

Marathon County Board of Health

Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 7:45 AM

Meeting Location: 1000 Lake View Drive, Suite 100
Wausau, WI 54403

In addition to attendance in person at the location described above, in light of COVID-19 “Safer at Home” Board of Health Members and the public are encouraged to attend by internet or telephone conference. Persons wishing to attend the meeting by internet or by phone are to access the Zoom Web Conferencing Link or Conference Call Line five minutes prior to the start time indicated above.

Zoom Web Conferencing Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/981621921?pwd=bllPS1FFampueUZmSEt2NGFiL3NjUT09>

Meeting ID: 981 621 921

Password: 006492

Conference Call Line:

Dial: 1-(312) 626-6799

Meeting ID: 981 621 921

Committee Members: John Robinson, Chair; Sandi Cihlar, Vice-Chair; Lori Shepherd, Secretary; Mary Ann Crosby; Dean Danner; Kue Her; Tiffany Lee

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. (Last updated: 12-20-05)

Marathon County Health Department Mission Statement: To advance a healthy Marathon County community by preventing disease, promoting health, and protecting the public from environmental hazards. (Last updated: 5-7-13)

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Public Comment Period**
3. **Approval of the Minutes of the March 3, 2020 Board of Health Meeting**
4. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution**
 - A. None
5. **Policy Discussion and Possible Action**
 - A. Recommendations to restructure the Recreational Pool Licensing and Water Testing Fees

- i. Overview of changes made to decrease tax levy and improve efficiencies of the water lab.
 - B. Overview of COVID-19 response and impact on Marathon County Health Department program services
 - C. Report from the Health & Human Services Committee on policy issues impacting public health - March 23, 2020 meeting cancelled
- 6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports**
 - A. Role of Local Health Departments in the surveillance of the Coronavirus Disease 2019
- 7. Announcements**
- 8. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location, Future Agenda Items: May 5, 2020**
 - A. TBD based on COVID-19 response
 - i. Update on the Board of Health Self-Assessment Plan of Work
 - ii. Continuation of the identification of community health priorities with members from Healthy Marathon County

9. Adjourn

FAXED TO: Daily Herald, City Pages,
Marshfield News, Mid-West Radio Group

Signed _____

THIS NOTICE POSTED AT THE COURTHOUSE

Date _____ Time _____

By _____

Date _____ Time _____

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.

MARATHON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2020

Present: Mary Ann Crosby, Kue Her, Sandi Cihlar, Tiffany Lee, John Robinson, Dean Danner, Lori Shepherd, Laura Scudiere

MCHD Staff: Eileen Eckardt, Joan Theurer, Amanda Ostrowski, Dale Grosskurth, Chris Weisgram, Judy Burrows

Others Present: Patti Shafto-Carlson, Tara Draeger, Jeff Sargent, Corrie Norrbom, Kim Larson, Jen Smith, Erin Wells, Ciara Schultz, Debi Traeder

1. Call to Order

John Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:49 a.m.

2. Public Comment Period

None

3. Approval of the Minutes of the February 4, 2020 Board of Health Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2020 Board of Health meeting made by Dean Danner. Second by Tiffany Lee. Motion approved.

4. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution

A. None

5. Policy Discussion and Possible Action

A. Overview of the Start Right program assessment components and timeline

An assessment of the Start Right program will be completed by October 1, 2020, which will review best practices in relationship to the program, program design and outcome data in relationship to state studies, and local program outcomes in relationship to state and national benchmarks. Joan Theurer has developed a work plan for carrying out four outcome measures. Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy has been contacted as a potential resource to provide an overview of assessment findings.

John Robinson shared that the interest in completing the assessment of the Start Right program came from concerns expressed from County Board supervisors during budget discussions. It will be important to have the right data and analysis available to help with decision making. The Start Right program assessment plan of work to be reviewed by the Health & Human Services Committee to ensure assessment components will address previously expressed concerns by County Board supervisors.

Lori Shepherd motioned to accept the recommendation to move forward with the assessment. Seconded by Sandi Cihlar. Motion approved.

B. Recommendations to restructure the Recreational Pool Licensing and Water Testing Fees

Joan Theurer reviewed the goal to have licensing and water testing fees for recreational pools to pay for direct costs, including program general administration and supervision. Joan also reviewed the background for how the current fee structure was developed. Joan shared the plan is to have a policy decision made at the April meeting, and today's goal is to introduce the proposed changes.

Dale Grosskurth reviewed the process for testing and inspecting pools, and when re-inspection is necessary, as well as when fees are charged.

Joan shared that an overall goal of the proposal is to separate licensing fees from water testing fees, and to also cover overhead costs for the inspection program. There would be increases in licensing and water testing revenues, and collection of fees would be streamlined and easier to manage. Joan reviewed the impact to operators, with the proposed revisions to the fee structures for licensing and water testing.

Discussion on how water testing fees compare with other labs in the state that do the same tests.

Joan clarified that the proposal is the first step in looking at the fee structure for all licensing areas. Licensing and water testing fees for recreational pools to be agenda for the April 7, 2020 meeting.

6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports (as time permits)

A. Role of Local Health Departments in the surveillance of the Coronavirus Disease 2019

Joan Theurer outlined the role of the health department, which includes surveillance and planning, in partnership with other health agencies in the County. The health department is also responsible for keeping the public informed of the current status of the disease. Additionally, the health department is responsible for non-pharmaceutical response. Currently, the health department has put in place its incident command structure, to provide efficient communication and deletion of roles.

A work plan has been put together and shared with the Interim County Administrator. Surveillance and monitoring systems are in place, and communication with state health agencies are happening weekly. Further outreach to schools, municipalities and other agencies will provide accurate resources for information.

Dean Danner asked if COVID 19 could be a standing agenda item for the next several months, and if any local events are happening in relation to the disease, if Board members could be informed.

7. Announcements

A. Resignation Michael McGrail, MD

8. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location, Future Agenda Items: April 7, 2020

A. Update on the Board of Health Self-Assessment Plan of Work

B. Department of Health Services 140 Review Site Visit scheduled April 15, 2020

C. Update on measures taken to reduce tax levy support for the Water Testing Lab

D. Continuation of the identification of community health priorities with members from Healthy Marathon County

9. Policy Discussion and Possible Action (Continued)

A. Identification of the 2021-2024 Community Health Priorities – Healthy Marathon County Alliance Members to join at 8:15AM

Amanda Ostrowski provided an overview of the process that will be used to identify health priorities. Members from Healthy Marathon County joined in a facilitated process and discussion to select the priority topics for the next four years.

- Substance Misuse and Abuse
- Mental Health
- Adverse Childhood Experiences, Trauma, Resilience
- Discrimination

Judy Burrows shared an update on an initiative to move forward aligning state and federal law as it relates to Tobacco 21.

Mary Ann Crosby shared updates from the Health & Human Services committee meeting.

- Board of Health accomplishments from 2019
- Presentation on a plan for consideration of trauma for meetings, court dates, etc.

Laura Scudiere shared that she will be resigning her position as a Board of Health member, as she has accepted a position with the Health Department.

9. Adjourn

John Robinson adjourned the meeting at 9:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Shepherd, Secretary
Chris Weisgram, Recorder

Marathon County Board of Health

Recommendation: Licensing and Water Testing Fees for Recreational Pools

February 21, 2020 (Revised April 6, 2020)

Policy Statement Goal: Licensing and water testing fees for recreational pools are to pay for direct costs to include program general administration and supervision.

Background: The Marathon County Board of Health is responsible for adopting the Marathon County Agent Program Regulation. Under the regulation, *“samples of pool water shall be submitted by the owner/operator every two weeks at a minimum. Samples may be required on a more frequent basis for new facilities or to monitor bacteriological water quality”*. Currently, a portion of the licensing fee for recreational pools subsidizes pool water samples.

As part of the evaluation of the Water Testing Lab Program done during the winter of 2018, water test fees are being evaluated. The Water Lab drinking water fees were evaluated and better aligned with costs for the test performed. As of January 1, 2020, changes that have been made include:

- The Water Lab drinking water tests have been unbundled and are charged separately for each test type as of January 1, 2020.
- The Department of Natural Resources Transient Non-Community (TNC) wells follow up test will be charged. Over 500 tests were not charged in 2019.

As part of this process, the Water Lab testing fees for recreational pools has been studied. The licensing and water lab testing fee structure for recreational pools has been in place prior to 2009. Under the current structure,

- For Licensing Recreational Pools Fees,
 - o All pool operators share the cost of a re-inspection for failed inspections.
 - No re-inspection fee is charged if the re-inspection passes. If the re-inspection does not pass the fee is 1st fail = \$100, 2nd fail = \$200, and fail = \$300 applies for all license holders.
 - Re-inspection fees were applied to the operator (facility) not by the number of pools re-inspected.
 - In 2019, there were 44 re-inspections, 12 resulted in a charge.
 - o Fees are not aligned with state licensing categories.
 - o Seasonal pools' licensing fees are charged a reduced rate.
- For Water Testing Fee for Recreational Pools,
 - o Pool operators are charged a reduced water testing fee through the Lab, as part of the license fee subsidizes the water sample fee.
 - o \$25,000 of the pool licensing fees are transferred from the Licensing Program to the Water Testing Lab Program.

Recommendation: The proposed recommendation is to separate the license fee for recreational pools from the water testing fee with the goal to recoup direct costs that includes program general administration and supervision. Specific recommendations include:

1. Licensing categories for recreational pools are aligned with State of WI Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) license categories.
2. Proposed licensing fees for recreational pools are based on the average amount of time it takes to inspect.
3. Seasonal pools will be charged a full licensing fee.
4. Pool operators will be charged a re-inspection fee of \$317.00 anytime a pool re-inspection is performed, not having other operators subsidize the re-inspection.
5. Proposed pool water testing fees are to reflect the true cost of testing.

The outcomes by adopting these recommendations: 1) Increase licensing fee revenue; 2) Increase water testing revenue; and 3) Streamline the collection of revenues. For 2020, the tax levy support in the Lab budget is \$88,408. This does not include Lab Water Testing program supervision costs (currently 27%).

Proposed Licensing Fee Structure:

Old Categories	Fees
Swimming Pool	\$755
Pool – Additional	\$418
Pool – Seasonal	\$526
Re-inspection that Passes	\$0
Re-inspection – 1 st Failed	\$100
Re-inspection – 2 nd Failed	\$200

New Categories	Fees
Swimming Pool	\$490
Pool - Additional	\$209
Water Attraction – No Slides	\$426
Water Attraction – Up to 2 Slides	\$721
Water Attraction – Additional Side Each	\$94
Water Attraction – Additional on Same Property – Up to 2 Slides	\$382
Re-Inspection Fee	\$317

Net revenue gain is estimated to be \$20,000. Tax levy support in the 2020 Licensing budget is \$14,857. The licensing fees are anticipated to cover staff direct and general administration along with 5% of supervision. The new fees will close the gap of the true cost of the Licensing program supervision costs (currently .27FTE Licensing program supervision, .02FTE for pools).

Proposed Water Sample Fee Structure

Test	MCHD Old	MCHD Proposed	State Lab Fee	U.S. Waters	AG Source
Heterotrophic Plate Count	\$8	\$27	\$32	\$6	\$14
Pseudomonas	\$3	\$16	\$45	\$19	\$36
Notes: State Lab of Hygiene turnaround is 4-5 days. Information from area water labs pending.					

Net revenue gain estimated to be \$19, 500. Tax levy support in the 2020 Water Lab budget is \$88,408. It is anticipated the tax levy support will be less than \$88,408 as a result of drinking water fee changes implemented January 1, 2020. It is estimated that the drinking water fee changes will bring in an additional \$60,000 in revenue, having tax levy support anticipated at \$28,408. The new pool water testing fees are anticipated to offset the cost of staff direct and general administration. It will not cover Water Lab program supervision costs (currently .27FTE overall Lab supervision, .09FTE represents pools).

Impact to Customers: The following table shows pool facility types and the impact of the proposed changes to the pool water analysis fee and licensing fee changes.

		Water Analysis Fee						License Fee***	
	Example	HPC Qty	Pseudo Qty	Old	New	Difference	Annual Difference *	Difference	Total Impact (annual)
Pool	Marathon Area Swim Association	1	0	\$ 8	\$ 27	\$ 19	\$ 494	-280	\$ 214
Pool + Whirlpool	Hampton Inn	2	1	\$ 19	\$ 69	\$ 50	\$ 1,300	-504	\$ 796
Seasonal Pool**	Kaiser Pool (only 2 water slides)	1	0	\$ 8	\$ 27	\$ 19	\$ 133	180	\$ 313
Water Attraction	Grand Lodge	4	1	\$ 35	\$ 123	\$ 88	\$ 2,288	-469	\$ 1,819
*Assumes no unsafes in year									
**Assumes open 14 weeks									
***Assumes no re-inspections occurred									

The total annual impact assumes that all inspections will pass and water analysis will be safe. Re-inspections and follow-up water testing fees were not included in calculating the impact.

Marathon County Health Department Water Lab Changes

March 4, 2020

Policy Statement: Licensing and water testing fees for recreational pools are to pay for direct costs to include program general administration and supervision. A comprehensive evaluation was conducted in the winter of 2018. On April 3, 2018, the Board of Health per motion approved, “after reviewing the evaluation of the lab program, finds that the water testing program meets the business needs of the community by protecting the public’s health and providing a valuable service through quick turnaround of testing and ability to respond locally, and that Staff will come back to the Board with a recommendation for changing the fee structure for water testing services”.

Summary of Changes: The following is a summary of changes made to decrease tax levy and improve efficiencies of the water lab.

Fee Increases – effective 1/1/20

Test type	Current Fee 2018	Fee effective 1/1/2020	Qty 2018	Estimated Annual Impact (based on 2018 counts)
Bacteria alone	\$27	\$22	510	-\$2,550
Nitrate alone	\$27	\$33	259	\$1,554
Fluoride alone	\$27	\$25	28	-\$56
Bacteria (multiple tests)	\$27	\$19	677	-\$5,416
Nitrate (multiple tests)	\$9	\$28	678	\$12,882
Fluoride (multiple tests)	\$7	\$22	327	\$4,905
Swim	\$8	\$8	837	\$0
Whirlpool	\$11	\$11	938	\$0
Bacti- TNC follow up	\$0	\$19	537	\$10,203
Nitrate – TNC follow up	\$0	\$28	17	\$476
Bacti- Municipalities	\$8	\$11	1,436	\$4,308
USDA Forest Service	\$19	\$19 through 12/31/2020		\$0
		Total		\$26,306
NOTES:				
2018 Lab deficit = \$57,000				
2019 budgeted lab deficit = \$49,476				
2020 budgeted lab deficit = \$88,408				

Notes

- Full price for single tests. We offer a 15% discount on each test if more than 1 test is needed on a sample for contractors and well owners.
- Cost for DNR TNC follow-up samples is 15% less than single test price.
- Did not analyze or change pool and whirlpool prices.
- Refer to Appendix 1 for Comparison of Water Lab Fees

Lab Staffing

In 2018, Lab Technician hours were changed so that one technician works from 7:45 am – 4:15 pm and the other Lab Technician works from 8:30 am – 5:00 pm. This was to ensure that the doors were open and they were ready to accept samples at 8:00 am and to reduce comp time earned due to staying past 4:30 pm when customers dropped off samples late in the day.

Effective in 2019, Lab Technicians in allocated positions work 1.0 FTE year round. Formerly, each Lab Technician worked .875 FTE from October through mid-April, and 1.0 FTE from mid-April through September. This action was taken to minimize back-up hours of Environmental Health Sanitarians and time spent by supervisor in assuring staff coverage.

Lab Hours for Accepting Samples

Effective July 1, 2019, the Water Testing Lab is closed to the public at 3:00 pm on Fridays, year round. Lab Technicians are scheduled to work until 4:30 pm. Between 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm Lab Technicians are working on setting up samples that came in until 3:00 pm. In addition, they can work on policies and procedures, ordering supplies, rabies follow-up, equipment maintenance, rounding, and touch base with colleagues and Dale.

Sample set-up process takes on average 60-75 for one sample; 75-80 minutes for 5 samples. Stopping sample acceptance at 3 allows Lab Technicians to complete sample set up and end their day by 4:30 pm.

Lab Technicians could leave early if they had stayed late during the week in order to reduce comp time earned while prioritizing urgent vs. important work.

Test Method Changes

Pool Water Testing

Switched method for Heterotrophic Plate Count (HPC) from Pour Plate to Simplate method resulting in a savings of an estimated \$9,575.00 per year in time and supplies. The change in pool water testing involved purchasing a prepared media and disposable test kit, eliminating the need to prepare media in-house. This change greatly reduced staff time involved in media preparation. This estimate is based on having 1741 HPC tests run in 2019. This estimate includes direct time and supplies only. It does not include support, time off, management time or overhead.

In conjunction, samples are now disposed of through a waste disposal contractor rather than using an autoclave. The Lab autoclaves were well over 30 years old, costly to maintain, and very expensive to replace.

Drinking Water Testing

Switched methods for nitrate testing of drinking water. Under the old method, Lab Technicians were experiencing daily equipment calibration problems, the electrodes were failing prematurely and were expensive to replace. This meant analysis run time was longer and results were delayed. This increased staff time to perform analysis. In addition, nitrate analysis reagents were costly and had to be made up weekly.

A new nitrate instrument was purchased that requires calibration annually rather than daily. Because the nitrate kit is commercially prepared rather than needing to be made in-house and the nitrate

equipment works reliably, Lab staff time to perform nitrate analysis is therefore reduced. An additional benefit with the method and equipment change is being able to accurately detect nitrate at a lower level (<0.9 to <0.2 mg/L).

Pools & Whirlpools

Pool and whirlpool water testing fees have been evaluated in relationship to licensing fees. Recommendations for proposed changes in license fees, pool water testing fees were presented at the March 3, 2020 Marathon County Board of Health meeting, having a policy decision made at the April 7, 2020 meeting. Any policy changes would go into effect 4/1/2020 to coincide with the 15 month license year. See Recommendation: Licensing and Water Testing Fees for Recreational Pools, February 21, 2020 (Revised March 30, 2020) document.

Appendix 1: Water Test Fees Compared to Competitors

As of 3/5/20

<u>Test</u>	<u>MCHD</u>	<u>WSLH</u>	<u>US Water</u>	<u>AgSource</u>	<u>UWSP</u>	<u>Lab-Tech Services</u>
Coliform Bacteria/E.Coli	22	30	29	23	26	19
Nitrate	33	30	29	18	18	19
Fluoride	25	26	29	18	22	Not offered
pH	11	26 for Alk included (package)	15	8	10	7
Total Alkalinity	11	26 for pH included (package)	15	10	12	12
Iron	11	30	17	14	25 single 9 when added	25
Hardness	11	36	15	24	12	12
Copper	11	30	39	14	25 single 9 when added	Not offered
Arsenic	40	30	39	40	25 single 9 when added	37
Pseudomonas	3	45	19	Will call with info	Not offered	Not offered
HPC	8	32	Will return info via email	Will call with info	Not offered	Not offered



**Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Division of Public Health
PHA VR - WEDSS**

**YTD Disease Incidents by Episode Date
Incidents for MMWR Weeks 1 - 12 (Through Week of March 21, 2020)
Jurisdiction: Marathon County**

Disease Group	2020						Total	2019 *
	Week 8	Week 9	Week 10	Week 11	Week 12			
Blastomycosis	0	0	0	0	0	1	9	
Campylobacteriosis (Campylobacter Infection)	1	1	0	0	0	4	31	
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	1	1	1	1	0	6	12	
Chlamydia Trachomatis Infection	9	9	11	1	6	83	363	
COVID-19	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	
Cryptosporidiosis	1	0	0	1	0	2	30	
Gonorrhea	3	5	5	1	5	28	125	
Haemophilus Influenzae Invasive Disease	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	
Hepatitis B	0	0	0	0	0	3	8	
Hepatitis C	0	2	0	0	0	4	22	
Hepatitis E	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Influenza	14	7	5	7	3	65	65	
Invasive Streptococcal Disease (Groups A And B)	0	0	0	0	0	3	19	
Mycobacterial Disease (Nontuberculous)	0	0	0	0	0	3	13	
Pathogenic E.coli	0	0	2	0	0	4	12	
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	0	0	0	6	0	7	21	
Salmonellosis	1	1	0	1	0	5	34	
Shigellosis	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Streptococcus Pneumoniae Invasive Disease	0	0	0	0	0	1	17	
Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE, Human)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
Tuberculosis, Latent Infection (LTBI)	0	0	0	0	0	2	10	
Varicella (Chickenpox)	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	
Yersiniosis	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	
	30	27	24	19	14	229		

* 2019 - Subject to change as not all cases have been finalized

The Record-Review

A WISCONSIN HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

ATHENS

EDGAR

MARATHON

STRATFORD



MAR 05 2020

\$1.25

MARCH 4, 2020
VOLUME 58 NO.10
TWENTY-FOUR PAGES

November referendum suggested by board

The Edgar Board of Education on Monday tentatively agreed to hold an operational referendum as part of the Nov. 3 general election, while at the same time it reviewed a \$87,600 list of budget cuts it could make should the referendum fail for a second time.



Dr. Cari Guden

Board members did not vote to schedule a referendum but, as part of general discussion about the next steps following a Feb. 18 defeat of a \$650,000 recurring operational referendum, board members unanimously supported bringing back the referendum later this fall.

Board members directed district administrator Dr. Cari Guden to get advice from local citizens about putting together a referendum committee that would campaign for the referendum.

The board, however, was not as supportive of the district hiring School Perceptions, Slinger, to survey the Edgar public and come up with a referendum campaign strategy. Cost for the firm's services run between \$8,000 and \$10,000.

"That does not look like it's worth \$10,000," said school board president Bill Dittman.

Board members seemed to favor school staff or campaign workers making school finance presentations at local community organizations, including the Edgar Lions Club

Systems in place to handle pandemic

County health officer key to coronavirus response

Public health systems are in place to respond should the coronavirus that has killed over 3,000 people, mostly in mainland China, become a pandemic that would threaten central Wisconsin, according to Joan Theuer, Marathon County health officer.

"People should have confidence our public health system is prepared to deal with an outbreak," she said.

Theuer said the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, which is in close contact with the federal Center for Disease Control, would be the lead agency to handle any cases of coronavirus (known as COVID-19). A 12-county emergency readiness coalition would also be a lead player, said the county health official. This coalition, formed five years ago with representatives from hospitals, long-term care facilities, EMS and emergency management, would help coordinate a response.

At the local level, Theuer herself could have critical responsibilities in a coronavirus outbreak. Under Wisconsin law, she has the power to order people, schools, businesses and whole communities to be quarantined.

"Could I do that?" said Theuer. "Yes, I could. Health officers in Wisconsin have significant powers for preventing communicable diseases. That said, let me say that we take that responsibility seriously."

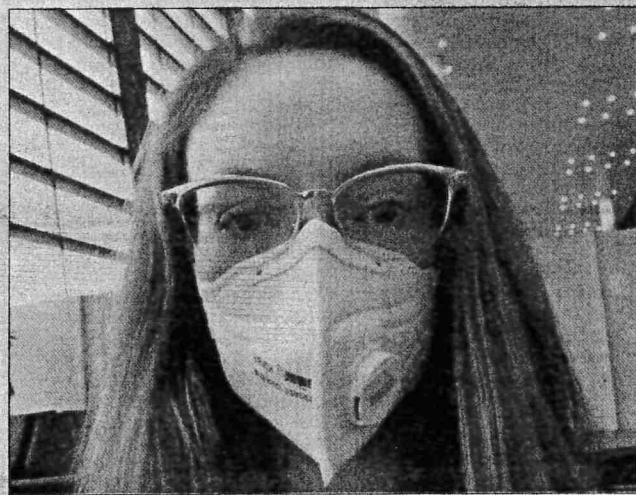
Theuer said Marathon County has many resources to battle a coronavirus outbreak. The county has Aspirus

front huge crowds daily, but, if it does, expect that businesses, especially small businesses, will be severely impacted.

Calla Buttke said she and her Chinese husband Jianghan "Nick" Chen were subjected to several weeks of quarantine for coronavirus in their high rise apartment in Henan Province, 200 miles north of Hubei Province, home to the City of Wuhan, which has suffered a major coronavirus outbreak.

See **REFERENDUM**/ page 4

See **PANDEMIC**/ page 5



Calla Buttke wears a mask in a Chinese airport

Stettin native home after coronavirus quarantine

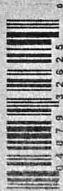
A town of Stettin native who returned Feb. 1 from China said it will be harder for the coronavirus to spread in the United States, where people generally live in their own houses and don't necessarily con-

front huge crowds daily, but, if it does, expect that businesses, especially small businesses, will be severely impacted.

Calla Buttke said she and her Chinese husband Jianghan "Nick" Chen were subjected to several weeks of quarantine for coronavirus in their high rise apartment in Henan Province, 200 miles north of Hubei Province, home to the City of Wuhan, which has suffered a major coronavirus outbreak.

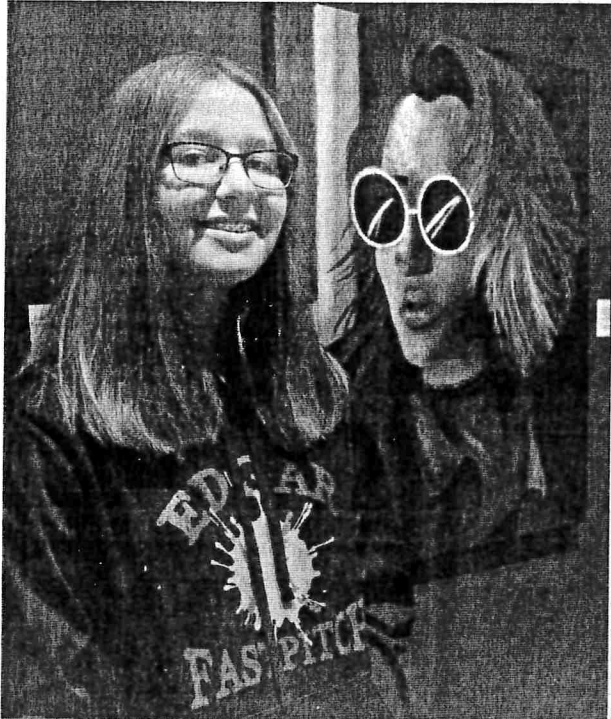
See **QUARANTINE**/ page 5

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MARATHON COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.
1000 LAKE VIEW DR STE 100
WAUSAU WI 54403-6786



SHOW OFF YOUR IRISH
on St. Patrick's Day
Tuesday, March 17th
Traditional Jiggs Dinner Starts at 11 a.m.
Kurt 'n' Jo's Eats n' Treats
668 Maratech Ave.,
Marathon

WOODSON YOUTH ART EXHIBIT



Eight local students show work in 43rd annual Wausau exhibit

Eight students from Marathon and Edgar high schools have artworks on display at the 43rd annual youth art display at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson art museum in Wausau.

Jackie Imhoff, their art teacher, said she is proud the students were able to contribute high quality paintings and drawings to the show.

"Absolutely," she said. "If you look at the whole body of work, it is definitely competitive."

Imhoff said the museum pieces represent the journey each student has taken as a budding artist.

"I have had a lot of the students for several years," she said. "I've seen their work grow over time."

Jane Weinke, a Leigh Yawkey Woodson curator, said she has seen a lot of youth art shows over the years and this year's is memorable.

"This year is really good," she said. "The quality has gone up."

Weinke said she stresses with high school art teachers that the submitted student work needs to be competently presented with properly stretched canvases and well framed pictures.

She said the students came through this year. "Things look very professional," she said.

Imhoff noted that more student art will be on display in a Marawood Conference art show scheduled to be on display March 11 through April 30 in the Skylight Gallery of the Center for Visual Arts, Wausau.



"Two faced" by Marathon High senior Lorelie Peters



"Homage to Suicide Squad" by Edgar High School senior Haley Burns

ON DISPLAY-Edgar High School sophomore art student Haylee Schreiber stands next to her unfilled acrylic painting inspired by a picture she found in a magazine. Her painting is one of 83 artworks submitted to the Woodson youth art show from 17 schools. Other local student arts in the show include Mercedes Lobner, Gabriela Klein, Trina Mroczenski, Sarah Fritz and Emolia Larson.

Quarantine

Continued from page 1

Buttke said Henan police and private security guards have enforced a strict mass quarantine, stopping people from going to work, grocery stores or malls. People must wear masks, she said, and be subject to officials using a laser pointer to take people's temperature. People with a temperature over 102 degrees can be hospitalized.

All of these measures seem to be effective in fighting the disease.

"There were a lot of strict rules, but it seems to be working," she said.

Buttke, who with her husband, runs a business that helps Chinese students attend American universities, said commerce in China has ground to a halt. "Totally everything was closed," she said. "It was crazy."

Buttke said the province-wide quarantine has been a hardship on businesses and some have not been able to survive. "A lot of businesses have bit the dust, a lot of small ones," she said. Buttke said she and her husband find themselves in a situation where

a business renter they had could not pay the rent because of the quarantine.

Buttke, who never contracted the coronavirus, said sometimes the Chinese government crackdown on movement seemed severe, but, on the other hand, all Chinese have access to health care through universal insurance.

Pandemic

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Wausau Hospital and St. Clare's Hospital, Weston, as well as Marshfield Medical Centers.

She said the facilities offer negative pressure rooms for people with highly contagious illnesses.

"We get a couple cases of tuberculosis each year," she said. "We isolate these individuals in negative pressure rooms."

Theuer said local hospitals have the ability to turn entire hospital wings into negative pressure facilities, if there is a need.

The health official said Marathon County will benefit in having hospitals that can coordinate care with other hospitals.

"The good news is that our hospitals are part of larger systems," she said. "We don't have independent hospitals. That does make a difference."

She said the great mass of Chinese live in high rise apartments and frequently go to malls and restaurants to socialize. Chinese life is generally crowded and congested. The conditions are ripe for a disease to spread human to human.

Life in the United States is spread

out, she said, and it could prove harder for coronavirus to spread here.

"The lifestyle in central Wisconsin is very different," Buttke said. "People live in their own homes and they are not constantly together in crowded areas."

Theuer said central Wisconsin would have access to a strategic stockpile of coronavirus treatment supplies, including N95 face masks, should there be an outbreak here and supplies run low.

"In theory," she said.

There are six types of coronaviruses. Several are the viruses that cause the common seasonal flu, but others, such as SARS and MERS, are acquired from animals, such as bats and camels, and are much more lethal.

The COVID-19 virus was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, and has spread to 70 nations, including the United States. Like the SARS virus, COVID-19 is a beta-coronavirus. It may have first been transmitted to humans at a seafood and live animal market in China.

Theuer said researchers may be able

to create a vaccine that would halt the coronavirus disease but, in a worst case, it could spread and turn into another health emergency like the Spanish Flu of 1918.

She said citizens should guard against the disease in the same way that they take care not to get the flu.

"You should wash your hands, stay home from work when you are sick and cover a cough with a tissue or your elbow," she said.

Theuer said seasonal flu illness in Marathon County has not yet peaked for the year. She declines to predict whether COVID-19 will find its way to the county, just these other flu viruses have.

"We'll know when we know," she said.



Calla Buttke

The Record-Review

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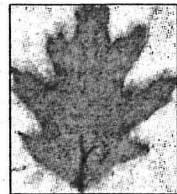
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Leonhard tapped for top county position

The Marathon County Board of Supervisors on Thursday voted to name Lance Leonhard as county administrator. The vote was unanimous.

The new administrator said he is "humbled" by his appointment and looks to serve the needs of the public, the county board and county staff in his new role.



Lance Leonhard

Leonhard said his chief task is to make sure county staff are able to best serve the taxpaying public. "I exist to make sure other staff have the tools and leadership to do their best

Slowing the pandemic is county strategy

The goal is to keep hospitals from being overrun

Marathon County's basic strategy to combat the coronavirus (COVID-19)



Joan Theurer

will be to "slow the peak," health officer Joan Theurer told county supervisors on Thursday.

The virus will find Marathon County, she said, but she is hopeful people will take enough preventative measures to slow the spread of the disease so that local doctors and hospitals are not overwhelmed by a surge of cases.

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Strategy

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"Our hospitals were built for routine care, not for volumes of patients in a pandemic," she told county board members. "If we don't control the number of people in a pandemic, the hospitals won't be able to deal with the normal number of heart attacks, strokes, broken arms and that sort of thing. We want to avoid overloading our public health system."

Theurer said the lesson of the Spanish Flu of 1918 is that social isolation of people is effective in slowing the spread of disease.

"We know that it does work," she said.

The health officer said the Marathon County Health Department practices social isolation all the time to curb infectious disease, namely tuberculosis.

"Every year, Marathon County gets between one to three cases of TB," she said. "We curtail the spread of that disease such that the public doesn't even know that it

is here. And we protect the identity of the individuals involved."

Theurer said orders by the state to close schools, bars and restaurants and to limit mass gatherings to 10 people are all aimed at keeping people away from each other and to slow the spread of COVID-19.

She said her department is committed to providing the public with "timely, accurate and consistent" information about the path of the disease.

She said both area hospitals and the health department have been overwhelmed by calls for information. She said United Way 2-1-1 will give people coronavirus information with constantly updated scripts.

In discussion with board members, county administrator Lance Leonhard said the sheriff's department has ratcheted up screening of prisoners at the county jail to avoid an outbreak at that facility.

He said county officials have "doubled down" on planning and continue to discuss how best to meet the public need as the coronavirus spreads and how best to protect county employees.

"This is new every day," he said., "It is new every hour."

Theurer said that it is up to people to follow social distancing guidelines and to continue to wash hands and disinfect work spaces.

"If everybody does these things, we will be okay and we'll be okay faster," she said. "If not, it will not be as easy to bounce back and to bounce back economically."

According to the Center for Disease Control, the corona virus, which continues to spread quickly across the country, has infected 44,183 people in 50 states and four territories with 544 deaths. In Wisconsin, according to Department of Health and Human Services, there are 457 confirmed cases in 30 counties.

County confirms first corona virus case

The Marathon County Public Health Department on Thursday confirmed that a person has tested positive for COVID-19.

The person has a history of travel within the United States in the recent past. The individual is currently isolated at home. County health officials are working to determine how the person may have become infected and will be contacting individuals who have come in close contact with the patient.

Health department public information official Judy Burrows said standard protocol prohibits her department from naming the individual or his or her community.

She said people in Marathon County should assume that this first case of coronavirus will be followed by others and

that the disease, although now confirmed in only a single individual, is being transmitted by members of the community.



Judy Burrows

"If you look at Dane, Milwaukee and Kenosha counties, they started with a couple cases and now they have 50 to 70 cases," she said. "I think people should assume there is community transmission in the county. The disease will be pretty widespread."

Burrows believes that northern Wisconsin did have a buffer against coronavirus "for a few days" but that safety margin is gone.

She said the spread of the disease will depend on individual acts to keep social distance from others.

"If you have 15 people over at your house to play cards, that's not social distancing," she said.

Leonhard

Continued from page 1

a new multi-department building to achieve further cost reductions.

He said dealing with an ongoing drug epidemic is another major challenge. "We need a broader strategy than just dealing with this as a criminal justice issue," he said. "It is a public health issue."

Leonhard, selected as interim administrator following the retirement of Brad Karger, is a Greenleaf native who graduated from Wrightstown High School and UW-Eau Claire. He earned his law degree from Marquette University and went on to clerk for the late Judge John Coffey at the Seventh

Circuit Court of Appeals.

Leonhard served as a Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office intern and was hired in 2006 as a Marathon County assistant district attorney. During his eight years as a prosecutor, he was the county's primary drug case prosecutor. He transferred to the

county's Corporation Counsel's office where he worked on child protection cases. Leonhard was named deputy county administrator in July 2016.

The administrator lives with his wife and two children, ages 9 and 6, in Wausau.