



WINDING RIVERS
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Winding Rivers Library System Board of Trustees

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 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; Sara Peloquin; **Juneau County** – Steve Thomas, Donna Thomas; **La Crosse County** – Loren Caulum; Adam Schneider; Mary Bach; **Monroe County** – Clara Johnson; Adam Balz; **Trempealeau County** – none; **Vernon County** – William Schultz; **La Crosse Public Library** – Kathy Ivey; **La Crosse County Library** – none.

Public: Elizabeth McMasters from Clifton Larson Allen.

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

3. Approval of agenda

Motion to approve agenda as amended, with change to move item 7.1 consideration of the 2024 draft audit report, to take place after approval of the agenda,

1st by Loren Callum

2nd by Sarah Peloquin

Motion carried.

7.1 WRLS Audit by CLA

Kristen Anderson introduced Elizabeth McMasters from firm Clifton Larson Allen to discuss the draft audit report provided in the meeting packet. McMasters shared information about different portions of the audit report. She noted that they presented an unmodified opinion, or clean opinion. She explained the findings presented in the audit report and assured the board that these were common findings for organizations of this type and size.

Kathy Ivey thanked Elizabeth.

Question about difference between approve and accept, and what might we expect could change between draft and final.

Motion to accept the draft audit report, pending changes the auditor might make for the final version, and accept that the report will be submitted to DPI.

1st by Dwight Ruf

2nd by Sarah Peloquin

Motion carried.

4. Approval of minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the Sept. 24, 2025 meeting, with change to move attendee name Loren Callum to the La Crosse County portion of the attendee list,

1st by Adam Schneider

2nd by Sarah Peloquin

Motion carried.

5. Public comments

Steve Thomas said he has received reports from a library in Juneau County that they are not receiving sufficient computer support. Kristen said she would follow up with that library.

Kathy Ivey referenced the service plan strategic planning retreat.

Sarah Peloquin noted BRF library is getting roof repaired to accommodate solar panels coming in the next year.

6. Reports

6.1 Budget update & approval of bills

Reports were provided in the board packet. Kristen reviewed activity and fund balances. She noted that interest income continued to exceed expectations in 2025. She said the system is generally in line with

budgeted expenses. Some electronic resource expenses are coming in higher for 2025 than expected, and adjustments are being proposed for the 2026 budget.

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

1st by Sarah Peloquin

2nd by Loren Callum

Motion carried.

6.2 Director's report:

- a) Tomah migration to WRLSWEB – Staff member David Kranz provided a report on the process to add Tomah Public Library to the WRLSWEB consortium software, which is ongoing with a go-live date of Dec. 8. He highlighted benefits to the library and to patrons of the area. Kristen acknowledged the excellent work done by David Kranz and Jody Hanneman regarding the migration.
- b) Workshop and conference highlights – Kristen Anderson shared reports from staff about professional development activities undertaken in the past few months.
- c) 2026-2027 Service Plan update – Kristen Anderson discussed the process so far in developing the 2026-2027 system service plan. She said it will be brought to the board at an upcoming meeting.
- d) Library Legislative Day, Feb. 10, 2026 – Kristen Anderson shared information about what the day includes and invited board members to let her know soon if they would like to attend so she can register them.

7. New Business

7.1 WRLS Audit by CLA

This item was moved earlier in the meeting.

7.2 2026 meeting dates & summer meeting locations

A calendar of 2026 meeting dates was provided in the board packet, along with a proposal that the WRLS board consider holding some of its meetings at different locations in the system region. Remote connection would continue to be offered, but physically moving the meeting locations could give board members chances to see new spaces, see each other in person, and to invite library directors in different areas to participate in the meetings. It was noted that there will be new board members in the next year, and they, too, could benefit from opportunities to see libraries in different portions of the WRLS region.

7.3 2026 WRLS Budget

Kristen Anderson noted changes proposed for the 2026 system budget.

Motion to adopt the 2026 WRLS budget,

1st by Sarah Peloquin

2nd by Joan Zenz

Motion carried.

Kathy Ivey thanked Mary Bach for her board service. This was Mary's last meeting.

Next meeting: January 28, 2026

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Kranz