



Library Development & Legislation (LD&L) Committee

Friday, November 12, 2021

10:00 AM

Virtual via Go-To-Meeting

MINUTES

Members present: *(all attending remotely)* Pete Loeffel, Betsy Bleck, Kris Adams Wendt, Mark Arend, Nick Dimassis, Jennifer Einwalter, Bruce Gay, Heather Johnson, Vicki Teal Lovely, Sherry Machones, Margaret Murphy, Jim Ramsey, Nyama Reed, Laura Sauer (WLA Executive Director), Steve Conway (Conway Consulting)

Members absent: Steve Ohs, Kathy Pletcher

Guests: Ben Miller (DPI), Shannon Schultz (DPI)

Chair Loeffel called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. The roll was called and a quorum declared present. The agenda order was approved by consensus.

Approval of minutes from the September 24, 2021 meeting. The minutes of the September 24, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously on a **motion from Machones seconded by Lovely.**

Legislative update. Conway reported the redistricting process was destined to end up adjudicated by the courts. Some sitting legislators will inevitably end up running against each other when final district boundaries are approved. Rep. Born was both appreciative and impressed by WLA LD&L member assistance provided to a municipality in his district that contacted his office with library funding questions. Einwalter shared forward progress made toward finding long term solutions to those municipal and library concerns. Conway thanked Einwalter, Loeffel, Machones, Sauer and Wendt for their contributions to the troubleshooting effort. Dimassis (juggling between simultaneous virtual COLAND and LD&L meetings) relayed that DPI Legislative Policy Initiatives Advisor Dee Pettack commented on the excellent working relationship between Conway and herself, as well as between DPI and WLA LD&L teams, while reporting on the successful funding initiatives for public library system and other core library services in the 2021-2023 biennial budget.

2022 WLA Legislative Policy Statement – review and recommendation to WLA Board. Following discussion a **motion by Arend seconded by Machones** was approved to rephrase wording of the bullet points in the “WLA opposes” section into positive statements and merge them with the “WLA supports” section. Loeffel will run the revisions past the committee prior to personally delivering the draft document to the WLA Board for final approval in December.

WLA update. Sauer provided an update on planning for WLA Annual Conference (Nov 16-19) in Green Bay. She requested guidance for vetting organizations seeking alliances with WLA. Following discussion there was consensus that the Executive Director would meet initially with the WLA President, LD&L Chair, and Government Relations Advisor after which the request could be placed on the next LD&L agenda for further exploration.

Library Legislative Day 2022. Discussion focused on whether to hold a virtual or in-person event, given COVID-19 winter projections. Speakers have been lined up for the morning program. Emphasis will be on WLA members thanking legislators for their support in the 2021-2023 budget and sharing success stories of how enhanced funding has made a difference to individual libraries and communities. Concerns were expressed about masking in the capitol once the Dane Co. mandate expires. Could an alternative contact option to relay thanks and results be devised for more COVID cautious members? Lessons may be learned from fall conference. Consensus leaned toward an in-person event. Loeffel, Gay, Ramsey, Conway and Sauer will meet to discuss alternatives and marketing. Lovely, Machones and Wendt offered their assistance as needed. Registration will open in December.

County & Municipal Funding Workgroup. Arend mentioned that Winnefox Library System was monitoring two libraries in municipalities where insufficient library funding has been allocated to qualify for county library tax exemption.

Libraries Transform posters. Murphy reported that she is getting organized and waiting for confirmation of funding from the WLA Foundation before taking further action steps.

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

DPI/DLT update. The DPI report to LD&L is linked [here](#). Schultz began the report with Miller joining at 10:58 AM from the COLAND meeting. The final PLSR report timeline has been pushed back until the summer of 2022. PLSR implementation work on analyzing the current funding formula for state aid to public library systems has entered the stakeholder engagement phase. Conway commented that legislators have expressed interest in how inflow of new federal funding dollars might offset state and local costs. He asked the DPI team to work closely with him and LD&L in the timely sharing of grant distribution data to keep him well informed and able to answer legislator questions.

Funding Analysis Subcommittee update. The LD&L subcommittee was the first stakeholder group to meet virtually with Dr. Ken Kriz (the independent consultant DPI hired to perform the funding formula analysis) on October 20, along with Miller and Schultz. The committee met again on November 5 to review the Kriz conversation. A summary of their questions and concerns going forward was shared with Miller on November 9 and included in the November 12 LD&L meeting packet. Miller reported Kriz had also conducted an interview with DPI Policy and Budget staff and intended to next pursue a meeting date with Legislative Fiscal Bureau staff. Discussion ensued. LD&L requested a second meeting between Kriz and its subcommittee, including Conway, to clarify and address additional information and data points needed to enhance his understanding of the Wisconsin legislative appropriation process for state aid to public library systems. Miller concurred with pausing the LFB meeting and will relay LD&L concerns as well as the additional meeting request to Kriz.

2022 LD&L meeting schedule. 2022 meeting dates approved by consensus are January 28, March 18, May 20, July 22, September 23, and November 18. The January meeting is virtual for sure. Pending public health considerations, in-person meeting space has been reserved at the South Central Library System office for the remaining meetings at which there will also be virtual access.

Announcements and other business. Loeffel will reach out to newly elected WLA Vice President/President Elect Kristopher Turner who will be joining LD&L meetings in 2022 as Reed steps up to WLA President. Reed was requested and agreed to remain involved with the Funding Analysis Subcommittee. Machones will continue to attend LD&L as Federal Relations Coordinator. Machones and Reed were thanked for their extra year of leadership.

2022 meeting dates. January 28, March 18, May 20, September 23, November 18

Loeffel declared the meeting adjourned at 11:37 AM.

Respectfully submitted, Kris Adams Wendt, Recorder