

System and Resource Library Administrator's Association of Wisconsin
February 8, 2008
Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Present were Walter Burkhalter, MWFLS; John Thompson, IFLS; Michael Golrick, L. E. Phillips Memorial Library; Sandra Melcher, Milwaukee Public Library; Jim Trojanowski, NWLF; Bernie Bellin, LLS; Jessica MacPhail, Racine P. L.; Mark Arend, Winnefox; Ruth Ann Montgomery, ALS; Bryan J. McCormick, Hedberg Public Library; Rick Krumwiede; OWLS; Phyllis Christensen, Marathon Co. P. L.; Phyllis Davis, SCLS; Barb Dimick, Madison, P.L.; David Weinhold, ESLS; and David Polodna, WRLS. Also present were Kathy Schneider, WILS and Mike Cross, DLTCL.

Chair Walter Burkhalter called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

A quorum was present with Mark Arend holding a proxy for Jeff Gilderson-Duwe (Oshkosh); Sandra Melcher holding a proxy for Paula Kiely (Milwaukee); Linda Orcutt holding a proxy for Marla Sepnafski (WVLS); Rick Krumwiede holding the proxy for Terry Dawson (Appleton) and Jim Trojanowski holding the proxy for Janet Jennings (Superior.)

Introductions were made and Bryan McCormick, the new director at the Hedberg Public Library in Janesville was welcomed.

Rick Krumwiede asked that the WLA Foundation be added to the agenda items. The agenda was amended.

Michael Golrick moved approval of the minutes and John Thompson seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved with no corrections.

David Weinhold gave the treasurer's report, which had not changed except for a check that was made out at this meeting. He also announced there would be no fees this year as the group has a sufficient balance in the treasury.

Professional Concerns Committee: Jim Trojanowski questioned whether they should produce the salary survey, given the amount of work that goes into it. Krista from Southwest was not present but they had discussed that declining sales of the salary survey make it no longer self supporting. Mike Cross said that the Division has discussed adding some salary information to the annual report or perhaps asking the systems to collect and compile the information. Libraries want the systems to purchase the current survey results. David Weinhold said that if you contribute to the survey, then you get a copy of the results. Mark Arend felt that the layout of spread sheet is not very user friendly. Bernie Bellin said he did not have a clear view if people in his system are using it. Rick Krumwiede said that the most recent results are not very useable. Information is there but layout is not good. It was decided to discuss this issue later. Typically only half of the systems participate and there is some indication that ALA is going to be producing a similar document so that Wisconsin may not need to. Bernie had an issue with the fact that WAPL charges as much as they do, since it has reserves in its accounts. Jim Trojanowski moved that we table the discussion. Phyllis Davis second and the motion to table carried.

County Shared Library Services Levy: David Weinhold has a board member looking into developing state legislation on a county levy for shared library services. The librarians in Eastern Shores talked about it and agreed that the county should pay for shared library automation system; electronic data bases available to all residents of the county; crossover borrowing; and adjacent county borrowing. David thinks the Board member may not still be in favor of the proposals that the librarians in Eastern Shores had made.

Question: This supervisor is willing to let it rest? Answer: Yes.

Question: This would be an equal tax across the county? Answer: Yes. No exemptions allowed.

There were additional questions on how to define shared service. It was suggested that it needs to be a service that benefits all and when it is described people can understand it is a general benefit.

Question: How would system treat the multiple counties and if there are libraries that do not participate in the shared system? Answer: Unclear how it would affect multiple county systems. The idea works well in Eastern Shores, perhaps not in all systems. It would be exempt from any levy limits.

Question: Aren't township residents already paying based on library expenditures. Answer: Yes, but it does not include capital expenses such as hardware and software.

Another comment from Mark Arend. The counties have agreed to pay for central processing and technical services in Winnefox.

Comment from Phyllis Davis. We have similar issues on how to pay for things. Eastern Shores tends to take county problems and want to use it as statewide solution. This may not play well in the rest of the state where there may be other issues in the other counties in the state. It cannot succeed on a state level if there is not agreement that it would benefit all systems and counties.

David Polodna: It would be permissive legislation not required.

Rick: Some counties think they can already do it.

Mike Cross. There is nothing that prohibits the county from contributing to capital costs. There are already ways to solve the problem without messing with the state statutes.

District Libraries: Jessica MacPhail spoke about the District Library Legislation. It works in Illinois and allows district to tax for library services. We have been playing with this for about 12 years. Representative Townsend is interested and the bill drafter is working on it. She is assigning it to staff and it may not be ready to introduce in this session, but perhaps in the next session. Senator Ellis has some interest in advancing District Legislation.

Visioning Summit update: Jim Trojanowski reported that invitations have been sent out for the summit. The committee has worked hard to get all types of libraries, statewide representation, business, legislative community, diversity, all staff levels, and ages. There have been secondary people selected if the first invitations are not accepted. Jim was encouraging systems, library staff, and friends to complete the answers to seven questions. Sandra Melcher said that they are asking the teen library board in Milwaukee to respond to the questions and they have shared questions with all the branch managers in the Milwaukee System. Rick Krumwiede asked, "How late can the systems do an activity?" Answer: about the end of March. Jim reported that the committee will cluster the questions and make boards for the summit that will include the responses. This will allow participants to see the responses and discuss them at the summit. Jim indicated that the web page will be changed so that questions are easier to find.

Other comments regarding the summit: Michael Golrick said that his Board Vice President is blind, so she needs special accommodations. Phyllis Davis said that she had heard that the committee had done a lot of good work in getting a variety of people involved. Public Library Advisory committee will get together in March. The questions can also be posted to advocacy lists. Jim said that he hoped to share some information on how one of their libraries is trying to get citizens involved in the process.

John Thompson said that they were going to have their staff participate in the Visioning system via OPAL. Jim T. also encouraged libraries to get Friends groups to answer the questions.

Mark Arend said that there were two Winnefox member directors who had been invited to be delegates. Jim T. said that a list of people in the summit has not been posted yet. Sandra Melcher reported that Federal Legislators for Wisconsin have been invited to attend.

Visioning Summit was explained by Jim Trojanowski. COLAND originated the idea and appointed a committee to look at statewide resource sharing. COLAND wanted a broader view of statewide library service and the Division at the suggestion of COLAND agreed to have LSTA money used for the survey and summit. The Planning Committee formed the questions and a beginning document. The committee wants the outcome to be a document that libraries can use in planning for the future although it may be that there will not be a state budget initiative to come out of this.

DLTCL Reports: Mike Cross. LSTA money is being used to do an economic impact study of libraries in Wisconsin. WLAF was also to donate some money for the project. After an RFP, the contract was awarded to North Star Economics. There were other proposals. One highly rated one was higher in cost than the amount available. North Star proposal ended up being the top rated proposal and was below the amount setup for LSTA money, so no WLAF money was needed. The study may not be as thorough as we had hoped. We are still hoping for good and valuable outcome on this project.

North Star will rely on focus groups, interview groups held all over Wisconsin, at least one in each library system area and an online survey. They are currently in the process of working to develop the questions for discussion groups. The System Director and Library Directors will help identify locations for discussion groups and help them figure out the right people to interview. This project is on a fairly short timeline. The online survey will be made available soon. In early April they will do a presentation at the visioning summit. They will also provide a presentation at WAPL in May. The online survey should be linked to catalogs and websites. North Star Economics wants lots of responses.

North Star is just making the contact with systems. Rick has already set his up. He suggested two libraries in his system, Kaukauna and Appleton. Systems need to find people in the community to be in the discussion groups. Question: How are they determining how many groups in each system? Answer: At least one and in larger systems more. OWLS two sessions are scheduled in one day.

Current State Library Legislation (Cross): SB 1 has passed both houses and would allow library boards to transfer funds to foundations, 501(3) c organizations that support libraries. Bill is retroactive for transfers already made. The Governor has not signed yet.

SB214, library surveillance bill, is now law.

AB420 bill supported by Mequon and Ozaukee County would provide an alternative method of qualifying for exemption from the library levy. It was on the County Association agenda. They debated and did not take a position of AB420. It has passed the Assembly but has not come up in the Senate.

Mark Arend: Senator Ressler is having stand alone legislation to transfer gift fund not only to 501(3) c but also to a Community Foundation. Mike: some people think that SB1 allows this, as it does not say "not sole purpose to support libraries" (see the bill)

Bernie Bellin: Met with Village President and others in the Waterford area about 70% funding. Village president wants amount of 70% raised to 100%.

Mike: The 2008 LSTA appropriation was a reduction from what we had expected, by about \$70,000 from 2007 funding. The Division reduced a couple of awards to make up the difference. One was the merging of shared systems in Indianhead and another statewide delivery.

Rick Krumwiede reported on the WLA Foundation, a charitable arm of WLA. The Foundation awards scholarships for library education; awards and honors; and supports the campaign for Wisconsin Libraries. They had budgeted money to help pay for the Economic Impact Study but the bids were low enough that the WLAF money is not needed now. They made a commitment to disseminate the results of the Economic Impact Study throughout the state. This is the major priority for the Foundation this year. WLAF has a new development plan and one of the agenda items is to have systems contribute to the Campaign for Wisconsin Libraries. Rick asked each system to contribute \$500 per year. Rick has a personal goal to see all members of SRLAAW be contributors. It would be wonderful to say we have 100% participation of SRLAAW members.

The next SRLAAW meeting: WAPL Conference should be date of next meeting and the day before, Wednesday, the 30th of April was chosen. The meeting will again be at Stevens Point at 2 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by Michael Golrick; seconded by John Thompson and carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30.

Respectfully submitted
Ruth Ann Montgomery
Recorder