

WVLS Colleagues and Friends,

At the end of 2019, the Marathon County Public Library (MCPL) Director asked his Board of Trustees to consider moving Marathon County from WVLS to the South Central Library System (SCLS), headquartered in Madison. The Library Board formed a Task Force which held six one-hour meetings in January, February, March, May, June and July 2020. [Public notice for the seventh Task Force meeting on August 17](#) stated that a “possible recommendation” might be made to the MCPL Board scheduled to meet an hour later on the same day. However, Task Force members’ discussion identified enough unfinished business to occupy four more meetings and they deferred a recommendation “to the end of the year.” The Library Board approved the extension.

On September 3, the MCPL Director reported to the Marathon County Board’s Extension Education & Economic Development Committee that “final analysis and vote for the Task Force recommendation to the MCPL Board will take place at the November 16, 2020 meeting.” [See page 10 from EEEDC packet posted here.](#) WVLS Trustee **Michael Otten** shared his concerns with MCEEDC members on September 2 (**attached**) as did **Dominic Frandrup**, Antigo Public Library Director; **Vicky Calmes**, Colby Community Library Director; **Virginia Woods Roberts**, Rhinelander District Library Director; and **Erica Brewster**, Demmer Memorial Library (Three Lakes) Director.

The next meeting of the MCPL Task Force and Library Board will be on Monday, September 21. The information packet for the 11:00 a.m. Task Force meeting, available [here](#), includes letters from **Ralph Illick**, **Tom O’Neill**, the **MCPL Library Services Team** and **Matthew Derpinghaus** about WVLS staff, customer service and support. The packet for the 12:00 p.m. Library Board meeting is available [here](#).

The [Marathon Co. Public Library System Exploration Information and Updates page](#) on the WVLS website includes information about MCPL Task Force meetings since January along with the letters mentioned above. Anyone with an interest in the MCPL Task Force process and future of WVLS should take the time to read this information. MCPL also maintains its own Task Force web page [here](#).

WI Statute [43.18](#) outlines the process for a county withdrawing from a library system. The earliest date Marathon County could withdraw is January 2022, following adoption by 2/3 vote of a resolution by the Marathon County Board of Supervisors at least 6 months prior to the close of the system’s fiscal year.

Please feel free to contact me with any thoughts, questions or concerns you may have about the information shared in this update. Your feedback is always welcome.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Marla

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