



WINDING RIVERS

LIBRARY SYSTEM

BRINGING A WORLD OF INFORMATION TO YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

6:30 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting: Online or In Person

MINUTES

1. Call to order / Open meeting notice certification

Meeting called to order at 6:38 p.m.

2. Roll call and introductions

Attendees

Board members: **Buffalo County** – Dwight Ruff; **Jackson County** - none; **Juneau County** - Donna Thomas, Steve Thomas; **La Crosse County** –Mary Bach, Margaret Larson, Loren Caulum, Sue Adams; **Monroe County** - Clara Johnson, Mary VonRuden, Adam Balz; **Trempealeau County** - June Pellowski; **Vernon County** - Peggy Pasker; **La Crosse Public Library** – Kathy Ivey; **La Crosse County Library** – Larry Pohja.

Kristen introduced and welcome new board member, Dwight Ruff from Buffalo County.

Public: None.

WRLS staff: Kristen Anderson (Director), Jessica Schoonover (Project & Grants Manager).

3. Approval of agenda

Motion to approve agenda as presented,

1st by Larry Pohja

2nd by Mary VonRuden

Motion carried.

4. Approval of minutes from the April 3, 2024 meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from the April 3, 2024, meeting as presented,

1st by Loren Caulum

2nd by Clara Johnson

Motion carried.

5. Public comments or topics for discussion at future meetings

Larry Pohja announced the Bangor Library has installed solar panels thanks to the Village of Bangor, generous donors, and a direct payment tax credit as part of the Inflation Reduction Act.

6. Reports

6.1 Budget update & approval of bills

Due to high interest rates, the system has a nice cushion in the current budget.

Anderson reported that current audit should be finished promptly.

Motion to approve the bills,

1st by Larry Pohja

2nd by Loren Caulum

Motion carried.

6.2 Director's report:

a) New staff member: Jessica Schoonover

Schoonover introduced herself and gave the board an update on the work she has been doing assisting libraries with the Flexible Facilities grant and the current Library Services and Technology grant.

b) Software migration update

Anderson reported the resignation of the system's Collaborative Consultant. Schoonover is taking over the publicity for this project. Project is on schedule for migration.

c) State Budget: 2025-2026

Anderson shared the library systems will ask for another budget increase for this cycle.

d) Intellectual Freedom: Book discussions & Trustee Training

Anderson reported Collaborative Consultant Miller had four book discussions around Intellectual Freedom throughout the membership. Anderson has started the Trustee Training module with visits to Wonewoc and La Crosse County so far. Many more are scheduled to take place over the next few months.

7. New Business

7.1 Salary Recommendations: Library directors

Anderson reported these recommendations give library directors data for comparison and to make progress with their own boards regarding salaries.

Anderson recommends a 2.7% wage increase.

Motion to approve the 2024 Salary Recommendation,

1st by Larry Pohja

2nd by Adam

Motion carried.

7.2 County funding: 2025 request

Anderson reported she has not increased her request from the counties for 2025. \$1500 from each county of the requests goes into the vehicle replacement fund.

Motion to accept the 2025 county funding request,

1st by Larry

2nd by Loren

Motion carried.

7.3 Minutes: What level of detail is needed?

Anderson addressed a prior question about whether WRLS Board minutes are detailed enough. Anderson shared that the minutes are to reflect what is done rather than what is said according to Robert's Rules of Order. A suggestion was made to record the meeting's audio so more details would be available while keeping the minutes a record of the actions taken. Some board members did not feel this was necessary because of the transparency of this board and the information provided to them.

Motion to keep the minutes as they are with no additions or changes,

1st by Loren Caulum

2nd by Larry Pohja

Motion carried.

7.4 Next meeting date: July 31, 2024

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Schoonover