

Wisconsin Public Library Consortium

Board Meeting Notes

June 9, 2025, at 2:00 pm

PRESENT: Mellanie Mercier (Bridges), Katelyn Dubiel (IFLS), Katherine Elchert (NWLS), Steve Hesel (MCFLS), Riti Grover (Monarch), Tracy Vreeke (Nicolet), Bradley Shipps (OWLS), Shannon Schultz (SCLS), Angela Noel (SWLS), Clairellyn Sommersmith (Winnefox), Marla Sepnafski (WVLS)

ABSENT: Kenosha, Rebecca Scherer (MCLS), Steve Ohs (PLLS), Kristen Anderson (WRLS)

GUESTS: Melissa Aro (DPI)

PROJECT MANAGERS: Jennifer Chamberlain (WiLS), Melody Clark (WiLS), Laura Damon-Moore (WiLS), Rebecca Rosenstiel (WiLS)

1. **Call to order**

B. Shipps called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm

2. **Welcome, Proxy Announcements, and Roll Call**

B. Shipps welcomed the group, asked for proxy announcements, and did a roll call. There were no proxy announcements.

3. **Consent Agenda**

- a. Review agenda
- b. Approval of minutes from [April 30, 2025](#)
- c. Acceptance of Digital Library Steering Committee minutes from [May 15, 2025](#)
- d. [YTD Budget](#)

R. Grover moved approval of the consent agenda. K. Dubiel seconded. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. **Committee and Project Updates**

a. **Digital Library Steering Committee Update**

Project managers shared that the Digital Library Steering Committee met in May. They discussed making changes to loan and hold limits as well as current checkout limits. At this point the committee did not make any changes.

C. Sommersmith asked to verify if the reason for this is to reduce the hold wait time? M. Clark confirmed, adding that if in the future the Digital Library Steering Committee decides to make any changes, those details will come to the Board and the WPLC community ahead of the changes going into effect.

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b. Technology Steering Committee Update

J. Chamberlain noted the Steering Committee met last week. The Tech Talk group typically meets virtually every-other-month, and in-person annually. Their annual in-person meeting is coming up in August, and they are planning to have a facilitated discussion, collecting feedback and information from system technology staff from all systems.

The Technology Steering Committee has also started talking about potentially utilizing the Backup Collaboration's unused LSTA funds to help transition the Digital Archives Backup to a cloud-based solution.

A request from that committee was added to the agenda as item 5.b, but in short, the committee would like to extend access for the data dashboard for another 6 months to allow additional time to gather feedback and to make a decision on the future on the dashboard. The group will be holding a special meeting in July to continue these conversations.

It was shared that they also will be working on creating some system technology standards.

c. Delivery Workgroup Update

R. Rosenstiel shared that the workgroup met last Friday, and the group set their Summer and Fall volume data collection periods. Also, the group will be meeting in July to review the statewide delivery budget cost sharing formulas, and should have a budget to recommend to the Board at the Board's August meeting.

5. Discussion and Action Items

a. Discussion and Action: 2026 Budget

At the last meeting of the Board, the group reviewed the draft 2026 and 2027 budgets. There were no requests for change to the draft budgets.

The Board again reviewed the [2026 budget](#).

S. Heser made a motion to approve the 2026 budget. R. Grover seconded. S. Heser and M. Clark shared that there weren't any changes made to this budget since it was reviewed by the Board at their previous meeting; and this budget still includes a 5% increase to the buying pool. Motion approved unanimously.

b. Discussion and Action: Recommendation: The Technology Steering Committee recommends to the Board to use reserve funds to extend access to the WPLC LookerStudio dashboard for six months while this committee determines next steps, funding formulas and platform.

The Technology Steering Committee met on June 3rd and discussed the Data Dashboard Pilot. The pilot is ending June 30th, but the Committee would like to extend access to the dashboard for an additional six months while they determine next steps for a statewide dashboard, the platform, and a funding formula.

The Technology Steering Committee has made a recommendation to the board to fund six more months of the data dashboard for a total of \$5,000, using the Board's reserve funds. The Board will discuss and vote on this recommendation.

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K. Dubiel made a motion to approve the recommendation and use \$5,000 out of reserve funds to extend access to the WPLC Data Dashboard for six months. K. Elchert seconded. Concerns were raised about the dashboard's usability for smaller libraries, and it was noted that getting buy-in from these smaller libraries will be difficult without knowing the permanency of the dashboard. Additional background information on the cost, and clarity on the goals and longevity of the dashboard would be helpful. J. Chamberlain added that the annual cost for maintenance and updating the dashboard is \$10,000; so another 6 month extension would be \$5,000.

Several Board members shared how their systems and libraries have been using the dashboard so far:

- MCFLS noted the dashboard's flexibility and how more elements can be added in the future, which isn't as easy to do in other platforms; and the comparative data that is available, not just at the system level but across the state, has been very useful.
- IFLS shared that the dashboard helps reduce staff time for data compilation in support of their smaller libraries. A member of their staff will compile a report for their libraries that includes data pages from the dashboard.
- K. Elchert shared that at her previous position as a library director, she had to pull 5 years worth of DPI's data and compile it herself in order to defend to the library's council the number of Librarians; this dashboard would have made that process much easier and straightforward. Providing information from the dashboard has some authority behind it; it's coming from DPI as opposed to a Librarian arguing on behalf of their library.
- Monarch has a library that was able to use information pulled from the dashboard to make a budget presentation to their municipal council: they were able to showcase funding and expense structures of comparable-sized libraries. Having data that has already been collected and presented by a neutral third party was easy, speedy, and provided more validity.

S. Shultz also added that SCLS maintains the data included in the dashboard as well. The group was reminded that leading up to the current data dashboard, there was a Data Dashboard Workgroup that had been established by the Technology Steering Committee that reviewed different platforms (including existing dashboards in the state) for hosting this information; and after an extensive review process, ultimately selected Google's Looker Studio.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Strategic Planning Process Activities and Discussions

[Plan Activation and Assessment Worksheet](#)

a. Formation of a Communications Committee.

At the last meeting, the Board determined that the Communications Committee should be comprised of one WPLC Board Member, One member from each of the two Steering Committees, one member from the statewide marketing cohort, one library director and a DPI

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representative. Board members are to bring names to discuss and the Board will determine members.

The following people were identified to serve on the Communications Committee:

- WPLC Board / Technology Steering Committee: Katherine Elchert (NWLS)
- Digital Library Steering Committee: Nicole Hardina-Wilhem (Winnefox)
- Library Director: Amy Peterson (Oconto Falls Public Library / Nicolet)
- DPI: Beth Tomev

S. Hesser agreed to reach out to the Statewide Marketing Cohort for a volunteer to serve on the Communications Committee. T. Vreeke will reach out to confirm Amy Peterson's availability. If Amy is unavailable, B. Shipps will reach out to Sue Vater Olsen at Sturm Memorial Library.

Project managers asked if the board wanted to establish a charge for this workgroup before they meet to help set parameters for their work. The group was reminded that the strategic plan includes communication objectives included the following:

- Increase member library awareness of and engagement with the services the WPLC supports.
- Improve communication between and among the various groups that accomplish the work of the WPLC to ensure awareness, increase efficiency, and inspire confidence.
- Develop WPLC champions with unified, easy to implement communication strategies and messages.

It was asked if these objectives should be a part of the charge and are there other items to include? The Board was in support of these objectives being a part of the charge. R. Grover also suggested adding a line that talks about statewide education and enhancing awareness of the WPLC's services to libraries. C. Sommersmith added clarification that the Communications Committee is meant to possibly inform and have discussions with member libraries; this isn't a marketing committee.

M. Clark will draft the charge, which will include the makeup of the body and can be used for future recruitment, and bring a draft to the Board for their next meeting.

b. Establishing WPLC Values

The group reviewed and discussed initial thoughts about the [draft values statements](#).

L. Damon-Moore provided background information, sharing that the draft values have been created from a summarization of the responses to a form that had been sent to the Board several weeks ago. A link to the full responses are available for the group to review within the [Google Doc](#).

During the meeting, the group was given time to review the statements and provide feedback, either adding comments to the [Draft Values Statements Google Doc](#) or to the [WPLC Draft Values Padlet](#).

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The Board is invited to continue to review the values statements and comment in the [Padlet](#) through June 16th. L. Damon-Moore will continue to update the values statements based on the Board's feedback. The Board will be asked to approve a final draft of the values statements at their August meeting.

7. Information Sharing from Partners

Questions to consider:

- What are potential opportunities for collaboration?
- What's new happening at your system?
- What issues are you facing?

There was no discussion.

8. Adjourn

Next meeting: Board Meeting on August 4, 2025 at 2:00 pm

Meeting ended at: 3:41 pm

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