



WINDING RIVERS

LIBRARY SYSTEM

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Minutes

Winding Rivers Library System Board of Trustees

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

6:30pm

Hybrid Meeting: Online or In-Person

Present: **Buffalo County** – John Hadley, Jane Langenfeld; **Juneau County** – Donna Thomas, Steve Thomas; **La Crosse County** – Mary Bach, Sue Adams, Loren Caulum, Andrea Fritts, Kathy Ivey, Margaret Larson, Larry Pohja; **Monroe County** – Clara Johnson, Mary VonRuden; **Trempealeau County** – June Pellowski; **Vernon County** – Peggy Pasker

Guests: Kristen Anderson (WRLS), Nate Pflager (WRLS)

1. Call to order at 6:30 PM

2. Roll call and introductions

3. Approval of agenda

MOTION to approve the agenda for the July 26, 2023, but to move public comments to a position immediately following the approval of minutes.

- 1- Larry Pohja
- 2- Sue Adams

Carried.

4. Approval of minutes

MOTION to approve minutes from the May 2023 meeting.

- 1- Loren Caulum
- 2- Larry Pohja

Carried.

***. Public comments**

Larry Pohja announced that, with help donation from friends of Onalaska library, the Onalaska Library will be installing smart lockers (17 initially in 3 different sizes) which will be installed outside by end of the year tentatively. If the concept works, the La Crosse County Library will hopefully install them in other communities in La Crosse County such as Mindoro and Greenfield.

5. Reports

5.1 Budget Update & Approval of Bills.

MOTION to approve budget & bills

- 1- John Hadley
- 2- Larry Pohja

Carried.

5.2 Director's report

a) Update on state facility and compensation surveys

The state facility survey is due any day, but not quite ready currently. This study came out of a discussion between Kristen and Ben Miller (DPI) about meeting the basic needs of libraries and how that relates to ARPA funding. This brought about the idea to collect more data on Wisconsin libraries to inform future basic needs projects. WRLS has contracted with FEH design who have worked on numerous surveys, focus groups. Published a report on the state of library facilities in WI. Ready by the end of next week, will discuss in September.

Compensation study, is going to SRLAAW, we will know more next week about what is happening with this study.

b) Bus tour on September 14

WRLS is organizing a bus tour to visit many of our libraries. Tentative draft includes libraries in Bangor, Black River Falls, Osseo, Mondovi, Independence, Arcadia, and Trempealeau. Board members are welcome to attend. Valuable for our members to see what other libraries are doing and an important opportunity to interact between themselves.

c) ILS software migration update

WRLS is narrowing down our options and will reveal more in September following (hopefully) the final decision with NAC. WRLS is still in the negotiation phase, but getting very close.

d) New directors

Three libraries have recently hired new directors: Kendall, Westby, Norwalk

Two libraries have incoming directors: Coon Valley and De Soto

Two which need directors, but haven't hired yet: Arcadia, Readstown

20% of our directorships are new or in transition. Position turnover is due to a variety of causes.

e) Conference room AV equipment

WRLS recently acquired a new projector, screen, and television for the conference room.

f) Budget and planning

Every two years, library directors within the system have planning sessions (Oct. 12 this year) looking at needs by libraries around the system. Members have the first shot at influencing the budget process. Results sent out to members for comments, after which they will be discussed by the WRLS board in November. The board in turn will discuss how WRLS resources can be relegated to fill the needs of the libraries.

In the state budget, library systems are allotted additional funds for the next biennium. For WRLS this is roughly \$100,000 in 2024 and \$200,000 in 2025.

5.3 Public comments or topics for discussion at future meetings

Public comments were discussed previously between points 4 and 5.

6. New Business

6.1 Policy: Remote work

To answer previous questions about the policy, staff are covered by worker's comp when working remotely wherever they are working. Kristen has attached a comparison of how other library systems handle remote work.

MOTION to adopt policy.

- 1- Jane Langenfield
 - 2- Loren Caulum
- Nay – John Hadley*
Carried.

6.2 Financial reports: What additional information is needed?

Members request more detail regarding reimbursables and travel & training (chiefly food, travel, lodging) – what are they for, what event or conference are they tied to?

6.3 Next meeting date: September 27, 2023

7. Adjournment at 7:36 PM

MOTION to adjourn.

- 3- Sue Adams.
- Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nate Pflager, WRLS ILS/ILL Consultant