

System and Resource Library Administrators Association of Wisconsin
Q1 2021 Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, March 29, 2021

Time: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Location: Virtual

Recorder: Sherry Machones

1. Call to Order

Chair Machones called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM

2. Quorum Determination

Attendance:

Sherry Machones, Chair (NWLS), Susan Heskin (Superior PL), Marla Sepnanski (WVLS), Ralph Illick (Marathon CPL), Jeff Gilderson-Duwe (WLS/ Oshkosh PL), Clairellyn Sommersmith (Winnefox), Shanneon Grant (LaCrosse PL), Kristen Anderson (WRLS), Bruce Gay (Waukesha PL), Karol Kennedy (Bridges), Martha Van Pelt (SCLS), Sarah Sugden (Brown County PL), Steve Hesel (MCFLS), Rebecca Schadrie (MCLS), Steve Ohs (LSLS), Angie Zimmermann (Racine PL), Barb Brattin (Kenosha), John Thompson (IFLS), Kim Hennings (Eau Claire PL), Steven Platteter (ALS), Tasha Saecker (Appleton PL), Colleen Rortvedt (Appleton PL), Jessie Lee-Jones (Platteville PL), Tracy Vreeke (NFLS) *arrived at 9:30*, Joan Johnson (Milwaukee PL) *arrived at 9:40*

Affiliated Organizations/Guests:

Melody Clark (WiLS), Emily Pfothenhauer (Recollection Wisconsin), Jennifer Chamberlain (WiLS), Jaime Healy-Plotkin (COLAND), Mark Jochem (SCLS), Nyama Reed (WLA), Michael Dennison (DPI), Martha Beringer (DPI)

3. Proxy announcements if applicable

Proxy: Colleen Rortvedt and Tasha Saecker for Bradley Shipp (OWLS); Sarah Sugden for Tracy Vreeke (NFLS); Rebecca Schadrie for Kristin Stoeger; Kim Hennings for Pamela Westby (Eau Claire PL)

4. Introductions/Welcome Guests (Machones)

5. Agenda: Approval (Machones) Moved by Van Pelt, 2nd by Platteter. Motion Passed.

6. Minutes: Q4 2020 Approval (Machones) Moved by Ohs, 2nd by Gilderson-Duwe, Motion Passed.

7. Nominations for Officers (Machones) – Brattin introduced the nominating committee's slate: Tracy Vreeke Chair, Rebecca Schadrie Vice Chair, Kristen Anderson Treasurer. Moved by Brattin, Sugden 2nd. There was no discussion/motion passed w/all in favor.

8. Vote for Officers (Machones) – Tracy Vreeke Chair, Rebecca Schadrie Vice Chair, Kristen Anderson Treasurer. Moved by Gilderson-Duwe, Van Pelt 2nd. There was no discussion/motion passed w/all in favor.

9. Treasurer's Report (Anderson)
Anderson presented her report.

Vreeke had requested that we increase the governmental relations fee and Anderson conveyed the aspects of that request on behalf of Vreeke. Machones gave the background of how the fee came to be (formula of one-tenth of one percent of system aid in 2015) and how SRLAAW and WLA have remained very appreciative and impressed with Steve Conway. The formula has never been changed from 2015 even though system aid has risen. Gilderson-Duwe asked if Conway had asked for an increase and Machones reported that if a request was made to WLA, it was never presented to the WLA Board. Gilderson-Duwe moved that for 2022 the payment will be the formula of one-tenth of one percent of system aid based on the 2021 system aid, Brattin seconded. Motion Passed.

Machones notified SRLAAW that there will be no in-person National Library Legislative Day event this year. ALA has asked that Kurt Kiefer and Machones undergo the annual advocacy training this year and will be meeting with federal legislators of their choosing in April.

Brattin moved that since our fund balance is so high that we should skip membership dues this year for SRLAAW members, Platteter seconded. Sommersmith and Anderson supports this motion but are concerned about pausing dues in the future. Motion Passed.

10. LD&L Report (Gay)

Reed presented the report for Gay.

Library Legislative Day went as well as it could have for being entirely virtual. Jim Ramsey and WLA staff were amazing at scheduling the appointments and working with the technology. Nick Dimassis and Steve Conway ran a great morning program.

LD&L Budget team has been meeting with the Joint Finance Committee members on the current budget ask. LD&L are working on recruiting speakers for the Joint Finance Hearings that will be occurring across the state in April.

11. Libraries Activating Workforce Development Skills (LAWDS) Project (Berninger, Jochem)

- (a) Jochem reported that the project has been extended until December. 3 out of the 4 training modules are available for library staff.
- (b) Berninger has submitted all necessary paperwork with the IMLS to extend it until December.

12. ARPA Projects and Brainstorming (DPI)

Michael Dennison from DPI spoke about Build America's Libraries Act (BALA) and how it has just been reintroduced federally and we are hoping it will be included in President Bidens' larger infrastructure package. BALA would provide \$5 billion to repair, modernize, and construct library facilities in underserved and marginalized communities.

ARPA - Amount Authorized for Wisconsin: \$3,270,854.

Timeline: Expecting state award from IMLS in April 2021. Timeline with internal DPI and WI state government processes (WI DOA, etc.) estimated that funds could be expended starting July 1, 2021. CONFIRMED on 3/19/2021: period of performance for ARPA funds aligns with LSTA federal fiscal year 2021 and must be expended by June 30, 2022.

Considerations:

- Projects must tie back to the [LSTA Five-Year Plan for Wisconsin 2018-2022](#)
- Focus on big-ticket lifts at a statewide scale for one-time investments with these funds.
- Libraries **must be CIPA-compliant** to access funds for Internet-accessible devices
- Funds cannot be used for construction expenditures
- Equipment requests (those items that cost \$5,000 or more per-unit) must be pre-approved by DPI and by IMLS.
- Include peripheral costs for marketing a project, training staff and patrons on use, etc.

- [Acknowledge IMLS](#) and document your efforts along the way: website screen grabs, pictures, press releases, evaluations, etc.

Spending Priorities from the IMLS:

- First, to **support digital inclusion efforts to enable libraries to reach residents** such as through internet hotspots (be mindful of CIPA), accessible Wi-Fi, and digital content and related resources, particularly in support of education, health, and workforce development needs. The following types of data, among others, can inform efforts to reach underserved populations
 - Poverty/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - Unemployment
 - Broadband availability
- Second, to **provide rapid emergency relief** (realize expenditures early in the period of performance and claim on those expenditures) to libraries across the country, allowing them to safely respond to the pandemic and implement public health protocols;
- Third, to **support library services that meet the needs of communities** throughout the U.S., including costs such as personnel, technology, training, materials, supplies, equipment, and associated indirect costs; and
- With respect to the above, **reach tribal and museum partners** best positioned to assist with pandemic response efforts, in addition to traditionally eligible library entities, where appropriate.

DPI has spoken with many different entities to gather ideas for projects.

Attendees shared ideas for projects including PLSR and RFID projects. Projects that are easily identifiable by the public were encouraged. Concerns over CIPA compliance requirements were voiced.

13. Affiliated Organization Reports:

1. Recollection Wisconsin – Pfothenauer submitted a written report. She highlighted the Gap Analysis: Results from Phase 1 and the subsequent report.
2. DPI – Miller submitted written report. Beringer was available for questions.
3. WiLS – Chamberlain submitted written report. MyWiLS Redesign: WiLS has recently completed a full overhaul of our MyWiLS system.

The City Library Collective is having its kickoff meeting April 9th. We have 11 members from around the state who will be gathering to discuss shared needs, shared goals, and collaborative opportunities. This cohort experience is geared toward mid-size city libraries serving populations over 30,000.

The 2021 Ideas to Action Fund application period is May 3rd - June 28th.

Gilderson-Duwe praised the staff at WiLS for their recent help with strategic planning.

4. WPLC – Anderson submitted report. This year's WPLC Annual Membership meeting will be held on April 29, 2021 at 10:00 am.

Both the Technology Collaboration Operations and Steering Committees have now met. The groups have established roles, project review process, and evaluation. Three project proposals have been submitted to the Operations Committee and are under review.

5. WLA – Reed gave an oral report. Lovelace resigned in February and Reed and Machones have been overseeing operations since. WLA has chosen Keister & Associates to conduct the search for his replacement.

Spring conferences are soon. Fall conference has a new Chair and will be in-person or a hybrid.

6. COLAND – Healy-Plotkin submitted a report. COLAND continues to work through our committees to dig into the pressing issues of libraries in the state. The Council received updates on PLSR, DPI legislative initiatives, including the biennial budget, and the effects of COVID-19 on libraries. The COLAND Biennial Report on Wisconsin Libraries, 2019-2021 will be available in July.

14. Member Roundtable

Anderson shared her gratitude for everyone, especially Machones and Reed, working on WLA issues during the interim.

Johnson reported on the new service at the Milwaukee Public Library, teleconferencing service for those that need to appear in court.

Hennings reported that Eau Claire Public Library on April 12 will move from their current location to a temporary location and bids are due this week. Construction begins in May.

Saecker reported that Appleton Public Library has chosen SOM as the architect. \$24 Million has been approved for the building project.

The Northern Waters Consortium has changed their name from The Merlin Consortium to The Northern Waters Library Network.

Lee-Jones asked about vaccination availability across the state for librarians. The group reported that access to the vaccine is different in different counties and shared success stories. Kenosha County will vaccinate any Wisconsin library worker. Chamberlain asked for examples of vaccine literacy for the public. Sommersmith asked when SRLAAW would meet again in-person. Vreeke said that our August meeting would be possible.

15. Next Meeting Announcement: TBD late Spring

16. Adjournment (Machones) – Moved by Gilderson-Duwe. 2nd by Sommersmith. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.