

MINUTES
System and Resource Library Administrators Association of Wisconsin
January 30, 2006
South Central Library System

1. Call to Order –

Chair Jim Trojanowski, called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

In attendance were:

Jim Trojanowski—NWLS, Rick Krumwiede—OWLS, Janet Jennings-- Superior PL, Sandy Robbers—IFLS, Ruth Ann Montgomery—ALS, Peg Branson—DLTCL, Robert E. Hafeman—MCLS, Mark Arend—WLS, Jeff Gilderson-Duwe-- WLS/Oshkosh PL, Michael Tyree--West Bend PL, Mark Merrifield—NFLS, David Weinhold—ESLS, Bernie Bellin—LLS, Claudia Backus—WCFLS, Mark Morse—L.E. Phillips PL, Alan Engelbert—MCLS/Manitowoc P.L, David Polodna—Winding Rivers, Krista Ross—SWLS, Walter Burkhalter—MWFLS, Jessica MacPhail—Racine PL, Mike Cross—DLTCL, Bob Bocher—DLTCL, Jim Gingery—MCFLS, Doug Baker—KPL/KCLS, Kathy Cole—KPL/KCLS, Alan Zimmerman—DLTCL, Phyllis Davis—SCLS, Barb Dimick—Madison PL, Terry Dawson—Appleton PL, Sally Drew—RLL

2. Quorum determination

Chair determined a quorum of the membership was in attendance.

3. Introductions

Members introduced themselves and identified whom they represented.

4. Changes/Additions to the Agenda

No changes were requested

Mark Arend was asked to be the recorder for the meeting.

5. Approval of the minutes from August 5 meeting

Motion by McPhail, second by Weinhold to approve the October 25th minutes. Motion carried.

6. Treasurer's Report

Polodna distributed a written Treasurer's report. Polodna was asked if each system was invoiced for dues. He said they were. He was asked where the funds were invested and answered that they were in a non-interest bearing checking account. The treasurer's report was accepted by consensus.

7. WLA Initiative – "It's Time to Speak Up for Your Library"

Strand passed out examples of signs and cards. It is their goal to develop a state-wide network of library advocates by having cards and collection boxes in every library. The network would be operated at a regional (System) level. When WLA wants information distributed they would contact systems which would in turn pass the message on to library supporters. Systems could adjust the timing of the distribution or decide not to

send the information out at all if the message or timing conflicted with system or local library advocacy efforts.

Question: was this regional network maintenance model explicitly stated in the information that was sent out? Strand said she thought so. LD&L thought that people would be more likely to sign up if they knew that their information would not be sent to a “big database down in Madison”.

SCLS maintains an email list of this sort with about 1,000 members. They send out monthly mailings to help keep contacts open and check for bad email addresses. The messages contain general library news and legislative information as appropriate. They are careful not to send anything that might ruffle the feathers of library directors or trustees.

Baker suggested the database be set up so specific audiences could be targeted (state, county, municipality, legislative district, etc.). Gingery said that MCFLS would not participate. Library directors were not averse to this type of effort but were extremely reluctant to allow the system or any other entity to have control of the list or message.

Krumwiede commented that the timing of this initiative was interesting, as the WLAF was kicking off the Campaign for Wisconsin’s Libraries tomorrow and the Campaign included a web site where people could sign up to receive different types of emails. McPhail said not to forget Federal legislative issues. ALA has a similar email list.

An informal poll was taken of how many systems would participate. 5 or 6 said they would; most said they had not yet discussed it with members.

Davis commented that their PR consultant, Mark Ibach, would be willing to answer questions on how they handled their list.

8. Effect of county levy limits on reimbursements to public libraries for serving non-libraries residents

Weinhold reported that officials in one of his counties had asked the DOR if the county library tax was subject to levy limits. The DOR said it was. In previous levy limits the library tax was often exempt. The group was asked if anyone had had problems with county funding this year because of the levy limits; had any libraries gotten less than they would have expected because of levy limits. Robbers & Krumwiede each reported that one county in each of their systems had received less and the excuse given was the levy limits. No one else reported any problems. Baker commented that the library levy is not independent of other municipal funds, that it is folded into the big picture. Weinhold said this argument was not accepted in his county because the county library tax is not levied on all county residents. The consensus was that several system boards would support any move to exempt library funding from any levy limits.

Trojanowski asked what this means for the reform bill. Cross commented that the 70% reimbursement for cross-county use did not kick in until 2008 and that the current levy limits expire in 2007. He was asked how the levy limits affected new joint libraries or new libraries joining existing joint libraries and said the DOR would exclude these costs from the levy limits. He commented that the DOR is in an executive department and the Governor wants the levy limits to control local property taxes.

9. Information on various library-related resolutions coming from Ozaukee County

Weinhold reported that the Ozaukee Co. Board has passed several resolutions relating to SB 272 & 273. A bill is being drafted to exclude any amount spent by a county for library capital projects from calculation of the threshold for a municipality to qualify for exemption from the county library levy. A second section would allow Mequon to support the Weyenberg Public Library (operated jointly by Mequon and Thiensville) at a tax rate lower than the library tax rate paid by property owners in Ozaukee County who do not live in a library community. This is being circulated as LRB-4128

10. Legislative Update

McPhail did not comment on state legislative issues, as we'd all hear about it on Tuesday. On the Federal side the Patriot Act renewal is the important issue. Since both Wisconsin Senators support changes in this law the only contact needed is to thank them for their support. Hafeman is going to be the SRLAAW representative to Legislative Day in Washington DC.

Gingery asked why WLA supported the amendment to SB 272 which would exempt Milwaukee Co. from crossover borrowing reimbursement. He asked why they hadn't asked him about this issue and what principle applied to the endorsement? McPhail said not supporting it might have killed the bill. She apologized for not contacting him.

Cross was asked about amendments to SB 272

#1: would let counties implement reciprocal borrowing plans

#2: exempts Milwaukee Co. from requiring reciprocal borrowing plans

He is expecting an amendment to remove the provision that new joint library agreements require all parties to support the library at the same rate. The hope is that the committee will approve the bill soon and it will go to the full Assembly. If passed with any amendments it will have to go back to the Senate

11. DPI Reports

a. Preliminary results of shared ILS study -

Bocher handed out a report on the study progress. The final report is due in 2 - 3 weeks. Some systems reported much more income than expenditures. He will ask some systems to check out the report online and get changes to him. There was discussion of the meaning of '3' or 'neutral' answers. Gingery suggested it means that people don't really understand the question and need more and/or better info. Bocher said it could also mean general satisfaction with the status quo. No consensus was reached.

Davis commented that the survey shows costs but not what problem a statewide ILS would solve. She wasn't sure why some questions are there. Bocher said the prime purpose was to get cost info. This study could have had an impact on state ill system bid process if they'd gotten strong indication that people wanted a statewide shared system

b. BadgerNet Converged Network Migration

Bocher had another handout. It's a good news/bad news situation. Good news: the first migrations in LaCrosse were a week or so ago and it seems to have gone well. Not good news: he's frustrated because of the need of some libraries to get new routers. Division staff met with SBC 3 or 4 times in 2005 and SBC never said anything about new routers. There is a conference call coming up to resolve this issue. Some routers might be upgraded at less expense.

General anger and outrage. Gingery said Milwaukee doesn't have money for new routers. Baker & Krumwiede said the understanding was that vendor would pay for equipment. Krumwiede thinks the cost for OWLS & Nicolet would be between \$50,000 & \$100,000. Bocher said he also thought SBC would take care of this. Now it looks like they'll place a router in the library but the router won't route internet traffic. Engelbert asked what do we do if we can't pay? There's no option; libraries won't have internet or shared system access. Hafeman asked what the contract says. Bocher said he'd asked several times but never gotten a copy. General question: Who should calls of complaint go to? DOA or SBC?

Bocher said to wait till after the Thursday conference call. Engelbert commented that this was news to him and asked that when there's news with budget implications to include system directors in mailings. Bocher said it'd been discussed on the IT list but had not been copied to SRLAAW.

c. 2007 Wisconsin LSTA program

Branson commented on the Federal MOE issue. Because of 2003-04 problems with state funding we are getting about \$33,000 less LSTA funding in 2005. The problem will be worse in 2006; almost \$110,000. IMLS can grant waiver and we will apply, but we are unlikely to receive one.

Branson reported on some ideas for new categories that have come in. These include distance learning equipment, a library economic impact study, funds to allow schools to join shared automation systems, and opening up LSTA funding to other types of libraries. Idea from the floor: larger system block grants. The comment was made that there's so little there we don't open up to other types of libraries--this is about all we have ourselves. Bellen supports school districts in shared systems but not individual schools or CESAs.

Branson was asked if there is any plan to move division staff off federal funding and back to state funding? She said no, that state policy is to not transfer positions from federal to

state funding. Someone asked if lack of money for construction was a federal or state decision? It's a federal one.

Krumwiede asked for support for LSTA funding for an economic impact study. Dawson moved we go on record supporting use of LSTA funding as seed money for a study of the economic impact of libraries. McPhail seconded. There was general discussion about the value of impact studies and the need for another one. Dimick reported that Madison PL was considering a study of the effectiveness of the main library. Motion passed: ayes 15 nays 8

There is an LSTA advisory committee meeting & public hearing on the 12th.

d. Other items of interest

Cross commented that the new edition of the Public Library Standards were in delivery. The records retention schedule is close to being approved by the Public Records Board. AB-483 (the MOE bill) was reported out of committee on 4-4 vote as amended. The annual report forms were mailed out on Friday and the form site is up. DPI is looking into doing forms in house to save money. The district legislation draft is still sitting on Rep Freese's desk. *Administrative Essentials* is still moving ahead. He was asked if there was any effort to get libraries on the excluded list for concealed carry or was there a workplace exception? No to both.

Bocher was asked about CALEA. This is federal legislation that requires phone companies to open up switches for tapping. They would like to expand this to ISPs. There's a current lawsuit.

12. Set date and location of the next meeting-

Wed 3 May, the day before WAPL in Wisconsin Rapids

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:30

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Arend, Recorder