Sept. 3, 2020

Dear Marathon County Extension, Education and Economic Development Committee:

Thank you in advance for reading this letter. By way of introduction, I am the Executive Director of the Rhinelander District Library (RDL). I have been a librarian in schools, corporate settings, and public libraries for over twenty-five years. Rhinelander District Library is a member of the Wisconsin Valley Library Service (WVLS).

It has come to my attention that a presentation will be given at your Sept. 3 meeting regarding the MCPL Library System Task Force. I sent a letter (attached) to the MCPL Task Force and Board of Trustees before the last Task Force meeting on Aug. 17, questioning this process and the broader decision for MCPL to leave WVLS.

*I am extremely concerned about the abrupt nature which MCPL is considering leaving the Wisconsin Valley Library Service (WVLS). To be direct, Marla Sepnafski and the staff of WVLS have always been responsive to any topics or issues my staff or I have with WVLS.  There have been good, solid discussions to all our benefit improving procedures, and routines. Why hasn’t the Marathon Public Library Director, or Board, engaged with WVLS in a similar fashion expressing any concerns regarding provided services or how those services are provided? Rhinelander District Library knows that if these questions regarding services and needs were asked, answers would come in a timely, clear manner. It does not appear they have been asked or wish to be answered. Why has the Marathon County Library Board not discussed this with WVLS or their board?*

Additionally, I hope this committee will take into consideration the economic impact of jobs leaving Marathon County for Dane County, as surely will happen if MCPL leaves WVLS.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Virginia Roberts

Director

Rhinelander District Library--Your Library For Life!

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