



October 17, 2019

Sharon Hunter, President
Marathon County Board of Trustees
231256 Shenandoah Ridge Road
Wausau, WI 54403

Dear Sharon,

Thank you for your reassurance that the Marathon County Public Library (MCPL) Board of Trustees is only investigating the idea of moving the library to a different service area. I especially appreciate that the Board plans to move very cautiously and to have all information necessary to make a sound informed decision, particularly as the Board's decision will impact all public libraries and counties in the northern half of the state.

Furthermore, I sincerely hope the MCPL Board enacts MCPL trustee Katie Rosenberg's recommendation made during your Board's September meeting to include the appointment of a task force charged with studying this matter in more detail as a future agenda item. Her recommendation mirrors an offer WVLS made during the meeting – *"If this Board sees the value, WVLS staff and trustees are willing to form a committee with MCPL counterparts to create a structured, objective analysis of MCPL Administration's desire to more closely align with Madison Public Library, to identify the challenges of maintaining membership in WVLS, and to develop a strategic process to achieve its goals."*

The possibility of the formation of a joint MCPL/WVLS committee was presented to the WVLS Board of Trustees in September and was well received. Since then, two Marathon County representatives on the WVLS Board, Michael Otten and Sonja Ackerman, already have graciously offered to be members.

Thank you for your interest in learning more about WVLS and for the opportunity to present at the MCPL Board meeting on December 16. On behalf of the WVLS staff, Board of Trustees, and all the libraries and communities that may be impacted by any change, I look forward to mutual pursuit of the facts motivating this process, to providing the MCPL Board with accurate information to aid their understanding and knowledge of the issue, and participating in open and transparent conversations.

Your attention to this matter is so very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Marla Sepnafski, Director

WISCONSIN VALLEY LIBRARY SERVICE

CC: Tom Bobrofsky, President, WVLS Board of Trustees
Michael Otten, Treasurer, WVLS Board of Trustees
Sonja Ackermann, Member, WVLS Board of Trustees