



MARATHON COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE AGENDA

Date & Time of Meeting: **Thursday, November 5, 2020, 9:00 a.m.**

Meeting Location: **Marathon County Highway Department, 1430 West Street Wausau WI. 54401**

Members: Randy Fifrick, Chair; Sandi Cihlar, Vice-Chair; Chris Dickinson; Jeff Johnson, Richard Gumz, John Robinson; Alan Christensen

Marathon County Mission Statement: Marathon County Government serves people by leading, coordinating, and providing county, regional, and statewide initiatives. It directly, or in cooperation with other public and private partners, provides services and creates opportunities that make Marathon County and the surrounding area a preferred place to live, work, visit, and do business.

Infrastructure Committee Mission/Purpose: Provide leadership for the implementation of the Strategic Plan, monitoring outcomes, reviewing and recommending to the County Board policies related to technology and infrastructure initiatives of Marathon County, which includes, but is not limited to, highways, airways, waterways, etc.

The meeting site identified above will be open to the public. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health directives, Marathon County encourages Executive Committee members and the public to attend this meeting remotely. Instead of attendance in person, Committee members and the public may attend this meeting by **telephone conference**. If Committee members or members of the public cannot attend remotely, Marathon County requests that appropriate safety measures, including adequate social distancing, be utilized by all in-person attendees.

Persons wishing to attend the meeting by phone may call into the **telephone conference beginning five (5) minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following number: 408-418-9388. Access Code: 146 962 7848- Meeting from phones- PLEASE MUTE YOUR PHONE!**

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of the Minutes of the October 1, 2020, Infrastructure Committee Meeting.
4. Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination:
 1. Update on Broadband Expansion Efforts and Authorization to Support Broadband Grant Application(s) to Public Service Commission (PSC)
5. Operational Functions required by Statute, Ordinance, Resolution or Policy: N/A
6. Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion
 1. Capital Funding Projects (Griesbach)
 2. EDP Renewables Wind Farm Update (Griesbach)
 3. CCIT Update (Klein)
 4. Commissioner's Report (Griesbach)
7. Announcements:
 - A. Future meetings and agenda items:
 1. December 3, 2020, Monthly Committee Meeting at 1430 West Street, Wausau WI 54401
8. Adjourn

Any person planning to attend this meeting who needs some type of special accommodation in order to participate should call the County Clerk's Office at 715 261-1500 or e-mail infomarathon@mail.co.marathon.wi.us one business day before the meeting.

SIGNED /s/ Randy Fifrick
Presiding Officer or Designee

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE

FAXED TO: Wausau Daily Herald, City Pages,
FAXED TO: and Other Media Groups
FAXED BY: K Pergolski
FAXED DATE: _____
FAXED TIME: _____

BY: _____
DATE: _____
TIME: _____



MARATHON COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 1, 2020, 9:00 a.m.
Marathon County Highway Department, Wausau, WI

Attendance:	Present	Excused	Absent
Randy Fifrick, Chair	x		
Sandi Cihlar, Vice-Chair	x		
John Robinson	x		
Jeff Johnson	x		
Alan Christensen	x		
Richard Gumz	x		
Chris Dickinson	x		

Also Present: James Griesbach, Kevin Lang, Kendra Pergolski, Gerry Klein, Brian Grefe, Jean Kopplin, Jean Maszk, Dave Mack, Craig McEwen, Lance Leonhard, Andrew Lynch, Tim Meis

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Cihlar at 9:01 a.m.
2. **Public Comment:** Tim Meis addressed the committee with concerns regarding wild parsnips near the Town of Knowlton.
3. **Approval of the Minutes of the September 3, 2020, and September 10, 2020, Infrastructure Committee Meetings**
MOTION BY CHRISTENSEN, SECOND BY JOHNSON, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 3, 2020 AND SEPTEMBER 10, 2020, INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETINGS. MOTION CARRIED.
4. **Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination: N/A**
5. **Operational Functions required by Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution: N/A**
6. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion: N/A**

A. Central Wisconsin Airport Update

Discussion: Grefe addressed the committee regarding Central Wisconsin Airport updates including: the 2021 budget (\$5,125,520.00) which consists of no levied tax payer dollars, the airport is running at roughly 45% with a steady increase, and the concourse renovation has been completed. Grefe also advised that the Presidential visit went smoothly

B. Accomplishments of the Infrastructure Committee: Strategic Plan

Discussion: McEwen addressed the committee to review accomplishments and goals of the Infrastructure Committee as set forth in the Marathon County Strategic Plan 2018-2020. He detailed the value in the form prepared to address each objective by noting the strategy, actionable item, contributors, status and action.

C. Broadband Update

Discussion: Robinson expounded on the current task forces strategies in trying to drive providers to provide services to problem areas and meet service adequacy to said area. He touched on the initiative to resolve issues with virtual learning through meetings with area schools.

D. Update of Long-term Transportation Plan

Discussion: Griesbach informed the committee that he is hopeful to have the safety study by the end of the month. Griesbach elaborated on the benefits of a borrowing strategy that would maximize General Transportation Aid funding in the future. He also stressed the value that said borrowed money would provide to the overall roadway maintenance.

E. Presentation on How Wild Parsnips are Handled Throughout the County

Discussion: Griesbach provided the committee with a presentation on wild parsnips including: how to identify them, threatening areas in the county, what is used to kill invasive species, and the mowing/spraying times of the summer.

F. Covid-19 Related IT Projects

Discussion: Klein defined what projects are currently taking place internally vs externally. Internally, they are trying to improve county conference rooms, small video systems, and improving the wi-fi outside. Externally, they are working on extending or introducing fiber in specific areas including Hatley and Rothschild.

G. City County Information Technology Department Update

Discussion: Currently, the CCIT Department is working to expand access at our own facilities and then seeking reimbursement for those expansions in an effort to mitigate the spread of Covid-19.

H. Highway Commissioner's Report

Discussion: Report provided.

7. **Announcements:**

A. Future meetings and location, agenda topics
November 5, 9:00 AM, 1430 West Street, Wausau

8. **Adjourn**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN BY ROBINSON, SECOND BY FIFRICK. MOTION CARRIED.
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:30AM.**

Minutes prepared

By Kendra Pergolski on October 1, 2020.



MARATHON COUNTY

OFFICE OF HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER

1430 WEST STREET
WAUSAU, WI 54401

TO: Infrastructure Committee
FROM: Jim Griesbach
RE: November Highway Report
Date: November 5th, 2020

We experienced one positive case for Covid-19 within the department. We have also have had another 2 staff members meeting that criteria for being quarantined for 14 days. We have developed a protocol which may allow those quarantined without symptoms to plow if needed, and was approved by Marathon County Health Department. We have done improvements to our shops, such as adding touchless faucets, and toilets and adding a bathroom to one of our Stratford buildings. The cost for these improvements will be covered under the Road for Recovery Act.

We are currently in the process of hiring our new Purchasing agent. Jeff Hahn our former purchasing agent has accepted the position of Equipment and Facility Supervisor. He began his new duties November 2nd, he will be splitting time between the positions until a purchasing agent is hired.

I am currently reviewing Request for Proposals for 4 bridge decks designs for 2021 construction.

Summer project update

- CTH M Bridge south of CTH P was completed was October 15th.
- Crews finished paving culvert patches and other minor paving patches in October.
- Construction crews are working on a few remaining ditch grading projects for roadways that are planned for paving in future years.
- Catch basins have been cleaned out and repaired.
- Mowing crews are finishing a second round of mowing in on the County highways. State highways do not have a second round of mowing planned.
- Culvert aid application for 2021 are being reviewed.
- The Shop finished harnessing all the trucks but one that is having some repairs to it. All truck salters and spreaders have been calibrated for use.
- Operations staff has divided our staff 14 groups in an effort to isolate staff during the winter months. The efforts are intended to reduce staff impacts in the event we have employees testing positive for COVID 19.
- Bids have been opened for 2021 paving program, results will be discussed in the December meeting.

Submitted by
James Griesbach
Highway Commissioner

Marathon County Highway

6 Year Averages

6-Year Average Cost (2014-2019) \$16,217,863.83

2019 Submitted Costs: \$14,935,735.40

6-Year Average Cost (2013-2018) \$16,126,497.43

2018 Submitted Cost: \$13,359,048.40

6-Year Average Cost (2012-2017) \$16,538,018.70

2017 Submitted Cost: \$14,475,485.20

6-Year Average Cost (2011-2016) \$16,903,450.83

2016 Submitted Cost: \$17,339,243.00

6-Year Average Cost (2010-2015) \$16,667,819.50

2015 Submitted Cost: \$21,976,765.00

6-Year Average Cost (2009-2014) \$15,322,425.00

2014 Submitted Cost: \$15,220,906.00

6-Year Average Cost (2008-2013) \$15,279,571.83

2013 Submitted Cost: \$14,387,537.00

Marathon County Highway
General Transportation Aids

2021 (projected)	\$3,227,394
2020 (projected)	\$3,338,202
2019	\$3,155,341
2018	\$3,154,121
2017	\$2,921,133
2016	\$2,803,131
2015	\$2,820,570
2014	\$2,750,997
2013	\$2,914,009

Marathon County Highway
2021 Possible Bonded Projects

Bridge Deck Replacements/Box Culvert	
B-37-137 CTH "C" Johnson Creek	\$175,000
B-37-138 CTH "C" Little Eau Claire River	\$175,000
B-37-139 CTH "X" Johnson Creek	\$175,000
B-37-151 CTH "O" Little Rib River	\$555,000
Engineering for Deck Replacements	\$80,000
P105 Box Culvert CTH "P"	\$105,000
Pavement Replacement	
CTH "X" Howland – Weston Avenue	
Mill 2" and Replace with new Asphalt	<u>\$668,000</u>
Total Cost	\$1,933,000

PROPOSED CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING BROADBAND PROJECTS IN MARATHON COUNTY
(October 22, 2020)

Definitions:

“Broadband service” means a communications service providing to end users, at a minimum, two-way data transmission with speeds of at least 50 mbps for download transmission and 10 mbps for upload transmission, but does not include a commercial mobile radio service or a broadband service in which a stand-alone satellite provider connects directly to the end user with a satellite connection.

“Scalable” means, with respect to a project for a broadband network, that the broadband network has the ability to maintain the quality of its service while increasing parameters relating to the size of the network, such as the number of users, the number of network nodes, the number of services provided, or the network's geographic spread.

“Underserved” means served by fewer than 2 broadband service providers.

“Unserved area” means an area of this state that is not served by an Internet service provider offering Internet service that is all of the following:

1. Fixed wireless service or wired service.
2. Provided at actual speeds of at least 20 percent of the upload and download speeds for advanced telecommunications capability as designated by the federal communications commission in its inquiries regarding advanced telecommunications capability under [47 USC 1302](#) (b).

The intent of this program is to expand broadband access to areas that are not currently served by at least two providers meeting the service delivery speeds outlined above. Projects must demonstrate a clear and achievable plan to improve broadband communications services in one or more unserved or underserved areas in the county.

The criteria shall give priority to projects that:

- include matching funds,
- that involve public-private partnerships,
- that affect unserved or underserved areas,
- that are scalable,
- that promote economic development,
- that will not result in delaying the provision of broadband service to areas neighboring areas to be served by the proposed project, or that affect a large geographic area or a large number of unserved or underserved individuals or communities,
- projects which address unserved or underserved areas in the towns north of Hwy 29 will be given priority when allocating county funds

The criteria shall prohibit grants that have the effect of subsidizing the expenses of a provider of telecommunications service, or the monthly bills of customers of those providers

When evaluating grant applications under this section, the county shall consider:

- the degree to which the proposed projects would not duplicate existing broadband infrastructure, information about the presence of which is provided by the applicant or another person within a time period designated by the county;
- the impacts of the proposed projects on the ability of individuals to access health care services from home and the cost of those services; and
- the impacts of the proposed projects on the ability of students to access educational opportunities from home; and
- the impacts of the proposed projects on the ability of individuals and businesses to access telework opportunities from home.

An explanation of how the proposed project will increase broadband access. Include information about the:

- Potential and expected number of households served, including number of unserved and underserved locations.
- Potential and expected number of businesses served, including number of unserved and underserved locations.
- Expected number of seasonal residents and tourists served.
- Estimated download and upload speed of the broadband service packages available for purchase.
- A statement whether the proposed project is targeting the “last mile,” “middle mile,” or backbone portion of the broadband infrastructure.
- A description of the broadband service to be provided, including estimated download and upload speeds, whether the speed is based on dedicated or shared bandwidth, and the technology that will be used. This description may be illustrated by a map or schematic diagram, as appropriate.
- A description the area of the county that will be affected by the proposed project
- A schedule by which the applicant intends to complete the components of the proposed project. The project period is up to 24 months.
- A proposed budget for the proposed project, including the capital costs of the project and the expected revenue sources including contributions from partners.

WHEREAS, access to broadband access is essential for economic development, virtual and lifetime learning, rural prosperity, and telehealth health services in Marathon County;

WHEREAS, Marathon County has recognized the importance of broadband access in ensuring the health, safety and economic prosperity for all residents;

WHEREAS, a significant portion of the county is currently “unserved’ and “underserved” in terms of access to reliable and adequate broadband services;

WHEREAS, the County has recognized the need to play a role in enhancing broadband access to its residents based on the findings and work done in association with the 2009 Broadband Gap Analysis, the 2015 Broadband Connectivity Task Force Report, and the 2019 Broadband Assessment and Plan prepared by Design Nine;

WHEREAS, based on meetings and discussions with Internet Service Providers and evaluating the recommendations of Design Nine the County Board created a Broadband Task Force and charged it with identifying strategies, partners and potential funding sources that will support the expansion of broadband services to underserved areas;

WHEREAS, the Broadband Task has reviewed opportunities to expand broadband services through the \$24 million Broadband Expansion Grant Program administered by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC);

WHEREAS, the Task Force and county administration have developed criteria that will be used to evaluate whether Marathon County will partner with Internet Service Providers is seeking funding,

WHEREAS, applications for the grant are due by December 1, 2020 and the Task Force is working with a number of providers to develop proposals that will serve the greatest number of residents and businesses in unserved or underserved areas in the County,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marathon County Board of Supervisors supports efforts to expand broadband access by entering into partnerships with Internet Service Providers and/or other partners in submitting grant application(s) to the Public Service Commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that appropriate county officials are empowered to act under this resolution to convey County support for and commit County resources to broadband service expansion applications that satisfy the criteria established by the Marathon County Broadband Task Force and are within the budgeted amount authorized by the Marathon County Board of Supervisors through adoption of its 2021 Capital Improvement Plan. County officials are also authorized to work with and support Internet Service Providers and/or other partners in obtaining financing thru the use of conduit bonds, revolving loan programs or other suitable means they have determined to be most advantageous to the interests of Marathon County within the constraints of the Budget approved by the County Board.