



## Library Development & Legislation (LD&L) Committee

Friday, May 15, 2020

10:00 AM

Virtual via Go-To-Meeting

### MINUTES

**Members present:** (*all attending remotely*) Connie Meyer, Kathy Klager, Kris Adams Wendt, Mark Arend, Nick Dimassis, Paula Kiely, Pete Loeffel, Vicki Teal Lovely, Sherry Machones, Larry Oathout, Steve Ohs, Kathy Pletcher, Nyama Reed, Plumer Lovelace (WLA Executive Director), Steve Conway (Conway Consulting)

**Members absent:** Bruce Gay, Heather Johnson, Jim Ramsey. Jennifer Chamberlain has resigned.

**Guests:** Kurt Kiefer (DPI), Shannon Schultz (DPI)

Co-chair Meyer called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM. The roll was called and a quorum declared present. The agenda order was approved by consensus.

**Approval of minutes from the April 17, 2020 meeting.** The minutes of the April 17, 2020 special meeting were approved unanimously on a **motion from Arend seconded by Pletcher.**

**2021-2023 State budget request.** Meyer reported that, per discussion at the April 17 special meeting, draft WLA budget request documents were submitted to DPI for (1) public library system aids, (2) library service contracts, BadgerLink and Newslines for the Blind, and (3) Recollection Wisconsin, along with (4) a one page overview summary. Requested amounts for the contracts, BadgerLink and Newslines have yet to be confirmed by DPI. Conway will work with Dee Pettack to schedule necessary meetings at DPI and DOA, followed by discussions with legislative leaders and Joint Finance Committee members late in the fall. Libraries need to be recognized as a key component of the post-pandemic economic recovery. It is important to collect stories of how libraries made a difference during the pandemic and are contributing to healthy communities going forward. Meyer ascertained that committee members were comfortable with the co-chairs, Conway and Lovelace making any necessary changes to the LD&L documents necessary before the next regular LD&L meeting scheduled for July 24. Klager requested clarification from Kiefer regarding the possibility of suspension of federal maintenance of effort requirements to maintain Wisconsin's state share of LSTA funding. Kiefer shared with the group that the MOE in question is based on library aid from the state budget, not aggregate local library funding and clarified that suspension is possible but cannot be automatic despite the pandemic. There is a process requiring evidence that state library aid was not singled out for reduction. It could be helpful for LD&L to share with legislators that state aid reductions for libraries could be amplified by federal reductions.

**LD&L panel for libraries regarding local and county relationships and funding.** Machones requested this agenda item following a recent meeting of public library system directors during which reports of local library director concerns were shared regarding potential pandemic related 2021-2022 county and municipal revenue shortfalls. Considerable discussion ensued. The existing

LD&L County Work Group was restyled as the County & Local Funding Work Group with Loeffel added to the core group of Meyer, Klager, Wendt and Arend. Consensus settled on developing a library budgeting tool kit webinar on municipal and county financing to be presented in early June; presentation to include Act 150/Act 420 concerns as well as advice about relationship building, and promoted through library systems to local library directors. Lovely suggested former LD&L member Mark Ibach as an additional resource. Conway will meet with the work group to provide relationship building advice. Kiefer offered marketing and data analysis assistance from DPI as needed and confirmed Michael Dennison as the DPI contact for updating work group cross border payment data. A work group meeting will be scheduled by Klager and Meyer within the next week.

**Federal Relations Coordinator update.** Machones delivered the report linked [HERE](#).

**DPI/DLT update.** See DPI Update to LD&L 05-15-2020 report linked [HERE](#).

**Announcements and other business.** Meyer announced that Jennifer Chamberlain is transitioning from Monarch Library System director to director at WiLS in early June and has withdrawn from LD&L but will be available as a resource person. It was noted that several legislators from Monarch territory are currently key members of leadership and Joint Finance Committee; having a new LD&L member from that region could be important in a budget producing year.

**Remaining meeting dates for 2020.** July 24, September 25, November 13

**Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 11:18M on a **motion by Ohs, seconded by Arend.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Kris Adams Wendt, Recorder