

MINUTES
MORE Directors Council Meeting
Friday, May 19, 2023

Present/Attending: Arin Wilken (AL), Heather Wiarda (AM), Leslie LaRose (AU), Linda Heimstead (BL), Amanda Feldt-Smith (BN), Stacey Brown (BB), Kallie Anderson (BO), Kathryn Stempf (BR), Samma Johnson (CA), Dawn Ayers (CM), Anna Griffin (CE), Emily Resendiz (CH), Joe Niese (CF), Vince Mussehl (CV), Cricket LaFond (CL), Lisa Bragg-Hurlburt (CO), Barbara Krueger (DP), Leann French (DR), Lori Gilles (DU), Tiffany Meyer (EL), Nick Andrews (EW), Rozanne Traczek (FA), Charlene Conradi (FC), Rochel Karlson (GC), Michelle Johnson (HA), John Thompson (IF), Christinna Swearingen (LA), Jill Glover (LU), Joleen Sterk (ME), Bonnie Carl (MI), Monica LaVold (NR), Shelby Friendshuh (OS), Christy Rundquist (PE), Rebecca Puhl (PH), Jenna Beyer (PC), Carrisa Langer (PR), Rachel Thomas (RL), Tanya Misselt (RF), Tori Schoess (RO), Shelly Rae (SA), Katie Schneider (SV), Su Leslie (SC), Allison Lutz (TL), Karen Furo-Bonnstetter (WO).

Proxy: Allison Lutz for Rob Ankarlo (CU), Jamie Smith for Shelley Tougas (HU) Becky Puhl for Deb Hyde (PF), Barbara Krueger for Kristina Kelley-Johnson (SO).

Also Present: Lori Roholt, Bridget Krejci, Kathy Setter, Joanne Gardner, Katelyn Noack.

Absent: Rita Magno (BA), Nancy Kerr (EC), Amanda Blackmon (FR), Mary Hebda (OG), Elizabeth Miniatt (ST).

CALL TO ORDER:

Rae (SA) called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

ESTABLISH A QUORUM:

Sterk (ME) established a quorum by roll call vote.

**CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH
OPEN MEETING LAW:**

Certification of compliance and open meeting law was confirmed.

AGENDA:

Rundquist (PE) moved to approve the agenda. Krueger (DP) seconded. Motion carried.

MINUTES:

Meyer (EL) moved to approve the minutes dated March 17, 2023. LaVold (NR) seconded. Motion carried.

LIBRARY NEWS:

Rundquist (PE) - Pepin be hosting an open house next Saturday. A local history name quilt will be on permanent display at the library.

Krueger (DP) - Deer Park applied and received a Pilcrow Grant for \$1,200.

LaRose (AU) - A solar bench is being installed in the reading garden today at Augusta. The Augusta Friends of the Library president reached out to Xcel Energy and the company in Eau Claire that builds them.

Meyer (EL) – Ellsworth surpassed the two million fundraising goal. A bronze Humpty Dumpty statue was purchased by the Friends of the Library and is on display in the front lobby.

Brown (BB) – Bloomer will be featured on WEAU Channel 13 next week as they are partnering with the VFW for an author talk, parade, and an exhibit at the VFW.

French (DR) – Dresser applied and received an \$1,000 grant from the Polk Burnett Roundup for the purchase of large print books.

Leslie (SC) – St. Croix Falls hosted a really good Big Read this year. Folks from the Memory Project performed a one-act play and hosted a discussion centered around dementia. The Center for Creativity and Public Health will be doing programming and helping to create programming as they view art and creativity good for people's health.

Thomas (RL) – Rice Lake has a new self-checkout kiosk by Envisionware. They did a great job getting it set up and operational quickly.

Wilken (AL) – Altoona was featured on WQOW last Friday to promote the MORE Passport Program.

LaVold (NR) – New Richmond will be hosting a Veterans Oral History collective. There will be Veterans in New Richmond who will sit with trained volunteers who will tell their story. The telling of the stories will be held at the Bong Center in Superior.

Carl (MI) – Milltown installed a replicated Main Street photo of Milltown. There are also two murals in the study room painted by summer school students at Unity Schools. There have been a lot of positive reactions.

Sterk (ME) – Menomonie hosted an author during National Library Week. It was a Hmong woman out of the Twin Cities. The Multicultural Club at the middle school came to listen. Menomonie is working with the local Chamber of Commerce and a sculpture will be installed next week. The sculpture will be on loan for a year.

Andrews (EL) – Nick Andrews introduced himself as the director at Elmwood. He is happy to be here.

Schneider (SV) – Spring Valley will be hosting Michael Perry to speak. People will come from all over to listen to this local author.

Kallie Anderson (BO) – Boyceville recently hired Kallie Anderson as the new Director. Anderson previously worked at Elmwood. Anderson has been in Boyceville for a little over a month and is excited to be here.

Roholt noted that Cornell has a new library director, Denise Korenuk.

MORE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Roholt noted that the minutes are posted from the Resource Sharing/Collection Development Committee meeting. The committee discussed the recommendations for electronic content for the MORE budget.

MORE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Kathy Setter, Bridget Krejci, Deb Faulhaber, and Lori Roholt attending the 2023 Innovative Users Group (IUG) Conference last week in Phoenix, Arizona. IUG is a group of library users, and this conference provides good experience. This is the first in-person IUG conference in the past four years. There was a lot of enthusiasm to meet in person. Recaps of the conference will be shared in upcoming TWAM newsletters.

On May 5, 2023, the MORE Executive Committee made recommended amendments to the MORE Bylaws, Appendix C of the MORE Participation Agreement. These amendments were emailed to the directors on May 5, 2023. Directors should review the amendments and be prepared to vote to approve as early as the next MORE Directors Council meeting on July 21.

Work is continuing at Cornell to prepare them to go live with MORE at the beginning of July. Denise, the new Cornell director, is present at today's meeting.

Roholt has heard that Hawkins has expressed interest in joining MORE pending the award of LSTA grant funds for startup. Hawkins is the last non-MORE library. Hawkins could go live on MORE as early as July 2024.

Roholt provided a Bibliographic Services update. So far this year, over 12,000 title (bib) records have been added to the share MORE database by catalogers at cataloging partner libraries and at IFLS. A breakdown was provided about the uniqueness of these records in Roholt's written report. Libraries using CABS should reach out if help is needed in streamlining the process for relaying order information and initiating the record creation process. Sierra's Acquisitions module helps to keep track of spending and getting order information into CABS.

New members of MORE were welcomed on the Directors Council.

IFLS DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Thompson noted that the IFLS Board of Trustees will be meeting next week. The auditor will be making a presentation on the 2022 audit.

IFLS is waiting to hear on the 2024 funding of the State budget. DPI has not discussed at the Joint Finance level yet. It is hoped rather than maintaining 2023 levels, there will be increased funding for 2024. Until we know what the State funding will be, we cannot add the IFLS subsidy to MORE.

IFLS staff did some internal planning and prioritization of services this week. Priorities were reviewed so we can provide better service to our member libraries. We will strengthen what we are

doing now and deal with conflict management and assist in supporting and maintaining healthy work environments.

Thompson noted that some conversations at the state level will have impact at the system level. When the salary survey is reported out, there will be data points and action steps that occur prior to budgets locally. This work will continue and be supported as a system. The facility survey will release the outcomes and be worked on at both the state and local level. Both surveys had 100% completion by IFLS libraries. Kudos to all the libraries for completing these surveys.

The IFLS Board of Trustees will be on the road again in July and September. Those meetings are being planned now.

Furo-Bonnstetter (WO) inquired about services with other systems in the state. Thompson noted there is a statewide study regarding collaborative cataloging. This should be finished by the end of June. The outcome is undetermined at this point. There will be a second phase as well. There is not an opportunity in 2024 budget for money exchange, but maybe some collaborations have started.

2024 MORE BUDGET PREVIEW:

Roholt shared the draft of the 2024 Preliminary Budget. It is also provided on the MORE committee's webpage.

For preview today, Roholt will go through the mechanics of the budget so that directors can think about it and bring thoughts and opinions to the MORE budget hearing to be held on Thursday, June 15, 2023. This is the best time for directors and staff to weigh in on the budget on what is included and at what level.

The preliminary budget shown assumes it stays with the same services and includes known increases. Roholt is hopeful this is a good starting point. Following the budget hearing, the Executive Committee will convene to put together a recommended 2024 MORE budget. It will then go out to all directors for review for six weeks before the Directors Council votes to approve the budget on July 21st. If you cannot make it to the budget hearing, feel free to submit comments to Roholt and Rae (SA).

The first sheet of the overall budget includes the anticipated costs for 2024 for MORE services without any change in services.

Lines 1-13 include Annual Maintenance for Innovative and other Innovative products.

Line 15 for IFLS Management Charges. These are based on IFLS's state aid, which has not yet been finalized for 2024. It includes IFLS personnel, CABS, centralized bibliographic services, committee meetings, training travel/meetings, and telephone expense. An increase was built in for increased cataloger time and preparation for Kathy Setter's retirement with some staff overlap for training.

Content/Materials Purchase is what the group pays for patrons to access the statewide OverDrive collection. All systems pay in and there is a big statewide pool of content for patrons. The anticipated portion paid by MORE for 2024 is included.

In addition, MORE has historically placed money in the OverDrive Advantage program. Roholt included the same amount as last year. The Resource Sharing/Collection Development (RSCD) committee recommends increasing this line from \$50,000 to \$60,000 for 2024. This can be discussed at the budget hearing.

The RSCD Committee also made a recommendation on electronic magazines. They recommend reducing it from \$9,000 to \$5,000 for 2024. MORE held onto Flipster subscription even though OverDrive provides some magazines. There are a few unique options, and we choose the subscriptions through Flipster.

The Collection Development Project is to purchase high-demand materials in any format. The RSCD Committee recommends keeping this amount at \$10,000. The Eau Claire library staff volunteer to select and purchase titles every other month. They look for titles across the system with more than five holds per copy, in any format. A lot of content is DVDs, but any format is eligible. Leftover funds are put into the OverDrive Advantage account.

MORE's Reserves/Carryover includes unspent funds from prior years and startup costs from new member libraries. The tab in the preliminary 2024 budget for carryover is NOT finalized yet. Roholt is not sure if the group has \$60,000 to spend and this is something to be discussed at the budget hearing. Discussion in recent years noted that we are reaching the end of new MORE member libraries so there would be no influx of startup funds. The Directors Council may opt to start weaning itself off using carryover funds.

Roholt noted that the entire MORE budget is funded by MORE members. There is the reality that it has been an increasingly complicated way to split out costs. There is the MORE formula for cost allocations using a 3-year average for items and circulation. For each library you add up the total items in the collection and total circulation average over the last three full years. For 2024, the average is based on 2020, 2021, and 2022 items and circulation. In addition,

IFLS always subsidizes the MORE budget. The subsidy amount is still up in the air until the State Budget is determined. The IFLS Subsidy is applied in three ways. There is a subsidy off the top, a per library subsidy, and a subsidy to the cataloging partner libraries who have dedicated cataloging staff (Eau Claire, Chippewa Falls, River Falls). The Cost Allocations Tab provides the total cost to each library. The cost for content lines is broken done as well.

Roholt asked if there were questions on the mechanics of the preliminary budget.

LaVold (NR) inquired about LibraryIQ. Roholt noted that LibraryIQ is not reflected in the 2024 budget as it was not part of the 2023 budget. Some libraries purchased for a trial of the product. The plan is to convene those libraries using LibraryIQ now and have them provide an outline or demo on their experiences for the wider group and discuss at the budget hearing and decide if it should be added to the 2024 budget.

Furo-Bonnstetter (WO) asked if numbers on usage were available for Niche Academy and Content Café. Roholt felt as much information as available be brought to the budget hearing. Roholt can receive information via email as well prior to the budget hearing.

Roholt noted that the MORE Costs to Library Participants spreadsheet is the cost to libraries and is listed in the order by when the library joined MORE. The bottom of the spreadsheet includes costs for libraries with additional maintenance for special modules or self-check.

Misselt (RF) expressed concern over the reduced amount the River Falls library will receive for a subsidy of being a cataloging partner. The amount was reduced by 50%. River Falls is continuing to fight for a better library budget, and the end result may mean River Falls may no longer have a cataloger. Niese (CF) echoed the same thought on the cataloging partner subsidy cut for Chippewa Falls as Misselt expressed. Thompson addressed the cataloging subsidies. When the initial subsidies were put in place, it was thought that these were not permanent. This budget reflects the process of weaning down on the subsidy. That subsidy comes out of the total amount we can subsidize the MORE budget. The budget hearing in June may happen without knowing the projected state budget. Additionally, what is present at the June budget hearing may be a little different than what is voted on in July. This is a conversation that can be had at the budget hearing.

Rundquist (PE) inquired if there is a way to gather statistics on how much CABS is putting into the system and how much is done by the cataloging partners (Eau Claire, Chippewa Falls, River Falls). It would make it clearer to see the value of what those individual libraries are doing. Roholt noted that you cannot tell which library originally added the record.

Sterk (ME) is hoping River Falls, Chippewa Falls, and Eau Claire have conversations with IFLS Staff on what this means on the IFLS side of things. It is hoped these conversations provide more information for the budget hearing.

ADJOURN:

Krueger (DP) moved to adjourn at 11:27 am. Schneider (SV) seconded. Motion carried.

Joanne Gardner, Recorder