

September 3, 2020

Good morning, everyone...

CHAOS! As the director of the Colby Community Library, this is what comes to mind as I think about the unintended consequences of a decision by Marathon County to withdraw membership from the Wisconsin Valley Library Service.

As you are aware, the Marathon County line divides the City of Colby (and Abbotsford and Dorchester). Should Marathon County decide to leave WVLS, Colby residents will need to affiliate with either SCLS or WVLS.

How does that work? Chaos, with frustrated patrons who live blocks away from the Colby Community Library but would now need to travel to Wausau or a branch locations, will ensue. Many of our patrons are elderly or have families with young children—travel is difficult for them.

Has anyone given thoughtful study to how the citizens in rural areas of Marathon County may be impacted by membership in another system?

Please read the attached letter which details other concerns I have, particularly the economic impact of hundreds of thousands of dollars leaving our area for Dane County.

Thank you.

Vicky L. Calmes, Director  
Colby Community Library