



Library Development & Legislation (LD&L) Committee

Friday, May 20, 2022

10:00 AM

South Central Library System meeting room, Madison WI

MINUTES

Members present: Pete Loeffel, Betsy Bleck, Kris Adams Wendt*, Bruce Gay*, Mark Arend, Sherry Machones, Steve Ohs*, Kathy Pletcher, Jim Ramsey*, Vicki Teal Lovely, Laura Sauser (WLA Executive Director), Steve Conway (Conway Consulting)

Members absent: Nick Dimassis, Heather Johnson, Margaret Murphy, Nyama Reed, Kristopher Turner.

Guests: Tessa Michaelson Schmidt (DPI*), Ben Miller (DPI)*, Shannon Shultz (DPI)*, Emily Pfothenhauer (WiLS/Recollection Wisconsin), Ann Hanlon (UW-Milwaukee/Recollection Wisconsin Board), Matt Murphy (Milwaukee Public Library/Recollection Wisconsin Board).

**denotes remote attendance*

Loeffel called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. The agenda order was approved by consensus after Recollection Wisconsin was moved up to follow approval of the minutes.

Approval of minutes from the March 18, 2022 meeting. The minutes of the March 18, 2022 meeting were approved unanimously on a **motion from Bleck seconded by Machones.**

Recollection Wisconsin. The delegation from [Recollection Wisconsin](#) was welcomed to the table. They provided an overview of the organization, its partnership with [Digital Public Library of America](#), and ever-expanding acquisitions and programs. Recollection Wisconsin's continuing need for, and past efforts to secure stable and sustainable funding were discussed. WLA LD&L originally promoted the addition of RW as a "fifth DPI contract" for first year \$150,000 and second year \$300,000 in the 2019-2021 biennial budget cycle. The Governor's executive budget instead transitioned RW program costs from grants to inclusion under the existing appropriation for the DPI WISELearn resource portal. RW received its own line item in the 2021-2023 Executive Budget, which requested \$100,000 in FY23 over and above a recommendation to reallocate \$150,000 in FY22 and \$200,000 in FY23 from WISELearn to support public library digital archiving efforts. Despite considerable interest in the mission and accomplishments of RW during LD&L member meetings with Joint Finance Committee members and legislative leaders, it was unfortunately not the year to secure any new programs and JFC reclaimed the WISELearn dollars earmarked by the Governor as a lateral transfer to provide RW base support. It was suggested that Conway meet with Dee Pettack from DPI to discuss the best way to approach the 2023-2025 budget ask. The LD&L budget team will consult with Pfothenhauer on the next request. RW staff and board are happy to identify digital items from the RW collection of potential interest to share with JFC members and leadership.

WLA update. Sauser shared information about the WLA Intellectual Freedom special interest group (IF SIG) and potential conference programs. Sauser and Machones are adding an advocacy component to the WLA Leadership Development Institute agenda. A WLA intellectual freedom values statement is being crafted. Conway met with the WLA Board in April.

Legislative update. Conway met with the System and Resource Library Administrators Association of Wisconsin (SRLAAW) on May 11 to receive input on priorities for the 2023-2025 state budget and any other issues that may need to be addressed in the next legislative session. Municipal governments are experiencing difficulties under state levy limits that impact local library budget requests, particularly in rural areas. It is important to maintain relationships between WLA and the legislative lobbyists from the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, Wisconsin Towns Association and Wisconsin Counties Association. Conway is monitoring for potential legislation that could have a detrimental effect

on local control of school and public library digital resources, collection development policies and procedures. He is also keeping in touch with the WEMTA lobbyist. Assisting the IF SIG with talking points and the creation of training materials for librarians and library trustees was discussed. It was noted that ALA generated press releases and materials can cause misunderstanding when its approach is more aggressive than WLA's messaging and methods for relationship building.

2023-2025 Wisconsin Biennial Budget.

Miller reported that DPI Library Services Team staff are working to update projected budget amounts for state fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25, for BadgerLink resources, as well as the library services contracts for Interlibrary Loan, the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library, and the Cooperative Children's Book Center. They expect to have these numbers finalized by the end of May for integration into the overall DPI budget. The DPI request for the 2023-25 biennial budget will be developed over the summer and transmitted to the governor's office on September 15, 2022. Discussion ensued with resulting consensus that WLA LD&L was comfortable supporting an additional \$6 million in state public library system aid on top of the existing base. 2021-2023 WLA talking points and promotional materials need to be revised to include current benefits from the most recent increase, ongoing projects such as the statewide collaborative cybersecurity project including secure backup for digitized materials, and future plans. LD&L budget team includes volunteers Loeffel, Dimassis, Lovely, Ramsey, Arend, Wendt, Machones and Sauser. Ohs and Reed previously expressed a willingness to assist the team as needed.

Libraries Transform Posters. Murphy was not present to report. Sauser had received inquiries regarding extra copies of posters for individual legislators in addition to the complimentary copy provided by WLA. Following discussion, it was the consensus that WLA will facilitate ordering extra copies to be paid for by the legislators.

Conference programs. Gay will work with Conway to submit a training program with tips and techniques for members attending Library Legislative Day or otherwise meeting with legislators in district.

County & municipal funding workgroup. LaFayette County librarians are interested in raising the county percentage for Act 150 payments and were connected with WLA members who could provide resources and advice.

Federal Relations Coordinator update. Machones reported there has been no movement on IMLS funding and hopes to have more information on federal FY2023 budget support at the next meeting.

DPI/DLT update. Miller summarized the DPI report to LD&L which is linked [here](#). Tessa Michaelson Schmidt announced she will be resigning as the Assistant State Superintendent of the Division for Libraries and Technology as of June 10 to become the new Director of the Cooperative Children's Book Center. An Interim Assistant Superintendent will be appointed during the search process.

Funding analysis subcommittee update. Loeffel provided an overview of activities since the March LD&L meeting. The second draft of the report from DPI outside consultant Dr. Kriz has been shared with the subcommittee. Their next meeting is May 23, with a follow up tentatively scheduled for May 31 to provide feedback to Dr. Kriz and "next steps" discussion on June 6 with DLT team members; all of which are subject to change.

Announcements and other business. Loeffel's suggestion that January and March 2023 LD&L meetings be scheduled as virtual only and the May, July, September, and November meetings scheduled as hybrid in-person in Madison with virtual access, met with the committee's approval.

Remaining 2022 meeting dates. July 22, September 23, November 18

Motion by Wendt, seconded by Pletcher to adjourn the meeting at 11:57 AM. All aye. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Kris Adams Wendt, Recorder