



WINDING RIVERS
— LIBRARY SYSTEM —
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Winding Rivers Library System Board of Trustees

Wednesday, May 28, 2025

6:30 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting: Online or In Person

MINUTES

1. Call to order / Open meeting notice certification

Meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. Roll call and introductions

Attendees –

Board members: **Buffalo County** –Dwight Ruff; **Jackson County** – Joan Zenz, Sarah Peloquin; **Juneau County** - Donna Thomas, Steve Thomas; **La Crosse County** – Margaret Larson, Adam Schneider, Sue Adams, Loren Callum; **Monroe County** – Clara Johnson, Mary VonRuden; **Trempealeau County** – none; **Vernon County** – none; **La Crosse Public Library** – Kathy Ivey; **La Crosse County Library** – Larry Pohja.

Public: None.

WRLS staff: Kristen Anderson (Director), David Kranz (ILS/ILL Consultant).

3. Public comments

None.

4. Approval of agenda

Motion to approve agenda as presented,

1st by Larry Pohja

2nd by Sue Adams

Motion carried.

5. Approval of minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the March 2025 meeting, with correction of spelling of Sarah Peloquin's name,

1st by Loren Callum

2nd by Sarah Peloquin

Motion carried.

6. Reports

6.1 Budget update & approval of bills

Information was provided in the board packet. Anderson noted expenses related to a large IT project. The current balance in the vehicle replacement fund was observed by a board member, with suggestion that new vehicles be pursued now because prices are likely to go up. Anderson said 2025 plans call for at least one new delivery vehicle this year, and possibly also a consulting vehicle.

Motion to approve the budget update and bills since the last meeting,

1st by Sarah Peloquin

2nd by Larry Pohja

Motion carried.

6.2 Director's report:

- a) Audit – Anderson said the firm that has done the annual WRLS audit for several years recently contacted WRLS to say that due to staffing changes their firm could not perform the next audit. Anderson reached out to the director of the Southwest Wisconsin Library System, which like WRLS also uses Winnefox Library System accounting services, and together the WRLS and SWLS created a collaborative RFP to seek an auditor that could do both. Questions from auditing firms have started coming in. Anderson expects to have something more for the board on this at the next meeting.
- b) Retirements – Anderson noted library director retirement in the system: Shanneon Grant at LPL retired in May, and Deanna Rosier at New Lisbon plans to retire this summer.
- c) IMLS update – The state Dept. of Public Instruction (DPI) received initial payment of half of anticipated federal funding administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), and says it currently expects the second payment will be coming. LSTA grants are part of this federal funding. The LSTA grants already approved are expected to be funded, which among other things includes outdoor pickup lockers for several interested WRLS libraries.
- d) ECHO update and demonstration – WRLS' ILS/ILL Consultant David Kranz showed the ECHO collection of digitized local history items as it appears online at RecollectionWisconsin.org and in a hosted CONTENTdm site. WRLS is rekindling support activity for this ongoing project, grateful for the help of a volunteer. Kranz outlined the general steps involved in the project's work, which will focus primarily on scanning of photos, postcards, and other images. He said some additional equipment will likely be needed as the activity progresses, beyond the one image scanner currently available. The project also hopes to provide a limited amount of archival supplies to house some of the original items that get scanned, not only facilitating

digital access but also contributing to preservation of the materials themselves. Several suggestions were voiced by board members.

- e) New WRLSWEB member – Anderson reported that the Tomah Public Library’s board voted to join the WRLSWEB shared ILS. WRLS is working with vendor to try to schedule this library’s incoming migration yet this calendar year.
- f) Winnefox strategic planning – Anderson is participating in a bookkeeping strategic planning process that Winnefox Library System is currently undertaking to review and envision the future of the service.
- g) Conference reports – Anderson shared highlights of recent professional development activities. IT staff Walter Leifeld and Tou Yang attended the annual WiscNet conference in May. Jessica Schoonover attended a conference about early childhood literacy. Anderson attended the Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries (WAPL) conference.
- h) Friends of WRLS – Anderson reported that Schoonover is working on development of documentation that could create a “Friends of WRLS” non-profit organization, to enable some grant applications. More about this will come to the board at a future meeting. This non-profit entity would have a specific focus, and would not be competing with local libraries’ Friends groups or other local fundraising efforts.

Anderson also noted that WRLS IT staff just completed the move of the network head end out of the La Crosse Public Library building to the WRLS office, culmination of a project that has progressed over the past 13 years.

7. Business

7.1 2026 County contributions

Information was provided in the board packet showing the past four years of WRLS funding requests for each WRLS county, along with a proposed 2026 amount for each. Anderson said WRLS had frozen the levels of county contributions to the system for the past three years, and last year it was suggested that annual small increases be pursued. Anderson used an annual cost of living rate adjustment of 2.3% increase over last year for consideration for 2026. Proportions among the counties remained consistent.

Motion to adopt the proposed county funding requests for the system for 2026,

1st by Loren Callum

2nd by Mary Von Ruden

Motion carried.

7.2 Next meeting date

Next meeting anticipated date: July 30, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Kranz