



MARATHON COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 6, 2019, at 9:00 a.m.

Marathon County Employee Resources Conference Room, 500 Forest Street, Wausau, WI 54403

Attendance:	Present	Excused	Absent
John Robinson, Chair	X		
Richard Gumz, Vice-Chair	X		
Tom Seubert	X		
Alan Christensen	X		
Sandi Cihlar	X		
Jeff Johnson		X	
Allen Opall	X		

Also Present: Lance Leonhard, Gerard Klein, Melinda Osterberg, Dave Mack, James Griesbach, Kevin Lang, Dominique S., Ralph Illick, Beth Nemec, Rorik Peterson, Kathryn Erwin

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Robinson at 9:00 a.m.

2. Public Comment – No public comment was offered.

**3. Approval of the Minutes of the May 2, 2019 Infrastructure Committee Meeting Minutes
MOTION BY CHRISTENSEN, SECOND BY SEUBERT, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE
APRIL 18, 2019, INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.**

4. Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination - None

A. 2020 Capital Improvement Request

1. Review 2020 Highway Capital Improvement Request

Discussion:

Commissioner Griesbach explains the requests made by the Highway Department. Griesbach reviews past maintenance efforts made by the county on the bridge at issue on County Road G and the current state of the bridge. Griesbach explains that the bridge has been structurally deficient for several years. Griesbach answers questions from the committee on the proposed project.

Action:

MOTION BY CHRISTENSEN, SECOND BY OPALL, TO APPROVE FORWARDING THE REQUEST TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE. MOTION CARRIED.

Follow through:

Request to be forwarded to the CIP committee.

2. City County Information Technology Commission Request

Discussion:

City County Information Technology Director Gerard Klein provides a written summary of the 2020 Capital requests from CCITC and summarizes each of the requests. Chair Robinson inquires if there is the opportunity to “better” allocate overhead relative to the cost of the technology equipment. Klein answers questions from the committee relative to the requests.

Action:

MOTION BY CHRISTENSEN, SECOND BY SEUBERT, TO APPROVE FORWARDING THE REQUEST TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE. MOTION CARRIED.

Follow through:

Request to be forwarded to the CIP committee. County Administration to work with CCITC to assess the potential benefit of allocating the direct technology equipment costs to departments to better capture true costs and improve cost recovery.

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

6. Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion

A. EDP Renewables Introduction and Presentation on Upcoming Wind Farm Project to Western Marathon County

Discussion:

Kathryn Erwin and Rorik Peterson appear before the committee and explain the work of EDP Renewables and the company's efforts to implement a wind farm in western Marathon County. Each explains that wind farms are best suited for areas where agriculture is the predominant use. Kathryn explains that preliminary plans call for construction to begin in 2021 and would consist of between 17 and 27 turbines. Each explains that the turbines would be constructed on land procured by contract. Road use agreements will be put in place with Town of Eau Pleine, Town of Brighton, and Marathon County.

Kathryn and Rorik answer questions from committee members. Dominique Swansu indicates that the county will be reviewing the application submission.

Follow through:

Future presentations to the County Board will be pursued once additional details are confirmed.

B. Dig Once Policy, Melinda Osterberg

Discussion:

Ralph Illick explains that the Marathon County Library is working with the local library branches to expand access to wi-fi at those locations.

Melinda explains to the committee that pursuing the dig-once policy is a directive from the strategic plan.

Types of policies – (1) laying conduit of dark fiber for future expansion; (2) facilitating communication amongst providers and municipalities.

Chair Robinson references that the presentation of this model ordinance is for purposes of starting a conversation. Facilitating communication is a short-term goal, while the issue relative to the laying of conduit or dark fiber is more of a long-term focus. Gerard Klein explains that the county's ordinance could stimulate other local municipalities to adopt similar ordinances.

Follow through:

Gary Hetzer to attend the next committee meeting to discuss current mapping resources available relative to broadband and other utility providers. Chair Robinson indicates that this item will be on next month's agenda.

C. Introduction to Broadband Basics

Discussion:

Klein delivers an informational presentation to the committee relative to several topics, explaining the significant increase in the speed thresholds under federal broadband definitions since 2009 and some of the key federal and state laws relative to broadband. Klein also explains the various types of broadband, how they work, and the advantages and disadvantages of each: Cable, Phone (DSL), Satellite, Cellular, Fiber (Fiber to the home), Wifi.

Klein also utilizes aerial maps to explain the various types of county broadband infrastructure and services available across Marathon County.

Follow through:

None necessary.

D. Wisconsin County Highway Association Workzone Safety Video

Discussion:

Griesbach exhibits a draft of the safety video prepared by Wisconsin County Highway Association to the committee.

Follow through:

None necessary.

E. Highway Commissioner's Report

Discussion:

Griesbach reviews his written report contained in the packet, specifically discussing the importance of annual roadway improvement spending in the allocation of general transportation aids from the state.

Follow through:

None necessary.

F. City County Information Technology Commission Report

Discussion:

No additional information provided.

Follow through:

None necessary.

7. Announcements:

A. Future meetings and agenda items:

1. Bridge and Culvert Request Procedure
2. July 11th, 2019 Monthly Infrastructure Meeting

B. Announcements

1. Commissioner Griesbach references a potential review of speed limit on Highway M in Athens may be on the agenda for August.

8. Adjourn

MOTION TO ADJOURN BY OPALL, SECOND BY GUMZ, MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes prepared

By Lance Leonhard on June 6, 2019