

WINDING RIVERS LIBRARY SYSTEM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD JULY 28, 2010

PRESENT: Catherine Beyers, George Brandt, Loren Caulum, Louise Donohue, David Eddy, Wayne Gates, Clara Johnson, Myrna Kelley, Mary E. Larson, Nancy Lerum, Sue Lindahl, Frank Nicosia, Elizabeth Nutter, Vern Olson, Marilyn Pedretti, Gina Rae, Karen Thayer, Jane Walczak, John Wenum.

EXCUSED: Karen Dahl.

ABSENT:

STAFF & GUESTS: Kristen Anderson, Charles Clemence, Randy Dagnon, Muriel Gunderson & Jody Hanneman (Black River Falls Library), Peggy Klein (Sparta Library), David Polodna, Marcia Sarnowski.

1. Call to Order/Open Meeting Notice Certification: The meeting was called to order by President Brandt at 6:36 pm following a welcome and introduction by the director of the Black River Falls Public Library, Muriel Gunderson. Compliance with the open meetings law was certified. Karen Thayer was thanked for providing refreshments for the meeting.

2. Roll Call: Roll call was taken as indicated above. David Eddy, the new appointee from Buffalo County, was welcomed to his first meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes: Motion by Frank Nicosia, seconded by Wayne Gates, to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2010 meeting as presented. Carried.

4. Reports

4.1 Approval of Bills & Budget Update: Polodna presented the bills and answered questions from trustees about specific expenditures. Motion by Nancy Lerum, seconded by Vern Olson, to approve the bills as presented. Carried. The budget report was then considered and questions were raised and answered. President Brandt accepted the report on behalf of the board.

4.2 WRLS Jail Service: Marcia Sarnowski introduced her written report, added comments about the positive reception she received from jail administrators, and responded to questions. Trustees were appreciative of the report and noted some of the startling issues related to recidivism and the need for educational efforts to reduce incarceration.

4.3 Director's Report: Polodna noted that the 2009 annual report for the La Crosse Public Library was in the folder; the LPL director will be available at the September meeting to answer any questions. The broadband grant project, supported by stimulus money and orchestrated by the Wisconsin Department of Administration is facing continued obstacles as the contract between DOA and the BadgerNet providers is still in limbo. In addition, questions are now being raised as to whether DOA will be able to follow through on the proposal that libraries and schools will get significant increases in bandwidth for the same cost. It is unlikely that this will be settled and any fiber run until 2011.

Polodna then informed the board that WRLS was liable for another unemployment compensation claim for a delivery driver who was forced to abandon his position for medical reasons.

4.4 Public Comments or Topics for Discussion at Future Meetings: Catherine Beyers asked if a presentation on graphic novels would be of interest to the board. Marcia Sarnowski will develop one for the December 1 meeting.

5. Revisited Business

5.1 Technology and Resource Sharing Plan, 2011-2016: Polodna stressed that the revised plan was developed to satisfy two requirements: 1) DPI's requirement that WRLS have an up-to-date approved technology plan, and 2) the federal Erate's requirement that each participating institution have an approved technology plan to qualify for subsidies. The plan, while covering all libraries in the region, was not meant to be a precise and detailed plan for each library, but rather was general in scope and vision. Discussion followed. Motion by Louise Donohue, seconded by Nancy Lerum, to approve and adopt the plan for WRLS as presented. Carried.

6. New Business

6.1 Personnel Committee Recommendations: With apologies to the committee, Polodna explained that very recent discussions with Employee Trust Fund representatives had raised concerns about recommendation 5, and that if strict adherence to ETF rule interpretations were necessary then recommendation 3 would also need adjustment. Thus he proposed amending the recommendations accordingly: #3 should read, "provide family coverage to all electing employees at 90% of the cost of the lowest premium plan offered in the region"; #5 should be eliminated and #6 & #7 should be renumbered. Clarifying and procedural questions were raised and answered. The complete, amended recommendation package then was:

- 1) provide health insurance for all staff as if they are full time as long as they work at least 34 hours per week;
- 2) support single coverage to all electing employees at 100% of the cost of the lowest premium plan in the region;
- 3) provide family coverage to all electing employees at 90% of the cost of the lowest premium plan offered in the region;
- 4) establish a Premium Only Plan (POP) to provide tax reductions for the dollars employees will need to provide for health insurance premiums;
- 5) adopt an adjustment to the salary schedule for 2011 that will add \$.50 per hour to each level and step;
- 6) instruct the director to review the inflation rate as assessed in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) at least every other year and make a concerted effort to build a wage increase at a comparable level into the proposed budget for the following year.

Motion by Catherine Beyers, seconded by Vern Olson, to adopt and approve the amended recommendations from the Personnel Committee. Carried.

6.2 Resource Library Contracts for 2011: Both the System Resource

Library Contract and the Auxiliary Contract for Services for 2011 were reviewed and discussed. The only change was an adjustment to the staffing portion of the Auxiliary Contract to represent 2011 levels of LPL wages, raising the total cost by \$475. Motion by Wayne Gates, seconded by Frank Nicosia, to approve both contracts and authorize the president and secretary to sign them. Carried.

6.3 County Finding Request for 2011: Polodna explained that WRLS had not asked for additional funding in 2010 but felt the system could not repeat that in 2011 in spite of continued challenges for the counties. Thus he was proposing a \$6,000 increase from the seven counties collectively. The authorized formula for distribution determines how this affects each county but the average jump for the counties would be \$857. Frank Nicosia asked if there had been any recent dissension from any of the counties. Polodna said not since WRLS had reduced its requests by 75% in 2001. Marilyn Pedretti asked what would happen if one or two counties refused to provide the requested funding, and what would happen if all the counties refused. The approach in the past has been that if a limited number of counties refused to provide the requested funds, resource grants to the libraries in those counties were reduced by the shortfall. If all counties refused, the matter would come back to the WRLS board for reconsideration. Motion by Myrna Kelley, seconded by John Wenum, to adopt the request for funding from the counties as proposed. Carried.

6.4 Next Meeting Date: The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 pm on September 22, 2010 at the La Crosse Public Library.

7. Adjournment: Motion by Nancy Lerum, seconded by Wayne Gates, to adjourn. President Brandt adjourned the meeting at 7:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David Polodna, Recorder