

Wisconsin Public Library Consortium

Board Meeting Notes

August 4, 2025 at 2:00 pm

PRESENT: Mellanie Mercier (Bridges), Katelyn Dubiel (IFLS), Rebecca Scherer (MCLS), Steve Hesel (MCFLS), Riti Grover (Monarch), Tracy Vreeke (Nicolet), Katherine Elchert (NWLS), Bradley Shipps (OWLS), Steve Ohs (PLLS), Angela Noel (SWLS), David Kranz, proxy for Kristen Anderson (WRLS), Clairellyn Sommersmith (Winnefox), Marla Sepnafski (WVLS)

ABSENT: Kenosha, Shannon Schultz (SCLS)

GUESTS: Ben Miller (DPI)

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

1. Call to order

R. Scherer called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm

2. Welcome, Proxy Announcements, and Roll Call

R. Scherer welcomed the group, asked for proxy announcements, and did a roll call.

3. Consent Agenda

- a. Review agenda
- b. Approval of minutes from [June 9, 2025](#)
- c. Acceptance of Technology Steering Committee minutes from [June 3, 2025](#) and [July 14, 2025](#)
- d. [YTD Budget](#)

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

4. Committee and Project Updates

a. Digital Library Steering Committee Update

It was shared that the Digital Library Steering Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. Their next meeting will be on September 11th.

b. Technology Steering Committee Update

The Technology Steering Committee held a special meeting on July 14 for the sole purposes of:

- finalizing the learnings from the Data Dashboard Proof of Concept Pilot via the [Final Report for the Data Dashboard Pilot project](#)

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- identifying the role, if any, the WPLC should continue playing in supporting the Data Visualization needs of public libraries within the WPLC,
- and discussing how the WPLC Technology Steering Committee envisions this work going forward.

The feedback supports a continued need for Data Visualization tools, training, and support to enhance the data confidence of library and system directors across the state. This pilot was a proof of concept project, and at the broadest level, the dashboard pilot highlighted support for having access to *visualized* Annual Report data; 97% of participants indicated that having this data visualized was at least somewhat helpful, with 45% indicating that it was "extremely helpful."

Participants found value in the dashboard and 100% indicated interest in continued access (pending questions about the cost of such a platform). Participants are most interested in having a tool such as the piloted dashboard be funded at the library system level, versus the local library level. Based on this feedback the Technology Steering Committee sees value in the WPLC continuing to play a role in ensuring equitable, statewide access to a variety of tools and resources and we see a path forward in how we can continue to offer this support.

At the upcoming September meeting, the Technology Steering committee will be exploring ways to maintain access to the piloted dashboard in 2026 - most likely they will be coming to this board for another budgetary request to support continued statewide access - and developing a centralized resource that identifies and provides in-depth training on the various data resources available at various partners across the state: DPI and systems who have developed data tools. Lastly, we are in conversation about what a Data Symposium or Showcase could look like, to bring together data experts and interested participants to engage in shared learning and conversation on approaches to using and understanding data.

c. Delivery Workgroup Update

The Delivery Workgroup met last Friday, August 1st. The meeting was hybrid, with the in-person location hosted at the MCLFS offices. Now that the workgroup has completed their first full budget cycle, they were able to establish an annually-recurring budget discussion cycle: the discussions and process will begin in February, with the goal of having a budget to recommend to the Board in June. The workgroup has also begun the work of updating a 2022 document of delivery service expectations; at the last meeting they were able to identify the audience for this document, and over the next few months will work towards updating the content and having an updated reference document for staff to use when talking with vendors, creating RFPs and MOUs, and noting other procedural standards for statewide delivery. The meeting concluded with a tour of the MCFLS delivery operations. The next meeting will be on Friday, September 5th.

d. Newspaper Project Update

The Historical and Local Digital Collections Committee will be co-hosting a Historical Newspapers Think Tank in collaboration with Recollection Wisconsin on Tuesday September 23rd in

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Milwaukee. The purpose of the Think Tank is to provide a group of stakeholders with information about Wisconsin's historical newspaper digitization and access efforts to date, and to collaboratively develop a proof-of-concept report and proposal for RW and WPLC's boards to establish a service pilot workgroup. Attendees will do scenario planning, with a focus on a scenario where Recollection Wisconsin's infrastructure and platform are utilized as a bridge for statewide access while the Wisconsin Historical Society stands up its platform (3-5 years out).

e. Website Workgroup Update

The website workgroup has been meeting regularly and have been doing a site audit of the current content as well as beginning discussions of layout and design of the new site.

5. Discussion and Action Items

a. Discussion and Action: Form Board Nominations Committee

The group discussed the formation of the Nominations Committee that will solicit candidates for Board Chair, Vice-Chair, and liaisons to all Steering Committees. The positions will serve the 2026 calendar year.

Volunteers were asked to serve on the 2026 Board Nominations Committee.

Volunteers: Steve Ohs, Clairellyn Sommersmith, Tracey Vreeke

There was a question about term lengths, and if one-year terms seemed long enough? M. Clark noted that this topic can be discussed during the next Bylaws Review, scheduled for 2026.

b. Discussion: Digital Library Steering Committee Seat Apportionment Formula

At each October meeting of the Board, the group reviews and approves the DL Steering Committee seat apportionment by agreeing upon the percentage of the Buying Pool and Advantage contribution that represents a seat. Last year the group determined that they would like to review and update the formula and thresholds in 2025 in order to avoid frequent changes in the number of representatives on that committee.

The Board reviewed last year's [2025 Digital Library Steering Committee Seat Apportionment](#) to discuss possible formula or percentage changes.

S. Hesel suggested adjusting the Percent Apportionments to 1%-9% is one seat; 10%-19% is two seats; and $\geq 20\%$ is three seats, noting that this would ideally reduce the occurrences of systems bouncing between 2-3 seats each year. It was asked if anyone struggled to find recruitments for seats; S. Hesel noted that it's more difficult to remove someone from a seat when apportionment drops. It was asked if the percentages were recently changed from something similar to this suggestion; M. Clark confirmed that the most recent change was in 2021-22, when the apportionments were 1%-5% was one seat; 6%-10% was two seats; and $>10\%$ was three seats.

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M. Clark will prepare the 2025 Digital Library Steering Committee Seat Apportionment document to reflect the most-recent buying pool numbers and Advantage spending, as well as the updated percent apportionments for the Board to review and approve at their next meeting.

c. Discussion and Action: 2026 Delivery Budget

The Delivery Workgroup has been reviewing the formula for the [2026 public library system portion of the Delivery budget](#). The group has made no changes to the formula and recommends the same [formula used for 2025](#).

The Board reviewed the recommended formula.

S. Ohs moved approval of the 2026 Delivery Budget. T. Vreeke seconded. The motion passed. There was no discussion.

6. Strategic Planning Process Activities and Discussions

[Plan Activation and Assessment Worksheet](#)

a. Communications Committee Charge

At the last meeting, the Board determined the Communications Committee make up. Project Managers have [drafted a charge](#) for the committee to review.

The group was asked if there were any changes or additions to the charge. The group was reminded the majority of the charge came from the strategic plan objectives. There were no suggested changes to the charge.

The group was asked if quarterly meetings seemed appropriate for the new committee. The Board was in support of this.

Looking at the plan, it was asked if there was an activity that they would like the communications committee to focus on first. The group agreed that the first activity, “Increasing member library awareness of and engagement with the services the WPLC supports”, should be given priority. C. Sommersmith suggested that a first step could be that member libraries are asked to complete a survey that gauges their awareness of aspects of the WPLC; then receive a similar survey 6- or 12 months later to see if there is an increase in awareness and engagement.

b. Establishing WPLC Values

The group will review and discuss the updated version of the [Draft Values Statements](#).

L. Damon-Moore led the group in a discussion of the Draft Value Statements, which incorporates updated language from the Board after their review at the June meeting. The group was in agreement on:

- Revise the "Creativity and Innovation" value to include a focus on opportunities;
- Keeping the value statements simple, and reducing them to a single sentence, if able;

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- Rearranging the order of the value statements, placing the "Integrity and Professional Ethics" value at the top;
- Keeping language consistent throughout (present-tense)

L. Damon-Moore will update the WPLC Values Statements with these suggestions, and will have a new draft for the Board to review and prepare for future approval.

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?

R. Scherer shared that MCLS is starting to look at ILS Services. Their contract with SirsiDynax goes through 2029, and it's never too early to begin looking.

B. Miller shared that Boston just put out a Digital Lending Toolkit. They're reviewing it at DPI and it seems very relevant to this group. It's available at <https://dlt.blc.org/>

A. Noel asked if the WPLC Board meets in-person at WLA? The group confirmed that it's inconsistent whether or not they do; they are not planning to this year.

8. Adjourn

A. Noel moved to adjourn the meeting. C. Sommersmith seconded. The motion passed.

Next meeting: Board Meeting on October 20, 2025, at 2:00 pm

Meeting ended at: 3:11pm

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