

**Wisconsin Public Library Consortium**

**Board Meeting Notes**

**August 13, 2019 at 1:00 pm**

**via GoToMeeting\***

{Alternate in-person location: 980 WI-16, West Salem, WI 54669}

**Present:** Kristen Anderson (WRLS), Jennifer Chamberlain (MLS), Dominic Frandup, proxy for Anne Hamland (WVLS), Anne-Marie Itzin (NWLS), Mellanie Mercier (BLS), Rob Nunez (KLS), Steve Platteter (ALS), Rebecca Schadrie (MCLS), Jennifer Schmidt (MCFLS), Martha Van Pelt (SCLS), Maureen Welch (IFLS)

**Absent:** Steve Ohs (LLS), Tracy Vreeke (NFLS), Evan Bend (OWLS), David Kranz (SWLS), Mark Arend (WLS)

**Project Managers:** Melody Clark (WiLS), Stef Morrill (WiLS)

**Guests:** John DeBacher (DPI)

**Call to order/Welcome & Introductions**

Chair K. Anderson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**Consent Agenda**

1. Review agenda
2. Approval of minutes from [June 4, 2019](#)
3. Decisions made between June 4, 2019 and current meeting

There were no changes and the consent agenda was approved by consensus.

**Updates from Previous Meetings/Projects – See [Project Updates](#)**

**[YTD Budget Review:](#)**

S. Morrill explained the other income and expenses on the budget. One was an error related to the change in buying pool amounts; the other was an invoice meant for a system that was sent to WPLC. There was a question about the money received from Milwaukee Public Library for digital uploading for newspapers. These are funds from DPI to pay for historical newspaper uploading.

**New Business**

***Discussion and action: Form Board Nominations Committee***

It's time for us to form the Nominations Committee that will solicit candidates to be the Board Chair, Vice-Chair, and Liaison to the Steering Committee. The positions will serve the 2020 calendar year. During the meeting, we will be asking for volunteers for the Nominations Committee and discuss the process for soliciting for the positions. The Board was asked for volunteers for the 2020 Board Nominations Committee.

S. Morrill shared that WiLS sends an email out to the Board to see if anyone is interested. If no one responds, the committee will be asked who they would like WiLS to approach for the positions.

The Committee is typically three people. M. Mercier, M. Van Pelt, and R. Schadrie volunteered. S. Morrill will be in touch with the committee.

***Discussion and action: Steering Committee seat apportionment***

Each year, the Board should be validating the Steering Committee seat apportionment by agreeing upon the percentage of Buying Pool contribution that represents a seat, and determining if the seats are allocated by the percentage. WiLS is proposing the following percentages, which are the same as last year and would allow the allocations to remain the same for 2020: 1% - 5%: 1 seat, 6% - 10%: 2 seats, >11%: 3 seats. The Board was asked if they have any questions or concerns about the Steering Committee seat apportionment.

There was some discussion about how Steering representatives are selected and their terms. The partner is responsible for deciding who is on the Steering Committee and how long they serve. There are no terms or other regulations specified by the consortium.

S. Platteter moved to approve the apportionment; M. Welch seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

***Discussion and action: Steering Committee job description***

Each year, the Board affirms the Steering Committee job description for the following year. There have been no changes. The group was asked if they have any questions or concerns about the Steering Committee job description. There were none.

J. Chamberlain moved to approve the job description; M. Van Pelt seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

***Discussion: Potential 2020 R&D projects***

This is an item that we consider each year around this time. It was asked if anyone has ideas or knows of potential projects that might be good R&D projects for WPLC. S. Morrill reported on behalf of the Historical & Local Collections Committee. They have been investigating a new platform for the historical newspapers and have asked the project managers to come up with a plan and costs for migrating to Veridian. WiLS is working on this proposal for the group to review. While no specific costs are yet known, they should be known by early next year. The committee would like consideration for R&D funds for this project.

The purpose of these funds is to provide money for experimentation or piloting of projects that could be expanded to multiple members. The amount available is carryover from the current year R&D, along with the 2020 R&D allocation. If possible, we will discuss potential ideas at the roundtable. At the very least, ideas may come out of the roundtable that could be R&D projects.

One idea that came up is something to address overall communications issues for public libraries in the state. There are a lot of places to find information, and perhaps WPLC could work on streamlining this.

***Discussion: 2020 meeting schedule***

It's the time of year for us to set the 2020 meeting schedule. The group discussed the current meeting schedule to determine if they want to maintain a similar schedule to the current year. The Board currently meets five times per year: February, May (in person with WAPL), June, August, and October

(in person with WLA, except in 2019).

No one had a desire to change the meeting schedule. The project managers will send out Doodle polls to set the dates for 2020 meetings.

**Discussion: County-wide Advantage accounts**

At the last meeting of the Board, individual library Advantage accounts were discussed. The group decided to talk with OverDrive about requiring that systems request the creation of individual library Advantage accounts and ask OverDrive to cease the marketing of Advantage accounts to individual libraries. Project managers discussed these two topics with OverDrive and they agreed.

Since that time, a new request for a non-system Advantage account was made. The Jefferson County Library Board would like to ask Jefferson County for additional funding to help pay for OverDrive usage in the county. 32% of the county's WPLC usage comes from non-library tax paying users, which is a higher percentage than in-person usage by the non-library users.

The request would be for a significant amount of funds that would be in a Jefferson County Advantage account. They would only be used for holds reduction, and the selection would be done by the same person who does the system Advantage selection.

The Board discussed. At the last meeting, there were some philosophical questions around individual library Advantage accounts that were left unanswered. Without these answers, it is difficult to decide if this type of county account should be permitted.

There was also some question raised about the impact of Advantage accounts on overall holds. Unless there is a significant investment, it may not make any difference.

It may be necessary to get the blessing of other counties in the system. In this case, Waukesha County would not have objections because it would mean more materials available for their patrons.

It would also be necessary for the county selector to communicate with the system selector so that individual county holds are reviewed and copies purchased first. In this case, there would be only one selector.

One way to present a case without a county Advantage account could be to emphasize that the funds will be used to purchase copies of titles for the county's holds first.

As the group continued discussion, it was clear that there are still a lot of questions and there is not yet a cohesive viewpoint on the question of Advantage accounts for any groups other than systems. There needs to be additional discussion. Everyone is sympathetic to Jefferson County's interests, but we are not to a decision point yet.

The decision could be to allow partners to bring forward non-system accounts for discussion by the board, rather than a blanket banning of these types of accounts. There would need to be clear parameters.

The discussion will continue at the roundtable in October.

**Discussion: Collection Development Committee**

At the last Board meeting, the group approved making the Collection Development Workgroup a permanent Committee and changing the schedule for the body to meet on a continuous basis. The makeup of the committee was shared. The Committee will consist of three representatives each from the Board, Steering Committee, and Selection Committee, and will be geographically representative. The group is a committee of the Steering Committee and will report to the Steering Committee.

Annually, prior to October, each body will solicit volunteers for the committee and will choose their representation before October 1.

It was asked if the Board has any concerns regarding this plan and if they agree that the Committee will report to the Steering Committee, as the group did when it was a workgroup.

There were no concerns.

**Information Sharing from Partners**

The group reviewed the purpose of the Roundtable (see [this proposal](#) for more details) . Because of the level of discussion that will need to happen that day, attendance will be limited to the Board representative, the Steering representatives, and the Collection Development Workgroup. The two webinars, one on national trends and one on WPLC statistics, will be open to anyone.

**Meeting Evaluation**

The group was asked how did the meeting went and how might we improve for our next meeting. One member shared that it was great!

**Adjourn**

It was noted the next meeting will be held on October 22, 2019 at 1:00 pm via GoToMeeting. Chair K. Anderson adjourned the meeting at 2:04.