

System and Resource Library Administrators Association of Wisconsin (SRLAAW) Q2 2025 Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, April 30, 2025
Time: 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM
Location: WAPL Conference, Oshkosh, WI
Recorder: Kristen Anderson, Winding Rivers Library System

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m. by Chair Steve Hesper.

2. Quorum Determination

Present: Members Present - Steve Hesper, Chair (MCFLS), Leah Giordano, Vice Chair (Marathon County PL), Kristen Anderson, Treasurer (WRLS), Nick Demske (Racine PL), Katherine Elchert (NWLS), Tana Elias (Madison PL), Garrett Erickson (Sheboygan PL), Darryl Eschete (Oshkosh), Bruce Gay (Waukesha PL), Dawn Wacek (Proxy - La Crosse), Riti Grover (Monarch), Sue Heskin (Superior PL), Karol Kennedy (Bridges), Jessie Lee-Jones (Platteville PL), Angela Noel (SWLS), Steve Ohs (PPLS), Collen Rortvedt (Appleton PL), Becky Scherer (MCLS), Shannon Schultz (SCLS), Marla Sepnaski (WVLS), Bradley Shipp (OWLS), Clairellyn Sommersmith (Winnefox), Sarah Sugden (BCL), John Thompson (IFLS).

Excused: Karin Adams (Manitowoc), Shanneon Grant (La Crosse), Joan Johnson (Milwaukee), Nancy Kerr (LE Phillips), Tracy Vreeke (NFLS),

Affiliated Members/Guests – Sara Gold (WiLS), Ben Miller (DPI), Beth Tomev (DPI), Jennifer Chamberlain (WiLS), Ellen Kupfer (COLAND), Teresa Schmidt (DPI), Steve Conway, Kristen Whitsen (Recollection Wisconsin).

3. Proxy Announcements

Becky is proxy for Karin Adams, Manitowoc.
Steve Hesper for Joan Johnson, Milwaukee.
Dawn Wacek for Shanneon Grant, La Crosse.

4. Introductions/Welcome Guests (Hesper)

5. Approval of the Agenda (Hesper)

Motion by R. Grover, second by Leah Giordano. Motion passes.

6. **Approval of the Minutes from February 10, 2025 (Heser)**
Motion by B.Shipps, second by K. Kennedy. Motion passes.
7. **Treasurer's Report (Anderson)**
Anderson reports balance of \$6883.56 as of April 25, 2025.
Motion to accept A. Noel, seconded by B. Scherer. Motion carried.
8. **LD&L Report / Advocacy Update (Gay/Conway)**
 - Written report was emailed.
 - LD&L met with every Joint Finance member. Rep. Bradley shared library stories from childhood.
 - Conway will continue working with DPI on \$6 million request – things seem to be going well.
 - Budget target is June 30.
9. **SRLAAW Rep on the WiLS Board**
 - Motion to nominate Shannon Shultz to represent SRLAAW on the WiLS Board by B. Scherer, seconded by J. Thompson. Motion carries.
10. **Remaining Meeting Dates for 2025**
Friday, August 8 in Wausau at 9:30am
Possibly Tuesday, October 28 afternoon in Middleton. Pre-WLA Conference.
11. **Affiliated Organization Reports:**
 - a. **COLAND**
 - i. Have not met since last SRLAAW meeting.
 - ii. Executive Committee has met to plan for the future.
 - b. **DPI**

IMLS: Tribal grants were also terminated – those funds do not flow through DPI. Bad River Library was closed immediately upon notification. Other libraries have faced staffing and program reductions. They have until May 12, 2025 to appeal the decision.

Annual Reports: Completed the annual report process for 2024. Annual salary summaries were shared. Collection of data is in Wisconsin State Statute. Contract with AIR was terminated so the unvalidated data online will remain “preliminary” until it is able to be validated.

Badgerlink: New advisory cohort met and is working through two-year program – will be Badgerlink super users. Working on collecting Badgerlink user stories for advocacy.

New Director Training: 32 new library directors were trained and there was a great atmosphere. Good feedback on evaluation forms so far.

Communications: Just finishing School Library Month and celebrated National Library Week earlier this year. Dr. Underly authored a letter in the Capital Times. Link to the video testimonials is in the written report. Shout-out to the Marketing Cohort and Steve Hesel for the great job putting out a marketing toolkit so quickly.

c. **Recollection Wisconsin**

15% of collections in Recollection Wisconsin were created using IMLS funds. Pointed out oral history interview between Peter Hamon and Stef Morrill – said it's hilarious and worth checking out.

d. **WILS**

J. Chamberlain reports the Small Library Planning Cohort is open again for new libraries. Small libraries are those under 5000. Asks systems to share info with member libraries.

Ideas to Action: In the 7-8th year and is accepting applications. Small amount of money to help get something off the ground. Previous winners on the website. Encourage libraries to check out the previous projects for inspiration. \$40,000 budget this year.

Board: Elections are coming up. Shannon Shultz will represent SRLAAW on the WILS board.

Culture Keepers Collective: Bringing together people working in tribal libraries and cultural preservation. Second annual convening is coming up on the Red Cliff Nation.

e. **WLA**

No in-person report for WLA. Bradley reported WLA is moving quickly to post and hire a replacement for Laura Sauser. Appreciation expressed for the fantastic work Sauser has done to inject energy into the organization and advocacy.

f. **WPLC**

Met just prior to SRLAAW. Implementing some parts of the strategic plan, including filling committees to work on communication and the website. Data dashboard demonstration was extended through the end of June 30.

12. Discussion Items

a. Federal Funding

March 14 an Executive Order was signed to reduce IMLS to its legislatively approved minimum. Twelve of 70 staff members were retained. Two library people remain, doing the work of 30 former staffers. WI joined 20 other states in a lawsuit challenging the EO. Washington, California and Connecticut had all funding cancelled. Laura Bush grants were cancelled but other federal grants have not been terminated. Last week DPI received half of their allocation with a promise that the rest is forthcoming. Will prioritize staff and services for the next year, holding back on grants until they have a better idea the future of IMLS. IMLS reauthorization comes up in 2025 – was last signed in 2018. 16.1 of 19 library division FTEs are federally funded.

i. IMLS

Steve Heser gave a shout-out to the marketing cohort and explained possible methods for distributing and posting postcards.

Motion by B. Scherer that SRLAAW will pay for postcard printing and systems will be billed for educational postcards to be mailed to legislators. K. Anderson second. Motion carried.

ii. Flexible Facilities Program Funding

As of 3:21pm on 4/30/2025, Section Chief Angela Davis said that the FF funds are available. John Thompson reports that a library requested reimbursement for architectural fees and was reimbursed.

b. Report On Federal Legislative Day

B. Miller reports meetings were positive with federal legislators.

c. Agenda Reorganization

Energy level is higher at the beginning of the meeting than at the end. Steve Heser recommends considering adjusting the agenda.

Motion by J. Thompson to move discussion topics earlier in the agenda, second by T. Elias. Motion carried.

13. Member Roundtable

Karol Kennedy announced that this is her last meeting and expressed appreciation for colleagues and the important work. Riti expressed appreciation for Karol's positivity and the membership appreciated Karol.

- 14. Next Meeting: Friday, August 8 at 9:30 a.m., Marathon County Public Library, Wausau**
- 15. Adjournment @ 5:33pm**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kristen Anderson, WRLS.