

Wisconsin Public Library Consortium
Board Meeting Notes
August 8, 2022, at 2:00 pm
by zoom

{Alternate in-person location: 1300 Industrial Drive, Suite 2, Fennimore, WI 53809}

PRESENT: Arrowhead: Steven Platteter, Bridges: Karol Kennedy, proxy for Mellanie Mercier, IFLS: Katelyn Noack, Lakeshores: Steve Ohs, Manitowoc-Calumet: Rebecca Scherer, Milwaukee: Steve Hesel, Nicolet: Tracy Vreeke, Northern Waters: Gina Rae, OWLS: Bradley Shipps, South Central: Martha Van Pelt, Southwest: David Kranz, Winding Rivers: Kristen Anderson, Wisconsin Valley: Rachel Metzler

ABSENT: Kenosha: Rob Nunez, Monarch: Riti Grover, Winnefox: Jeff Gilderson-Duwe

GUESTS: DPI: Ben Miller; LLS: David Dowling, SCLS: Jean Anderson

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

1. Call to order/Welcome & Introductions

Chair D. Kranz called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

2. Consent Agenda

- a. Review agenda
- b. Approval of minutes from [June 13, 2022](#)
- c. Acceptance of Technology Backup Steering Committee minutes from [July 20, 2022](#)
- d. [YTD Budget](#)

D. Kranz asked for an amendment of the June 13, 2022 meeting action and minutes. He noted that item 4.d was not listed as an action item on the agenda and according to the WPLC bylaws all items voted on during a meeting need to be noted as an action item on the agenda, therefore the vote will be noted as not official.

S. Ohs moved approval of the consent agenda, B. Shipps seconded. The consent agenda was approved with noted changes to the June 13, 2022 minutes.

3. Updates from Previous Meetings/Projects

- a. [Historical and Local Collections Committee Update](#)

M. Clark informed the board that this update is posted on the WPLC website and confirmed that all current newspaper participants have been contacted with this new information. No questions were asked about the report.

4. Discussion and Action Items

- a. **Discussion and possible action: Fiscal Sponsorship**

At the last Board meeting, the group voted to have NFLS make an inexpensive initial assessment of legal options for the WPLC and to consult with the Board Chair around WPLC and fiscal sponsorship.

T. Vreeke reported back to the board that she was able to consult with her administrative assistant, Hannah Zima, who is a non-practicing attorney. After reviewing the agreement and

accompanying documents, H. Zima suggests the WPLC may want to explore further what applying for 501 c(3) status might entail if they did not want to formalize a fiscal sponsor relationship with WiLS. This could allow WPLC to contract with WiLS only as a fiscal agent. T. Vreeke offered to gather additional legal advice from a practicing attorney that NFLS has worked with previously.

K. Anderson asked if T. Vreeke could share H. Zima's response in writing, and T. Vreeke agreed to send to the Board. S. Hesel thanked T. Vreeke for sharing this information and asked that further advice be gathered. S. Hesel would like to learn what the pros and cons are of becoming a 501 c(3).

K. Kennedy moves that the group authorize T. Vreeke to seek additional advice and information from her legal contact, with an upper spending threshold of \$500. M. Van Pelt seconded. Motion carried.

T. Vreeke will contact the attorney next week and asked that Board members send her any questions via email.

b. Discussion and action: Form Board Nominations Committee

The group was asked for volunteers for the 2023 Board Nominations Committee for the purposes of soliciting candidates for Board Chair, Vice-Chair, Liaison to the Digital Library Steering Committee, and, if wanted, Liaisons to any of the other Steering Committees. The positions will serve the 2023 calendar year.

M. Clark informed the board that this committee's workload is light, typically only one brief phone meeting is required. M. Clark asked if the board would like to assign a specific liaison to any of the new technology steering committees. The consensus is that having a liaison for each steering committee is best practice and should be continued.

Rachel Metzler, Gina Rae, and Katelyn Noack volunteered to serve on the nominations committee. T. Vreeke moved approval of the Board Nominations Committee as listed above, S. Platteter seconded. The motion was approved.

c. Discussion and action: Multiyear Recommendation and Budget Process

Project managers are proposing the WPLC move from an annual recommendation and budget process to a two-year process in order to streamline processes, reduce member workloads, and elongate the timeframe for initiative implementation and assessment.

A [Proposal](#) was presented to the group. It was noted that the Board would still approve the budget annually since the buying pool formula is based on the previous year's usage

K. Anderson noted that this new schedule matches up nicely with the system biennial budget cycle.

M. Van Pelt asked if a two-year cycle would delay the implementation of new products or services. M. Clark stated that since the budget would still be presented to and approved annually by the WPLC board there will still be flexibility to add in new pilot projects each year either in the R&D budget line or from the reserves account.

D. Kranz asked if there was any concern in a loss in continuity on the Collection Development Committee if they met biennially. M. Clark said the committee has had low involvement historically, so she did not see this as a problem.

T. Vreeke moved to approve the two-year cycle proposal effective immediately, S. Hesel seconded. The motion was approved.

d. Discussion and action: Collection Development Committee Members

The Board was asked to affirm current Collection Development Committee members and assign a new member to the Committee.

Current Board representatives include Mellanie Mercier and Tracy Vreeke. It was asked if they want to continue on the CDC. M. Mercier is happy to continue. Due to capacity concerns, T. Vreeke asked if another board member might be willing to take her committee assignment.

With Maureen Welch's recent retirement, the board needs to replace her seat, so the chair is looking for two volunteers. R. Metzler and G. Rae volunteered to serve on the CDC.

K. Kennedy moved to accept the volunteers as members of the CDC, K. Anderson seconded. The motion was approved.

e. Discussion: Potential 2023 R&D projects & Topics for the Collection Development Committee to Consider

The Board was asked to suggest potential projects that might be good R&D projects for WPLC for next year as well as recommend any activities that the Collection Development Committee should consider for their recommendations next year.

G. Rae suggested investigating the possibility for individual libraries to have individual advantage accounts so they can do marketing to their members. M. Clark confirmed that when the messaging feature is available, systems will be able to send out system-wide messages via Libby and it is up to each system to grant individual libraries access to an advantage account.

T. Vreeke asked if anything was in the hopper from previous years. M. Clark stated that the only thing there might be progress on is the Palace Project, a vendor-agnostic digital collection platform. WPLC project managers are watching the progress on this project.

G. Rae also suggested a review of the buying pool formula. This can be funneled to the budget committee.

K. Anderson wonders if the WPLC might be a place to explore legal support in general for libraries and library systems. T. Vreeke concurred that having an expert in the state on library law would be helpful.

D. Kranz was curious how the new technology steering committees might share their R&D suggestions. M. Clark shared that those committees are not at the point yet of having R&D projects.

T. Vreeke wondered if the WPLC might be able to offer proactive assistance in matching requests for Big Read titles with Overdrive. K. Anderson added that they have a couple of counties in their system who put on Big Read programming each year. Perhaps there is a marketing opportunity here, for libraries unfamiliar with how they might approach Overdrive in securing digital access to a large number of copies during a Big Read event. Perhaps the WPLC could develop a process document.

5. Information Sharing from Partners

T. Vreeke is reminded of how much she appreciates the digital library as she resumes a busier travel schedule.

6. Adjourn

It was noted the next meeting of the Board is on October 24, 2022, at 2:00 pm

S. Platteter moved to adjourn, K Kennedy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting ended at 2:53 pm