



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

## MINUTES

Tuesday, December 17, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.

**Employee Resources Conference 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	X	
Alan Christensen		X		Gary Beastro	X	
Sandi Cihlar		X		Alison Leahy	X	
Jeff Johnson		X		Ka Lo	X	
Allen Opall			EX	Jean Maszk		EX
Thomas Seubert		X		Rick Seefeldt	X	

**Also Present:** Lance Leonhard, Katie Rosenberg, Melinda Osterberg

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

John Robinson and Sara Guild called their respective committees to order at 6:31 p.m.

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

**3. Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**

A. Broadband For Marathon County: Broadband Assessment and Plan

1. Discussion of timeline for release of plan and for educational presentation to the County Board

**Discussion:**

Chairs Guild and Robinson explain the structure of the upcoming County Board educational meetings relative to the Broadband Assessment and Plan.

Chairs Guild and Robinson solicit any input from the Committee members on areas that they recognize will need additional explanation during the presentation from Design Nine at January 16<sup>th</sup> County Board meeting. Members of the Committees express a desire that the consultants address the following:

- Does the county have a role in the delivery of broadband services?
- The funding and regulatory systems in the State of Wisconsin.
- Are there certain areas of the county that are cost prohibitive for expansion?
- Clarification of the reference in the summary document that “a few towers” can lead to 100% coverage.
- Examples of other counties that have assumed a role and been successful.
- How can we get broadband providers to the table?
- How soon can we get service to the areas of the county?
- What is our responsibility to the residents relative to public safety, when landlines don’t work?
- Will deployment plans depend on geography and topography and why would the proposed phases start in some areas as opposed to others?
- Are people going to be able to afford it?
- What role are townships going to play?
- How much will it cost, how much coverage will we get, and when can it be completed?
- What amount of grant money is available?
- How does this plan set us up to be sustainable given future technology needs?

Chair Guild and Robinson express to the Committee that this plan is the first step in the process of moving broadband expansion forward in Marathon County and that supervisors are encouraged to reach out to the Chairs to convey questions.

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

5. Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination: None

6. **Announcements:** None

7. **Adjournment**

**MOTION BY CHRISTENSEN, SECOND BY JOHNSON, TO ADJOURN THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:58 P.M.**

**MOTION BY BEASTROM, SECOND BY WAGNER, TO ADJOURN THE EXTENSION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING, MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:58 P.M.**

Minutes Prepared  
By Lance Leonhard  
on December 17, 2019.