Wisconsin Public Library Consortium
Board Meeting Notes
August 7, 2023, at 2:00 pm
by zoom*
{Alternate in-person location: 709 N 8th St, Milwaukee, WI 53233}

PRESENT: Mellanie Mercier (Bridges), Katelyn Noack (IFLS), Rob Nunez (Kenosha), Rebecca Scherer (MCLS), Steve Heser (MCFLS), Riti Grover (Monarch), Tracy Vreeke (Nicolet), Gina Rae (NWLS), Bradley Shipps (OWLS), Steven Platteter (PLLS/ALS), Steve Ohs (PLLS/LLS), Jean Anderson (SCLS), David Kranz (SWLS), Kristen Anderson (WRLS), Clairellyn Sommersmith (Winnefox), Rachel Metzler (WVLS)

GUESTS: Ben Miller (DPI), Bruce Smith (DPI), Corey Baumann (SCLS), Marty Van Pelt (SCLS) for beginning of meeting

PROJECT MANAGERS: Jennifer Chamberlain (WiLS), Melody Clark (WiLS), Sara Gold (WiLS)

1. **Call to order**
   Chair S. Heser called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm.

2. **Welcome, Proxy Announcements, and Introductions**
   Chair S. Heser welcomed the group and asked for proxy announcements. Marty Van Pelt was on hand to serve as proxy for Jean Anderson, however Anderson was able to join the meeting during the introductions.

3. **Consent Agenda**
   a. Review agenda
   b. Approval of minutes from June 12, 2023
   c. Acceptance of Digital Archives Backup Steering Committee minutes from June 13, 2023
   d. Acceptance of Technology Backup Steering Committee minutes from June 8, 2023
      YTD Budget
      R. Grover moved approval of the consent agenda. R. Nunez seconded. Motion approved.

4. **Committee and Project Updates**
   a. **Advocacy Workgroup**
      S. Heser had a discussion with a member of the Milwaukee Public Library Foundation who advised on potential challenges to soliciting private donations for the digital library. Heser will share notes with the workgroup members prior to the WPLC visioning session in October.

   b. **501c3 Workgroup**
      T. Vreeke has been in touch with the attorney and is planning to schedule a meeting later in September to bring back more information at the October visioning session.

5. **Discussion and Action Items**
   a. **Discussion: Delivery Update from DPI**
      At the annual meeting in April, Ben Miller of DPI shared that DPI thinks it makes the most sense to run delivery management through the WPLC. It was shared that a proposal to create an ongoing statewide delivery steering committee through the WPLC is in the works. DPI will

prepare information to share in the meeting packet for the October visioning session to help inform the breakout discussion on delivery.

Questions from the board:
- How might delivery impact the WPLC budget and how it will be funded? Will LSTA monies still be available to support delivery? B. Miller doesn't see there being a large impact on system budgets since the current delivery fee structure already includes a portion supported by library systems directly to SCLS. It will need to be figured out how LSTA monies continue to support this work.
- How will academic libraries fit into this model without representation from these bodies on the WPLC? M. Clark noted that the recent bylaws revision allows for affiliate organizations, like academic libraries, to be involved in WPLC committees.
- Is there concern over a potential conflict of interest if SCLS, as a voting member of the WPLC, continues to serve as the delivery vendor. B. Smith noted that WPLC's governance provides flexibility and structure that they feel will benefit delivery services. J. Chamberlain also pointed out that the two technology back-up projects are current examples of systems serving as service providers for WPLC-sponsored projects while remaining voting members of the WPLC.
- Are there other state delivery models governance models that could be used as an example or comparison? The closest comparison model is Illinois where three state systems work with local regional delivery connected through delivery service hubs. In this example, one Illinois system serves as the statewide delivery coordinator. S. Heser confirmed that there will be a breakout session at the visioning session on delivery.
- Additional questions can be sent directly to B. Miller via email.

b. **Discussion and Action: Form Board Nominations Committee**
The group needs to form the Nominations Committee that will solicit candidates for Board Chair, Vice-Chair, and liaisons to all Steering Committees. The positions will serve the 2024 calendar year.

Volunteers: Gina Rae, Rachel Metzler, Clairellyn Sommersmith. M. Clark will schedule the committee meeting. S. Heser thanked the volunteers for stepping forward.

It was also noted that anyone interested in serving as Chair, Vice-Chair, or as liaison to a Steering Committee should let the project managers know.

c. **Discussion and Possible Action: Digital Library Marketing (Social Media) Committee Request**
In October 2020, the WPLC Board allocated $2,300 of R&D funds for the Social Media Committee for Wisconsin's Digital Library marketing. The Committee is [requesting additional funds](#).

M. Clark reminded the board that the content this committee creates on their Facebook page is intended for systems and libraries to copy and use locally in their social media. However, they have also seen an impact directly to patrons via the WPLC Facebook page. The committee is asking to continue running social media ads, fliers, posters, as well as radio spots on Wisconsin Public Radio.

T. Vreeke moved approval of the Digital Library Marketing Committee Request using funds in the R&D account, and D. Kranz seconded. The motion was approved. G. Rae suggested we consider creating a line item devoted to marketing needs. The group agreed that this was a good idea and should be added to the 2025 budget.

d. **Discussion and Possible Action: NYT Digital Offer**
The NYT has an offer for WI public libraries to provide News, Cooking, Games, the Wirecutter, and the Athletic for an annual price of approximately $117,000. Because this offer requires all libraries to subscribe, WiLS is bringing this to the WPLC Board for discussion and to gauge interest. The subscription will have one access point, so individual library/system statistics are not available from NYT as they are with individual library subscriptions. As a point of comparison, the lowest price for an individual library is $2194, with each app available for an additional add-on charge of approximately $2000.

S. Gold provided an [overview](#) on the various NYT collections available in this offer. It includes TimesMachine, which includes PDFs of every NYT issue back to 1851 and full-text searchable articles published after 1980. Also features ads in their entirety, which is helpful for primary source research. This subscription would allow for onsite (web-only) and offsite access. Offsite access would require a patron to set up an NYTimes account and use a 24-hour code. There will be 135,000 codes distributed annually to the state. Subscription would start on December 31. Libraries with a current subscription renewing after December would get a pro-rated refund.

R. Metzler asked how systems would be charged if we do not have access to individual system statistics – would it be an even split or by population? Project managers indicated that a funding formula would need to be determined. It was noted that this wouldn't be a WPLC budgetary expense at this point but would just run through the WPLC. Systems would have agency in determining an internal formula to make this more equitable for their members.

T. Vreeke imagines that at a system level you could funnel the system portion through a local formula that would help smaller libraries. K. Anderson agrees with Vreeke and knows some of her libraries are interested. J. Anderson said that 6 libraries in SCLS are currently subscribers, and if the numbers worked to their advantage, they might be willing to pay for this on behalf of the smaller libraries.

It was clarified that onsite access is full and unlimited, but offsite access would depend on a patron setting up an account and requesting a code that can be used to access content for 24 hours.

C. Sommersmith pointed out that systems could probably use EZProxy to gather some local statistics.

S. Heser suggested the WPLC consider a formula that consists of an equal base amount that each system would pay and the remainder subject to a formula based on an equitable metric.

R. Grover suggested we survey member libraries to gauge interest in the product. S. Gold said we have until October/November to make a decision, and she can make a Google poll to gather interest. Gold also suggested we might have some other examples of formulas we could consider that might be more favorable for small and rural libraries.

G. Rae asked if we could have a sandbox trial to review to understand the user experience. S. Gold will try to get this set up.

R. Scherer indicated MCLS was going to be subscribing as a system in 2024 and wanted to stress that they are interested in pursuing this through the WPLC as long as they wouldn't be charged more than what they were quoted as a stand-alone.

The next step will include project managers sending out an interest survey to systems for distribution to their member libraries.

e. **Discussion and Possible Action: Visioning Session**
At the last meeting of the Board, the group determined the session will take on a strategic plan emphasis, focusing on where partners would like to see the WPLC in the future and a review of the overall governance structure. A [draft agenda](#) was shared. The group was asked what breakout session topics they would like to have. The draft included:
- Breakout Session Topics:
  - Funding: Advocacy and sustainable increases for the WDL – this area could include a discussion about pursuing 501c(3) designation (or could be a separate table)
  - Governance structure/technology projects path – this would involve a discussion about the current technology collaborative structure and improvements to project pathways.
  - Delivery
  - Local history/digital collections
  - Other

It was agreed that the pre-meeting survey should be shared widely to anyone currently involved or with a vested stake in the WPLC in some way.

The group likes the agenda. T. Vreeke added that the agenda looks robust enough while also being spacious to allow for good discussion.

It was asked who should attend the meeting aside from Board members. G. Rae asked if system directors should be at the meeting regardless of their board affiliation and also colleagues closely tied to some of the breakout session topics like delivery, technology, etc.

It was decided that committee chairs will be invited, along with all system directors not on the board, along with any additional staff that would have information useful for the topics in the breakout sessions.

M. Clark asked all non-directors on the WPLC board to give their system directors a heads up that a meeting invitation will be coming.

6. **Information Sharing from Partners**
   Questions to consider:
   - What are potential opportunities for collaboration?
   - What's new happening at your system?

- What issues are you facing?

Building update from SCLS: Work is happening on the front parking lot which means they should be able to finish their move by September 1. J. Anderson also shared that she received an Overdrive question from a local library community's mayor with a question regarding the Palace Project. Will forward to the project managers for their review.

7. **Adjourn**
   Next meeting: Board Meeting on October 23, 2023, at 2:00 pm
   R. Grover moved to adjourn, T. Vreeke seconded. Motion approved.

The meeting ended at 3:30 pm.