

**Marathon County Public Library**

**Resource Library Report**

**September 2024**

This includes the *Agenda and Director's Report* for September 16, 2024, Marathon County Public Library Board of Trustees meeting.

Also included are the agenda/minutes from July 15, 2024 and August 19, 2024.



COUNTY OF MARATHON  
WAUSAU, WISCONSIN

OFFICIAL NOTICE AND AGENDA

A meeting of the Marathon County Public Library Board of Trustees,  
Monday, September 16, 2024, at 12:00 noon  
Library Headquarters, Wausau Community Room.

Persons wishing to attend the meeting by computer or phone may log or call into the meeting beginning five (5) minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following website <https://meet.goto.com/355252821> or number [1 877 309 2073](tel:18773092073). Access Code for dialing in 355-252-821.

When you enter the meeting, PLEASE PUT YOUR COMPUTER AND PHONE ON MUTE!

**AGENDA**

1. (12:00 p.m.) Call to Order
2. Acknowledgement of Visitors
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Bills and Services Report
5. (10 minutes) Public Comments *(Anyone addressing the Library Board is asked to do so in a respectful, professional, and courteous manner. The "Public Comments" portion of this meeting is offered as an opportunity for citizens of Marathon County to be heard. The Board, however, is under no obligation to provide this forum. As such, any misuse could result in the removal of these privileges. Any person who wishes to address the Library Board during the "Public Comment" portion of meetings may only provide comment pertaining to an item on the agenda. He or she must sign in or e-mail their name, address, and the topic they wish to present to the Library Personnel Specialist no later than five minutes before the start of the meeting [library-administration@mcpl.us](mailto:library-administration@mcpl.us) )*
6. (15 minutes) Reports Regarding Recent Meetings and Communications. For Discussion and Informational Purposes Only. No Action will be taken.
  - A. President
  - B. Other Board Members
  - C. Library Director
  - D. Board Committees
  - E. Friends of the Library
  - F. MCPL Foundation
  - G. Wisconsin Valley Library Service
7. (15 minutes) Library Service Highlight: Central Wisconsin Book Festival– For Discussion and Informational Purposes Only
8. (20 minutes) 2025 Library Budget – For Discussion and Possible Action
9. Announcements
10. Request for Future Agenda Items
11. Next Meeting Dates
  - Monday 10/21/2024
  - Monday 11/18/2024
  - Monday 12/16/2024
12. Adjournment

Signed:   
Library Director or Designee

\*All times are approximate and subject to change

\*Any person planning to attend this meeting who need special accommodations in order to participate should call the Library Administration Office at 715-261-7213 or e-mail [library-administration@mcpl.us](mailto:library-administration@mcpl.us) one business day before the meeting.

EMAILED TO: Wausau Daily Herald, City Pages, and  
EMAILED TO: Other Media Groups  
EMIALED BY: H. Wilde  
EMAILED DATE: September 10, 2024  
EMAILED TIME: 3:00 p.m.

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
TIME: \_\_\_\_\_



# Marathon County Public Library Director Report September 2024

## Highlights

### Aquarium Touch Pool Event

Our most popular school-age program in August was the Aquarium Touch Pool event. An outstanding 325 people participated! At this event children and families had the opportunity to see and touch starfish and sea urchins. Participants were guided by our local aquarium expert, Darren. While the most exciting component of this program was the up-close interaction with sea creatures, participants also enjoyed creating dolphin necklaces, crab headbands, ocean bookmarks, and sea creature scratch art. It was the perfect event to draw our Summer Library Program to a close for 2024.

*-Tara H, Youth Services Librarian*



### MCPL Provides Reading to Therapy Dogs

Hot diggity dog! This summer, the Marathon County Public Library - Wausau Headquarters offered a weekly 'Read to a Therapy Dog' program for children.

For two hours every week, certified therapy dogs were brought into the library and kids could practice their skills by reading aloud to a furry friend! Attendance ranged from 30 to 60 participants.

Reading to a therapy dog offers several benefits to children such as boosting their confidence, improving comprehension and fluency, and encouraging a love of reading by associating it with a fun and engaging activity.



The MCPL-Rothschild Branch also hosted the Read to a Therapy Dog program twice a month this summer, for an hour at a time. They had a steady turnout of around 20 participants for each session. The MCPL-Mosinee Branch will keep the reading fun going this fall by hosting Read to a Therapy Dog once a month after school for an hour.

"The dogs and their handlers work with a local chapter of Therapy Dogs International," said MCPL Library Specialist Robyn Vargas. "We are so thankful for the handlers who come out to volunteer with their pups every week."

Robyn said the feedback has been positive and MCPL will continue to offer this program in the future. It's a fantastic way for kids to keep up with summer reading – and it's always more fun to read to a dog!

*-Robyn V, Marketing Specialist (for WVLS Newsletter)*

## Library Services

In preparation for the new Spencer team to start in mid-September, Adult Services has focused on readying the branch for new leadership. Throughout the summer, staff in Wausau have covered shifts in Spencer, helped weed and shift materials at the branch, and more. The upcoming Central Wisconsin Book Festival is another big project in the works for the Adult Services team. Events have been finalized, promotional materials have been designed, and we are looking forward to the festivities in Wausau, Stevens Point, and Wisconsin Rapids.

The Youth Services team wrapped up the 2024 Summer Library Program in August. Overall, the team awarded 271 children and teens a total of 432 prizes for completing their reading BINGO cards. Since participation in SLP throughout Marathon County was so high this year, the team plans to prepare more prizes for 2025 to congratulate our eager readers. Other popular youth programs in August that helped draw over 1,000 participants to the library include: Story Time

in the Park, Superhero Training Academy, Teen Dungeons & Dragons, and DIY Neon Lights.

*-Katelyn S, Library Services Manager*

## Branches

In Athens, Kitty R participated as a storyteller at “Books at the Milk Haus” at Miltrim Farms on August 2nd. 100 children and adults had a fun-filled 2 hours at the storytelling sessions, petting zoo, farm tours and watching the robotic milking parlor. Children received free books, a t-shirt, ice cream and chocolate milk from the sponsors. For fall, Kitty R is coordinating an Athens history program in early October with the Marathon County Historical Society which will be held at the Black Creek Inn which originally was the home of William and Marianna Erbach, son-in-law and daughter of Frederick Rietbrock, one of the founders of Athens.

The MCPL Library Board met for its August meeting at the Hatley Branch Library. Peggy provided a tour of the library. Also in Hatley, the Ice Age Trail backpack, donated to the library by the Ice Age Trail Alliance, is gaining traction, having been checked out multiple times during the month of August.

In Mosinee, August started off with another session of our really popular Cat Craft and Social Hour program, where 12 patrons had a ton of fun making homemade cat toys, paw print bookmarks, and several other crafts. Patrons requested another session in the fall, and all commented on how wonderful it was to come together as strangers and leave as friends!

In Stratford, more than 100 people had a great time at the All Day Mario Party on August 6. Guests were able to complete unplugged game levels to earn a gold coin, create with Mario Legos and a Mario Building Wall, solve the Mario scavenger hunt to earn a Mario tattoo, have their face painted by our youth team, enjoy various Mario projects throughout the library, and even meet Mario when he crashed his own party from 2-4 p.m. There was a lot of joy and excitement here all day!

The relabeling crew consisting of James B., Kate S, and Murray J., visited the Athens, Mosinee, and Spencer branches to relabel items that are either being added to favorites, or set to regular shelves.

Many branch assistants attended the branch assistant meeting with Katelyn and Leah on 8/27. Some assistants and coordinators also attended the programming refresher meeting with Chad.

In staffing news, Robin, our branch assistant from Hatley, transferred to the open branch assistant position in Mosinee on August 19th. Laurie is the new branch assistant at Hatley. She started orientation on Monday, August 19. Our new branch assistant and branch coordinator in Spencer are scheduled to have orientation in mid-September. *-Laura W, Branch Team Lead*

## Library Services Statistics & Activities

### Team News & Projects

- Notary: 11 appointments





**COUNTY OF MARATHON  
WAUSAU, WISCONSIN**

**OFFICIAL NOTICE AND AGENDA**

**A meeting of the Marathon County Public Library Board of Trustees,  
Monday, August 19, 2024, at 12:00 noon**

**NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION:**

**Village of Hatley – Board Room  
435 Curtis Ave  
Hatley, WI 54440**

Persons wishing to attend the meeting by computer or phone may log or call into the **meeting beginning five (5) minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following website <https://meet.goto.com/314043989> or number [1 866 899 4679](tel:18668994679). Access Code for dialing in 314-043-989.**

When you enter the meeting, **PLEASE PUT YOUR COMPUTER AND PHONE ON MUTE!**

**AGENDA**

- 1. (12:00 p.m.) Call to Order**
- 2. Acknowledgement of Visitors**
- 3. Approval of Minutes**
- 4. Bills and Services Report**
- 5. (10 minutes) Public Comments** *(Anyone addressing the Library Board is asked to do so in a respectful, professional, and courteous manner. The "Public Comments" portion of this meeting is offered as an opportunity for citizens of Marathon County to be heard. The Board, however, is under no obligation to provide this forum. As such, any misuse could result in the removal of these privileges. Any person who wishes to address the Library Board during the "Public Comment" portion of meetings may only provide comment pertaining to an item on the agenda. He or she must sign in or e-mail their name, address, and the topic they wish to present to the Library Personnel Specialist no later than five minutes before the start of the meeting [library-administration@mcpl.us](mailto:library-administration@mcpl.us).)*
- 6. (15 minutes) Reports Regarding Recent Meetings and Communications. For Discussion and Informational Purposes Only. No Action will be taken.**
  - A. President**
  - B. Other Board Members**
  - C. Library Director**
  - D. Board Committees**
  - E. Friends of the Library**
  - F. MCPL Foundation**
  - G. Wisconsin Valley Library Service**
- 7. (10 minutes) WVLS Resource Library Agreement – For Discussion and Possible Action**
- 8. (15 minutes) Library Service Highlight: Overview and Tour of the Hatley Branch – For Discussion and Informational Purposes Only**
- 9. Announcements**
- 10. Request for Future Agenda Items**
- 11. Next Meeting Dates**
  - Monday 09/16/2024
  - Monday 10/21/2024
  - Monday 11/18/2024
  - Monday 11/16/2024

12. Adjournment

Signed:   
Library Director or Designee

\*All times are approximate and subject to change

\*Any person planning to attend this meeting who need special accommodations in order to participate should call the Library Administration Office at 715-261-7213 or e-mail [library-administration@mcpl.us](mailto:library-administration@mcpl.us) one business day before the meeting.

EMAILED TO: Wausau Daily Herald, City Pages, and  
EMAILED TO: Other Media Groups  
EMIALED BY: H. Wilde  
EMAILED DATE: August 13, 2024  
EMAILED TIME: 10:15 a.m.

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

Regular meeting of the Marathon County Public Library Board of Trustees, Monday, August 19, 2024.

Present: Kari Sweeney, Reid Rayome, Gary Gisselman, LeeAnn Podruch, Andrea Sheridan (remote), Chris Voll, Leah Giordano

Absent: Nathan Turajski

Others: Katelyn Sabelko, Heather Wilde, David Hahn, Stephanie Martell, Peggy Klein  
Remote visitors: none

The meeting was called to order at 12:00pm by Kari Sweeney.  
Kari Sweeney acknowledged visitors at the meeting.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY CHRIS VOLL; SECONDED BY REID RAYOME TO APPROVE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEE MINUTES FROM THE JULY 15, 2024, MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY KARI SWEENEY; SECONDED BY LEEANN PODRUCH TO APPROVE THE JULY 2024 BILLS AND SERVICES REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.**

Public Comments –None

President – None

Other Board Members – None

Director's Report – Presented in the Board packet and by Director Leah Giordano.

- The library is using an unfilled part-time position to create a floater position to help at all MCPL locations. The new floater will fill in for vacations, illnesses, and staff vacancies. This will also provide staff with an opportunity to expand programming.
- In January 2025, MCPL's staff day will be combined with the county's IMAGINE Day. The first half of the day will be countywide activities and the second half of the day will be department specific activities.
- Progress continues on the HVAC install despite some issues outside. The Director will attend a construction meeting about the progress on August 20<sup>th</sup>.

Board Committees – None

Friends of the Library – The Friends quarterly sale raised \$4,254. MCPL staff will soon be requesting annual programming funds from the Friends.

MCPL Foundation – None



Wisconsin Valley Library Service – The WVLS Board met August 17th and discussed budget items and the WVLS Resource Library Agreement.

WVLS Resource Library Agreement–The amount for collection development given to MCPL as the resource library increased to \$12,000 this year.

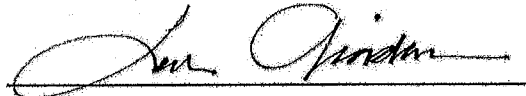
**A MOTION WAS MADE BY REID RAYOME SECONDED BY LEEANN PODRUCH TO APPROVE THE WVLS AGREEMENT. MOTION CARRIED.**

Library Service Highlight: Overview and Tour of the Hatley Branch – Peggy Klein, Hatley Branch Coordinator will provide a tour after the meeting adjourns.

Announcements - Central Wisconsin Book Festival takes place in September. September is also library card sign up month. August 19-23 is Library Trustee Training Week and there are opportunities for online training for board trustees.

Request for Future Agenda Items- Each month board members would like staff to highlight items on the Bills and Services reports that may deviate from the norm.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY CHRIS VOLL; SECONDED BY KARI SWEENEY TO ADJOURN AT 12:21 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.**



Library Director or Designee

Note: These minutes subject to approval at the next Library Board meeting scheduled for September 16, 2024.



COUNTY OF MARATHON  
WAUSAU, WISCONSIN

OFFICIAL NOTICE AND AGENDA

A meeting of the Marathon County Public Library Board of Trustees,  
Monday, July 15, 2024, at 12:00 noon  
Library Headquarters, Wausau Community Room.

Persons wishing to attend the meeting by computer or phone may log or call into the meeting beginning five (5) minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following website <https://meet.goto.com/863110117> or number [1 877 309 2073](tel:18773092073). Access Code for dialing in 863-110-117.

When you enter the meeting, PLEASE PUT YOUR COMPUTER AND PHONE ON MUTE!

AGENDA

1. (12:00 p.m.) Call to Order
2. Acknowledgement of Visitors
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Bills and Services Report
5. (10 minutes) Public Comments *(Anyone addressing the Library Board is asked to do so in a respectful, professional, and courteous manner. The "Public Comments" portion of this meeting is offered as an opportunity for citizens of Marathon County to be heard. The Board, however, is under no obligation to provide this forum. As such, any misuse could result in the removal of these privileges. Any person who wishes to address the Library Board during the "Public Comment" portion of meetings may only provide comment pertaining to an item on the agenda. He or she must sign in or e-mail their name, address, and the topic they wish to present to the Library Personnel Specialist no later than five minutes before the start of the meeting [library-administration@mcpl.us](mailto:library-administration@mcpl.us).)*
6. (15 minutes) Reports Regarding Recent Meetings and Communications. For Discussion and Informational Purposes Only. No Action will be taken.
  - A. President
  - B. Other Board Members
  - C. Library Director
  - D. Board Committees
  - E. Friends of the Library
  - F. MCPL Foundation
  - G. Wisconsin Valley Library Service
7. ( 5 minutes) 7.62 Animals in the Library Policy Update – For Discussion and Possible Action
8. (10 minutes) Library Service Highlight: Website Tour – For Discussion and Informational Purposes Only
9. Announcements
10. Request for Future Agenda Items
11. Next Meeting Dates
  - Monday 08/19/2024 – Hatley Branch Library
  - Monday 09/16/2024
  - Monday 10/21/2024
  - Monday 11/18/2024
12. Adjournment

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Library Director or Designee

\*All times are approximate and subject to change

\*Any person planning to attend this meeting who need special accommodations in order to participate should call the Library Administration Office at 715-261-7213 or e-mail [library-administration@mcpl.us](mailto:library-administration@mcpl.us) one business day before the meeting.

EMAILED TO: Wausau Daily Herald, City Pages, and  
EMAILED TO: Other Media Groups  
EMAILED BY: H. Wilde  
EMAILED DATE: July 10, 2024  
EMAILED TIME: 1:45 p.m.

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

Regular meeting of the Marathon County Public Library Board of Trustees, Monday, July 15, 2024.

Present: Kari Sweeney, Reid Rayome, Gary Gisselman, LeeAnn Podruch, Andrea Sheridan, Nathan Turajski, Chris Voll (remote), Leah Giordano

Absent:

Others: Alexander Johnson, Katelyn Sabelko, Heather Wilde, David Hahn, Stephanie Martell, Ben Kromholz Remote visitors: none

The meeting was called to order at 12:00pm by Kari Sweeney.  
Kari Sweeney acknowledged visitors at the meeting.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY LEEANN PODRUCH; SECONDED BY REID RAYOME TO APPROVE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 17, 2024, MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY KARI SWEENEY; SECONDED BY GARY GISSELMAN TO APPROVE THE JUNE 2024 BILLS AND SERVICES REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.**

Public Comments –None

President – None

Other Board Members – None

Director's Report – Presented in the Board packet and by Director Leah Giordano.

- SLP has been very successful, but staff shortages have made it challenging. Staff have been very helpful at filling in at the branches for the positions currently open.
- The new security guard position has been filled for the last three weeks and has been a valuable addition to the library for patrons and staff.
- The outdoor portion of the HVAC project has been held up by a soil issue, so the construction team has moved to a different part of the project.
- The final NICE Project recommendations have been presented. At an August 1<sup>st</sup> meeting there will be discussion about the project, but voting on the topic may be later.
- The library elevator has continued to have issues, sometimes preventing use. Staff continue to keep records of the problems for Facilities.

Board Committees – None

Friends of the Library – The June members-only book sale brought in \$545.

MCPL Foundation – The Foundation met on July 11<sup>th</sup>.

Wisconsin Valley Library Service – The WVLS Board will meet in August.

7.62 Animals in the Library Policy Update – The policy is being updated to match state requirements on service animals.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY KARI SWEENEY; SECONDED BY ANDREA SHERIDAN TO APPROVE THE POLICY UPDATE. MOTION CARRIED.**

Library Service Highlight: Website Tour – presented by Ben Krombholz, Web and Graphic Design Specialist.

- The library's website is MCPL.us. The library catalog is on a separate website that can be reached through MCPL's website.
- Between the VCat, Wisconsin's Digital Library and WISCAT sites, there are many items available for checkout.
- There is a Live Chat option available on the site so patrons can ask questions about research questions or their account.
- Services are separated by different types, including youth services, young adults, meeting rooms and research assistance. This makes it easier for individuals to find what they need.
- Online resources are available from MCPL (e.g. Mango Languages, Tumblebooks), WVLS (e.g. Ancestry, Gale Presents: Udemy), and Badgerlink (e.g. Newspapers.com and Popular Magazines).
- Events are shown for different locations and a calendar view will be added soon.

Announcements – None

Request for Future Agenda Items- None

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY ANDREA SHERIDAN; SECONDED BY NATHAN TURAJSKI TO ADJOURN AT 12:35 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.**

  
Library Director or Designee