Sept. 3, 2020

Dear Marathon County Extension, Education and Economic Development Committee:

My name is Erica Brewster and I am the director of the Demmer Memorial Library in Three Lakes (Oneida County). Our library is a member of the Wisconsin Valley Library Service based in Wausau.

It has come to my attention that this committee will receive an update on the MCPL Library System Task Force at your Sept. 3 meeting. Most recently I shared my concerns with the MCPL Task Force and Board of Trustees on August 13 regarding Marathon County leaving WVLS to join the South Central Library System based in Dane County. That full letter is attached, and the following is highlighted:

*The move alone would cost Marathon County taxpayers $60,000 in setup fees, and then $60,000 more annually for a lower level service than currently being paid to WVLS. The additional services available a la carte from SCLC could cost taxpayers yet another $100,000 more annually (unless it is counterbalanced by a loss of jobs). Those additional service fees/jobs leave Marathon County and central Wisconsin and shift to Madison/southern Wisconsin.*

I hope this committee understands the severe economic impact this change will have on Marathon County.

It was also my understanding following the other meetings that the task force would continue to meet until December, not November, as stated in the memo in your board packet. Several key questions remain unanswered at this point and the process seems incomplete, especially regarding the lack of analysis of potential economic impact as stated above.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Erica

**Erica Brewster**

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