

Wisconsin Public Library Consortium

Board Meeting Notes

June 12, 2023, at 2:00 pm

by zoom

{Alternate in-person location: 709 N 8th St, Milwaukee, WI 53233}

PRESENT: Mellanie Mercier (Bridges), Katelyn Noack (IFLS), Rob Nunez (Kenosha), Rebecca Scherer (MCLS), Steve Hesel (MCFLS), Riti Grover (Monarch), Tracy Vreeke (Nicolet), Jackee Johnson, proxy for Gina Rae (NWLS), Bradley Shipps (OWLS), Steven Platteter (PLLS/ALS), Steve Ohs (PLLS/LLS), Jean Anderson (SCLS), David Kranz (SWLS), Kristen Anderson (WRLS), Clairellyn Sommersmith (Winnefox), Rachel Metzler (WVLS)

GUESTS: Ben Miller (DPI)

PROJECT MANAGERS: Jennifer Chamberlain (WiLS), Melody Clark (WiLS)

1. Call to order

Chair S. Hesel called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm.

2. Welcome, Proxy Announcements, and Introductions

Chair S. Hesel welcomed the group and asked for proxy announcements. Jackee Johnson is a proxy for Gina Rae at Northern Waters Library Service

3. Consent Agenda

- a. Review agenda
- b. Approval of minutes from [April 26, 2023](#)
- c. Acceptance of Digital Library Steering Committee minutes from [May 18, 2023](#)
- d. Acceptance of Technology Steering Committee minutes from [May 9, 2023](#)
[YTD Budget](#)

R. Grover moved approval of the consent agenda. S. Ohs seconded. Motion approved.

4. Updates from Previous Meetings/Projects

a. 501c3 Workgroup

It was asked if there was an update or any needs regarding the 501c3 Workgroup. There aren't any updates or requests at this time. T. Vreeke has restarted conversations with the attorney, including the topic of potential fundraising efforts; T. Vreeke will keep the Board updated with these conversations.

5. New Business

a. Discussion and action: Magazine Formula

At the last Board meeting, the Digital Library magazine subscription was renewed for 2024 and 2025. The formula used for the magazine budget needs to be determined. [Formulas](#) were drafted and sent out with the last meeting notes. The Budget Committee is recommending the formula using 75% Magazine usage and 25% population. S. Hesel further clarified that the current formula is based on the buying pool formula, as magazine numbers weren't available yet.

T. Vreeke moved to approve the recommended funding method with magazine usage and population. K. Noack seconded. There was no additional discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Discussion and action: 2024 Budget

The Budget Committee has recommended a [budget for 2024](#) and 2025. At the last meeting of the Board, the group reviewed the budgets and had no suggestions for change.

R. Scherer moved to approve the 2024 Budget. B. Shipps seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Discussion and potential action: Advocacy Workgroup RFP

The Advocacy Workgroup has met and would like to develop an RFP for consultant services to establish an endowment for Wisconsin's Digital Library. S. Hesper explained that the workgroup decided that an endowment would be most feasible for the WDL because it's not a one-time donation, for example, from a major donor, but rather it can be established and added to over time. The workgroup also feels it would be beneficial to hire a consultant who would ideally have roots in the community: someone who already knows of individuals or organizations that would be willing to fund an endowment such as this. At this point, the WPLC would not be under any obligation to sign a proposal or contract; that would be brought to the full WPLC Board to determine. The goal is to have proposals and the financial obligations associated with each proposal ready for the Board to read and discuss at the August 2023 Board meeting.

R. Grover moved to approve the development and dissemination of an RFP for consultant services to establish an endowment for WDL. S. Platteter seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Discussion and potential action: Visioning Session

The WPLC Visioning Session has been scheduled for October 16, 2023, at the Portage County Public Library, 1001 Main St, Stevens Point, WI 54481, in the Pinery Room from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Topics suggested for discussion include 501c3 discussion, the progress of the technology collaboration, delivery, and sustained funding for the WDL.

J. Anderson asked if members of committees would be invited to the visioning session as well. It was determined that at this time, only the WPLC Board would be invited to the meeting, but once the agenda is completed and the Board has the opportunity to discuss, members from committees may be invited. It was suggested that a survey could be sent out in advance of the meeting in order to gain community input.

It was concluded that the session would take on a strategic plan emphasis, focusing on where partners would like to see the WPLC in the future and a review of the overall governance structure.

T. Vreeke moved to approve to expend reserve funds for costs associated with the meeting. B. Shipps seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Looking ahead, an agenda will be drafted for review at the August 7th WPLC Board meeting. It was also noted that the times may change slightly, from 10:00 – 2:30 pm to accommodate a two-hour morning session, a 30-minute lunch, and a two-hour afternoon session.

6. 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?

T. Vreeke noted that they are very excited for many of the topics that were discussed at the most recent DPI System Director meeting, in particular digitization, grant writing, and especially consulting around HR, building projects, and legal issues, and shared that it is amazing the amount of collaboration that has been happening on the statewide level. C. Sommersmith added their support of the idea of a statewide HR consultant.

S. Hesel shared that MCFLS and WILS have been trying to work with OCLC to reduce costs. One area of investigation is to see if OCLC would be willing to enter into a group services contract. More information will be shared at the next DPI System Director meeting.

7. Adjourn

The next meeting will be held on August 7, 2023, at 2:00 pm.

R. Grover moved to adjourn. C. Sommersmith seconded. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting ended at 2:55 pm.