted. January – March meetings. There will not be a January, 2020, meeting. If necessary, a meeting will be called otherwise the next meeting will be February 18th and then March 17th at 4:00 p.m.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, **MOTION BY SEEFELDT, SECOND BY BEASTROM, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m. MOTION CARRIED.**

Minutes prepared
by Mary Palmer