



Library Development & Legislation Committee

Friday, May 19, 2017

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

WLA Office

4610 South Biltmore Lane, Suite 100, Madison, WI

MINUTES

Present: Kathy Pletcher, Connie Meyer, Kris Adams Wendt, Bruce Gay, Kathy Klager, Heather Johnson, Julie Schneider, Plumer Lovelace, Kurt Keifer (DPI/DLT), John DeBacher (DPI/DLT), Martha Berninger (DPI/DLT).

Virtual participation via GoToMeeting: Mark Arend, Heather Johnson, Marge Loch-Wouters, Sherry Machones, Steve Conway (DeWitt), Michael Blumenfeld (Blumenfeld & Associates, WEMTA).

Absent: Nick Dimassis, Bryan McCormick, Steve Ohs, Jim Ramsey, Anita Weier

Co-chair Pletcher called the meeting to order at 10:10 PM. Wendt acted as recorder.

Changes and additions to the agenda. The agenda was accepted by consensus as printed though a slight delay was anticipated in Conway's report due to his need to phone in while traveling.

Approval of minutes from March 24, 2017 meeting. Minutes of the March 24, 2017 meeting were approved on a **motion from Meyer seconded by Klager**. All aye. Motion carried.

Biennial Budget Request increase for 2017-2019. Pletcher reviewed WLA participation in the six Joint Finance Committee public hearings held around the state in April. Library delegations were noteworthy, testimony highlighted the benefits of a modest increase in public library system aids to local libraries and constituents, and the JFC members were attentive. Conway joined the meeting between 10:35 and 10:50 by phone. Rep. Mary Felzkowski (35th AD, R-Irma) has written budget amendments to add \$1.5M to public library system aids and facilitate the statutory language change so that public libraries as well as schools may benefit collaboratively from WISEdash and WISEdata appropriations. JFC executive session review of the DPI budget will not take place before Memorial Day. Conway recommends a back-up "Plan B and Plan C" for finding the \$1.5M in case competition from broadband expansion programs precludes availability of Universal Service Fund lapsed funds. Attempting to create a new GPR line item is not advised. Conway is exploring possible DOA and DWD alternatives, including TEACH BadgerNet initiatives, in meetings with key legislators. Discussion ensued. DeBacher joined the meeting in person at 10:45.

Libraries Transform! Meyer provided an update on the Libraries Transform poster project. She and Dimassis are updating the master list showing which posters still need to be created and delivered. Meyer reported interest in expanding the project to include the Wisconsin congressional delegation.

Cross county payments working group. Klager and Arend reported that SRLAAW adopted the Best Practices for Libraries That Bill for Cross-County Use guidelines drafted by LD&L with input from SRLAAW

members. The best practices were in response to concerns raised by counties and legislators and are intended to help address concerns about record-keeping and billing. A final copy of the document will be sent to SRLAAW with a reminder of the July 1 deadline for libraries to submit cross-county bills. Meyer and Wendt will coordinate on including information in the next WLA Legislative Newsletter and posting to the WLA website. Arend will ask for discussion of the topic on the August SRLAAW agenda to solicit additional feedback on best practices implementation and/or fresh concerns from county officials.

WLA conference program. Pletcher reported that a place holder has been send to the WLA conference committee for a program with the working title of “Simple, effective ways to create a partnership with your local workforce development centers.” COLAND is expected to co-sponsor. Potential librarian and DWD panelists were mentioned for contact, along with the possibility of joint DPI/DWD projects.

Kiefer and Berninger arrived at 11:45. Previous discussion of the 2017-19 state budget was reprised for their benefit before moving on. Kiefer stated his top priority is funding the third phase implementation of the Public Library System Redesign (PLSR) project. WLA’s stated top 2017-2019 state budget priority is securing additional funding for public library systems, followed by maintenance of core state library services and statutory change to allow the extension of the WISEdata and WISEdash appropriation to be used for public library as well as school information systems. Uncertainty regarding FY18 federal budget appropriation for the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Library Services and Technology Act Grants to States program has added another layer of complexity to future sustainability of key services at the state and regional level.

Federal Legislative Advocate report. In the absence of McCormick, Meyer and Kiefer reported on National Library Legislative Day held in Washington, D.C. on May 1-2. Twelve people represented Wisconsin. Local librarians are encouraged to invite Wisconsin Senate and House members to visit their libraries while on summer recess and become acquainted with the resources (BadgerLink, e-books, etc.) purchased through IMLS Grants to States for themselves. ALA briefings compared library resource sharing through inter-loan as the original shared economy, compared to Air B&B and Uber. Most local library funding comes from municipal and county budgets, the state supports regional services, and the comparatively small allocation of federal dollars makes all of it work at the state level. LSTA block grants enhance local and regional control. Machones provided an update on the ALA campaign to fully fund the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) program. Other federal concerns include: The Register of Copyrights Selection and Accountability Act (HR 1695 which passed the House on April 26) to transfer appointment of the Copyright Registrar from the Librarian of Congress to a presidential appointment with the advice and consent of the Senate. The FCC has voted along party lines on May 18 to repeal the agency’s net neutrality rules and is taking public comment through August 17.

DPI/DLT update. Kiefer added a few words about the potential impact of elimination of IMLS/LSTA funding on DLT programs, projects and staffing.

PLSR update. PLSR Steering Committee chair John Thompson was not present to report on the project, however time has been requested on the July 28 LD&L meeting agenda for Thompson to attend in person. The PLSR-LDL-SRLAAW Phase 3 communication plan distributed at the March 20 PLSR Steering Committee meeting stated the goal of the July 28 meeting is “to determine next steps for PLSR and LD&L coordination around potential legislative plans and activities for the rest of the PLSR process.”

WEMTA update. Blumenfeld reported that WEMTA is watching two bills regarding the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands that were introduced at the request of the State Treasurer. AB303 would allow investments by the BCPL in office space for use by state agencies and departments. AB338 would compel the sale of public lands to the DNR through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program over a period of years and use the money to create merit scholarships for Wisconsin students attending the UW-System.

Announcements and other business. Pletcher recognized Schneider as attending her last LD&L meeting prior to her retirement in June, with thanks for her many years scheduling Library Legislative Day appointments, serving as Federal Relations Coordinator and organizing Wisconsin participation in National Library Legislative Day. She joined the Library Legislative Day Committee in 2004 and has been an LD&L member since 2008. A hearty round of applause and cupcake treats were shared.

Upcoming 2017 meetings: July 28, September 29, November 30

Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM on a **motion from Gay seconded by Klager.**

Respectfully submitted,
Kris Adams Wendt, recorder