



Library Development & Legislation Committee

Friday, July 28, 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, Mark Arend, Nick Dimassis, Kathy Klager, Heather Johnson, Sherry Machones, Steve Ohs, Anita Weier, Plumer Lovelace, Dee Pettack (DPI), Martha Berninger (DPI/DLT), John Thompson (PLSR Steering Committee), Jon Mark Bolthouse (PLSR Steering Committee).

Virtual participation via GoToMeeting: Steve Conway (DeWitt), Erin Fabrizius (Blumenfeld & Associates, WEMTA), Janet Vraney (WEMTA), John DeBacher (DPI/DLT).

Absent: Bruce Gay, Marge Loch-Wouters, Bryan McCormick, Jim Ramsey.

Co-chair Pletcher called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM. Wendt acted as recorder. Introductions were made around the table for the benefit GoToMeeting participants and guests.

Changes and additions to the agenda. The agenda was accepted by consensus as printed.

Approval of minutes from May 19, 2017 meeting. Minutes of the May 19, 2017 meeting were approved on a **motion from Meyer seconded by Klager**. All aye. Motion carried.

Biennial Budget Request update. Conway reported the Senate and Assembly have been in a stalemate over the 2017-2019 budget since early June. Thankfully, Rep. Felzkowski, Sen. Marklein and Rep. Quinn succeeded in securing 16-0 Joint Finance Committee (JFC) approval of the \$1.5 million modest increase for public library system aids on May 31. The July 1 completion deadline passed as negotiations over transportation and education issues remain unresolved. The potential Foxconn deal is a third factor causing delay. Conway has been in contact with the Governor's office and received no indication the extra system aids dollars would be vetoed. He advised a "keep calm and sit tight" approach. The handwritten thank you notes which have become something of a WLA trademark, are much appreciated in legislative offices.

The Senate released a budget proposal on July 18 as a push to get the two sides moving together. It provides insight into what changes may be proposed by Senate JFC members once the impasse is resolved and JFC takes up the DPI budget in Executive Session. The Senate proposal included the \$1.5 million increase for system aids and maintained support for core statewide library services (BadgerLink, Newsline for the Blind and state resource contracts). It also deleted current law (43.24 (6), Wis. Stats.) requiring DPI to include in its budget request for public library system aid an amount equal to 13% of the prior year operating expenditures from local and county sources. Current appropriation is around 6.3%. General discussion produced consensus that the 13% index mandate precludes flexibility

for DPI to request an amount reflecting fiscal and political reality and is difficult for library advocates to explain. LD&L takes no position on 13% language at this time.

It was also noted by Pettack that the Senate proposal includes \$1.75 million for “information technology education” over the two-year biennium for public school pupils in grades 6-12, technical college students and library patrons. This is probably the Microsoft Imagine Academy proposal mentioned at the March LD&L meeting as being of great interest to Rep. Felzkowski. Conway reported that the WISELearn statutory language change enabling public libraries as well as schools to benefit collaboratively from WISEdash and WISEdata appropriations is expected to be introduced as a budget amendment by Rep. Felzkowski when JFC finally takes up the DPI budget.

Cross county payments working group. On July 19, the Executive Committee of the Washington Co. Board of Supervisors passed a resolution requesting legislation to create a single merged statewide library system. Klager distributed copies of the resolution, which specifically mentions Act 420 payments made by Washington Co. to libraries in adjacent counties and borrows wording from the Public Library System Redesign (PLSR) home page. The resolution surprised library directors in the county and the Monarch Library System staff. Meyer was alerted by the WLA office when a reporter called for comment. The resolution is directed to the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) as part of the process whereby individual counties annually bring resolutions to the table for discussion of the WCA legislative agenda at their September convention. The August 8 date for resolution approval by the full Washington Co. Board means it will miss the WCA submission deadline and only be considered as advisory.

Conway advised a refocus from providing information for legislators to proactive contacts at the county and local levels. These suggestions emerged during LD&L discussion: (1) request an agenda item at the August 18 SRLAAW meeting and share talking points with system directors to brief local directors, (2) consult with Monarch Library System prior to the August 8 Washington Co. Board meeting, (3) Conway will seek an opportunity for the LD&L cross county payments team to meet and share information with the WCA legislative staff and (4) revisit the May 2016 one page WLA cross county payments position paper to reflect current events – to both inform county officials and provide local librarians with talking points addressing the value and efficiencies of Act 420 payments.

The working group is also following up on an inquiry Arend received from a library director seeking more information about the Best Practices guidelines for Act 420 data collection that was approved by SRLAAW. DeBacher reported he will be speaking to county corporation counsels on September 26 as part of the WCA convention.

PLSR update. John Thompson and Jon Mark Bolthouse appeared along with LD&L member Ohs as three members of the PLSR Steering Committee to report on the recent Steering Committee retreat and plan for Phase 3 of the process. Yet to be determined is whether and when any recommendations requiring legislative action might arise from the final phase and how the timing will coincide with the 2019-21 budget process and/or election cycle. Changes to Chapter 43 may not necessarily all be related to PLSR models in that the last time there was a general clean-up of the chapter was 2001-03. More information about opportunities for in-person PLSR Q&A sessions around the state will be forthcoming. LD&L will be kept informed.

Libraries Transform! Next steps in the legislative posters project were discussed. On the Senate side, there are finished posters for 15 of the 33 members and 50 of 99 Assembly posters are done. However,

there is no composite checklist of how many completed posters have actually been presented to legislators by constituents. Discussion ensued. Lovelace volunteered to take the remaining photos at the capitol if a time and place can be arranged. Pettack suggested combining that effort with September National Library Card Sign-Up Month and offered to work with Conway and help facilitate the project through the Speaker's office. Dimassis will coordinate and Wendt will assist.

WLA conference program. Pletcher reported that LD&L was promised a Thursday slot for the program "Simple, effective ways to create a partnership with your local workforce development centers" featuring Department of Workforce Administration Deputy Secretary Cate Zeuske and Racine County Workforce Solutions Manager Mark E. Mundl as speakers. Dimassis is presenting a second advocacy program "It's All About the Pen...and Relationships."

Federal Legislative Advocate report. ALA Chapter Councilor Machones reported in the absence of McCormick. The House Appropriations Committee has approved level funding in FY2018 for IMLS (\$231 million), including \$183 million for LSTA as well as \$27 million for IAL. ALA is engaged in efforts to let the FCC know librarians strongly oppose the pending anti-net neutrality proposal. Machones will provide updates as the federal budget process progresses.

DPI/DLT update. DeBacher and Berninger shared an update on progress regarding staff vacancies. Monica Treptow is the new School Library Media Education Consultant. DLT is encouraged by the positive news about IMLS/LSTA funding. Klager needs 2016 Act 420 data to assist with cross county payments working group responses and asked whom she should contact, given current staffing. Pettack offered someone from her team to assist as needed.

WEMTA update. Vraney and Fabrizius reported for WEMTA. WEMTA is monitoring the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands investment decisions. Currently, there is tension among its members regarding land purchases in Oneida County. There is a new WEMTA legislative blog and the WEMTA Legislative Committee website page has been updated.

Announcements and other business. Ohs is organizing a Lakeshores Library System Board event to which legislators will be invited, and will be calling on LD&L members for advice as planning progresses. Johnson raised a need for collegial messaging addressing library staff reluctance to engage in hospitality for legislator listening sessions held in library meeting rooms for fear of being perceived as partisan. Wendt reminded members to monitor daily political and news releases on The Wheeler Report website.

Upcoming 2017 meetings: Friday, September 29 and Thursday, November 30

Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 12:25 PM on a **motion from Klager seconded by Meyer.**

Respectfully submitted,
Kris Adams Wendt, recorder