

MINUTES
MORE Directors Council Meeting
Friday, July 21, 2023

Present/Attending: Arin Wilken (AL), Heather Wiarda (AM), Leslie LaRose (AU), Rita Magno (BA), Linda Heimstead (BL), Amanda Feldt-Smith (BN), Stacey Brown (BB), Kallie Aderson (BO), Kathryn Stempf (BR), Samma Johnson (CA), Anna Griffin (CE), Emily Resendiz (CH), Joe Niese (CF), Vince Mussehl (CV), Cricket LaFond (CL), Lisa Bragg-Hurlburt (CO), Denise Korenuk (Cornell), Rob Ankarlo (CU), Barbara Krueger (DP), Leann French (DR), Lori Gilles (DU), Nancy Kerr (EC), Tiffany Meyer (EL), Nick Andrews (EW), Rozanne Traczek (FA), Charlene Conradi (FC), Rochel Karlson (GC), Michelle Johnson (HA), John Thompson (IF), Bonnie Carl (MI), Monica LaVold (NR), Shelby Friendshuh (OS), Deb Hyde (PF), Rebecca Puhl (PH), Jenna Beyer (PL), Carissa Langer (PR), Rachel Thomas (RL), Tanya Misselt (RF), Tori Schoess (RO), Shelly Rae (SA), Kristina Kelley-Johnson (SO), Katie Schneider (SV), Su Leslie (SC), Elizabeth Miniatt (ST), Karen Furo-Bonnstetter (WO).

Proxy: Emily Resendiz for Dawn Ayers (CM), Monica LaVold for Christinna Swearingen (LA), Bonnie Carol for Jill Glover (LU), Lisa Bragg-Hurlburt for Joleen Sterk (ME), Rebecca Puhl for Mary Hebda (OG), Karen Furo-Bonnstetter for Christy Rundquist (PE), Rob Ankarlo for Allison Lutz (TL).

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

Absent: Amanda Blackmon (FR), Shelly Tougas (HU).

CALL TO ORDER:

Rae (SA) called the meeting to order at 10:06 am.

ESTABLISH A QUORUM:

Kathy Setter established a quorum by roll call vote.

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

Certification of compliance and open meeting law was confirmed.

AGENDA:

LaVold (NR) moved to approve the agenda. Krueger (DP) seconded. Motion carried.

MINUTES:

Furo-Bonnstetter (WO) moved to approve the minutes dated May 19, 2023. Niese (CF) seconded. Motion carried.

LIBRARY NEWS:

Library Directors shared local news, events, and information on their libraries.

MORE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Furo-Bonnstetter (WO) noted that the MORE Operations Committee reviewed the damaged item sheet. There have been a few questions about what to bill or not. If directors have a response or questions on how this form works, they can be sent to Paula Stanton (EC), the Chair of the committee.

Roholt noted that the MORE Bibliographic Records and Standards committee met on May 23rd and talked about a cataloging survey and possible changes. There is general support for more combinations of certain types of book additions when the content is very similar. MORE has traditionally created new bib record even if minor changes are detected. The thought is a lot of those records can be combined. The committee is also working for the four libraries to be on the same page with standards. Roholt noted that the MORE committee meetings are always open meetings, and all should feel free to attend.

MORE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Cornell went live on MORE as of July 5th. Roholt thanked Kathy Setter, Bridget Krejci, and Barbara Krueger for their help getting Cornell up and running.

Roholt heard last week that LSTA grant funds were approved for Hawkins to join MORE. The plan is for Hawkins to go live on MORE in July 2024. This is the last IFLS library to join MORE. MORE has come full circle 25 years after the consortium was formed. Roholt provided a shout out to all library directors.

On July 25th, MORE Library App users will have the option to view and use additional library accounts in the app. This is much like the existing Library Elf notification service.

There is a series of webinars on using Decision Center available to all MORE-member library staff and directors. Roholt thanked those showing interest and attending.

Roholt reminded directors that This Week at MORE (TWAM) newsletter is a good way to get information on opportunities like the Decision Center webinars. Librarians can submit an IFLS Help Desk ticket to make sure TWAM is getting to your staff.

IFLS DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Thompson noted that IFLS is still awaiting official word on the State Aids for 2024 and 2025.

The division is facilitating collaborative services among the systems. They are seeing if library systems can collaborate with data services possibly in 2024 or 2025.

IFLS Library System, Northern Waters Library System, and Wisconsin Valley Library Service have collaborated on websites for libraries. The three systems combine for over 100 websites

to be managed. There is now a moratorium on new websites and a six month wait. Funding is being discussed to work on these.

Some library systems in Wisconsin have grown in population and the state aid dollars haven't been readjusted. The division is seeing if there are ways to improve service across the state with the dollars we have.

The IFLS Board of Trustees will meet at Ellsworth Public Library in July. Thompson's evaluation is the big topic. He thanked the library directors for participating in the evaluation. The budget and feedback on IFLS priorities will be discussed in September.

Meyer (EL) inquired if the statewide compensation survey results were available. Thompson noted that there are ongoing conversations about data elements that weren't in the first report and how to deal with library salaries of other staff. Misselt (RF) reported that the City of River Falls did a compensation study, but it didn't include the library staff and assistants, so she might reach out to other libraries in the system to get information.

MORE BYLAWS:

Part of the MORE Participation Agreement that the libraries are entered into with IFLS as a service provider for MORE. The MORE Bylaws outline how MORE functions as a consortium and are to be reviewed every two years.

The MORE Directors Council talked about the Bylaws and sent them to the MORE Executive Committee for fine tuning. The Executive Committee put out the Bylaws with recommended amendments in May of 2023.

With bylaws describe how more to function. The bylaws say should be reviewed every two years. This group talked about bylaws and sent them to more exec for fine tuning. Exec comm put out bylaws with recommended amendments of May 2023. The proposed changes are highlighted and primarily wording for clarity.

Leslie (SC) moved to approve the MORE Bylaws as amended. Puhl (PH) seconded. Motion carried.

2024 MORE BUDGET:

The basis for discussion is the **2024 Recommended MORE Budget** dated June 15, 2023. This budget was reviewed and recommended for approval by the MORE Executive Committee following the hearing open to all MORE members.

The Executive Committee has recommended that \$20,000 from Operating Expenses from Carryover/Reserves be used to offset the costs overall. The **Uncommitted Funds Summary** includes funds that have been carried over includes startup costs for new member libraries. After next year, it is assumed that this pot will be dried up. Hawkins is likely the last new MORE library.

Roholt noted that the overall cost increase represented is 10.72% increase over the 2023 budget. In 2024 it reflects \$20,000 in Operating Expenses from Carryover Reserves compared to \$65,100 in 2023. The estimated Un Uncommitted Carryover @ End of year goes from \$70,972.95 in 2023 to \$50,972.95.

The **2024 MORE Costs to Library Participants** lists the libraries in the order they joined MORE. This includes the Content and General Maintenance split out.

The **MORE 2024 Cost Allocations** sheet reflects all costs and IFLS subsidies. The total IFLS subsidy was increased by 8%. The subsidy is split three different ways. Some are taken off the top, some are per library, and as partner credits for the cataloging partners. There were some discussions on reducing the credits to the cataloging partners, but IFLS brought that back at the same level as 2023 of \$20,000 to River Falls, Chippewa Falls, and Eau Claire.

The final sheet of the budget contains the **Reserve/Replacement Funds** of which MORE holds funds in reserve for hardware, software, enhancements, and reserves. Reserve Funds have not been spent in recent years and there is not a need to replenish.

Meyer (EL) made a motion to approve the 2024 MORE Budget as presented. Leslie (SC) seconded.

Furo-Bonnstetter (WO) inquired with the advent of the Library App basically doing what Library Elf does, is it time to drop the Library Elf subscription. Although it is not a huge dollar amount, it seems to be redundant. It was noted that not all library patrons have access to the Library App. In addition, it does not send notices like Library Elf does. Library Elf is really the only reliable option for text notifications.

It was noted that there is funding in the proposed budget to hire a part-time cataloger. Timewise it was not an issue to wait 3-4 days for cataloging.

Furo-Bonnstetter (WO) made a motion to remove the part-time cataloger from the 2024 MORE Budget. Magno (BA) seconded.

Roholt noted that the bare bones group could use more hours for cataloging. Thompson noted that roughly \$13,000 was added to the IFLS Management Charges for the parttime cataloger. Roholt noted that Furo-Bonnstetter' motion would reduce IFLS Management Charges by \$13,000. LaVold (NR) expressed a greater fear than simply waiting a few extra days for cataloging. New Richmond is experiencing growth in several areas and increasing their purchasing. They rely on cataloging services and processing. LaVold acknowledges the desire to save money and cost savings but thinks the service from IFLS cannot be replicated.

Roholt noted there are 2 full-time and 2 part-time catalogers of the shared service program. They take in information on everything our 50 plus libraries purchase. There is a fair amount of coordination with new staff and the library to relay the information they must create a record. CABS has streamlined a way to get information for the records. Different vendors have different ways to get the required information. Cataloging is a specialized skill and professional staff are at IFLS.

The challenge for this group is that information is coming in all the time. There is a strong feeling of responsibility to keep on top of cataloging and the integrity of the records. Staff do a good job balancing records. It would be helpful to have additional cataloging experts. Kathy Setter has the benefit of being a good cataloger. When replacing Setter, new staff may come with some of her skills to some degree, but it is doubtful they will have the cataloging skills she has.

Several members spoke in favor of keeping funding in place for a part-time cataloger. MORE has a lean budget for what is provided. Some members were concerned about nickel and diming personnel.

A suggestion was made not to lower the IFLS Management Charges for personnel. A portion of those funds could fund an IT person to help with websites and support. Both CABS and IT are important services. Andrews (EW) trusts IFLS with the decision to manage workflow and staffing.

Thompson (IF) noted that that IFLS's subsidy is based on the state aid IFLS receives. The management charge goes up based on what system aids goes up. When the management charges were initially put in place, this covered a portion of the network administrator's time. Currently, no funds cover the network administrator's time as that is all subsidized by the IFLS budget. MORE also receives support from the administrative associate, business manager, public services consultant, electronic services consultant, and the Director. This support is not charged back to MORE. With the current state budget, IFLS can do this. If the state budget changes in three years, IFLS might need to look at what we can or cannot do. IFLS' goal is to continue to provide the best service to patrons.

The vote on the motion to remove the part-time cataloger from the 2024 MORE Budget failed.

Roholt provided information on LibraryIQ, a possible new library analytics tool. This tool has been in use by 9 MORE-member libraries that shared the remaining 2023 costs which included a \$5,000 implementation fee and an annual cost of \$10,000. If the entire group would like access for 2024, the cost would be \$35,000. The website for LibraryIQ and a link to a demo of the product was provided in the meeting materials. Rachel Thomas (RL) and Monica LaVold (NR) were thanked for the informational demo on uses of the product. Comments from other LibraryIQ users around MORE were provided via a link on the meeting materials.

Misselt (RF) noted that River Falls was one of the nine libraries using LibraryIQ. Staff reported there was better support and information with LibraryIQ, yet recommended Decision Center for right now.

LaVold (NR) spoke in favor of replacing Decision Center with LibraryIQ. Leslie (SC) prefers LibraryIQ but has strong feelings that the MORE Administrator needs Decision Center to do her job at the level she does. Therefore, recommends staying with the current Decision Center.

Kerr (EC) noted that staff prefer Decision Center and not LibraryIQ.

Roholt stated that the LibraryIQ vendor is open to continue to make the product available to a subset of libraries. If the group remained at 9-10 libraries, they would charge about the same as in 2023 of \$10,000 annually. The \$10,000 cost would be split between the libraries.

LaFond (CL) inquired about the data collection. Roholt noted that LibraryIQ is aggregating our data for us. They have been harvesting and creating a database they can read from. They have been collecting data since December of 2022 and would continue to do for all member libraries. If LibraryIQ were discontinued, the data set would be wiped out and they would charge an implementation fee again.

Andrews (EW) asked for library staff insight about using LibraryIQ. Roholt responded that LibraryIQ doesn't schedule reports automatically or create transit lists. Decision Center makes it easier for everyone to manage. Roholt would like to investigate LibraryIQ deeper to make sure we are seeing all the data we would expect there. It was noted that Decision Center and LibraryIQ costs are comparable.

LibraryIQ does not tell the story of how well it can be as there is no historical data until it is used for a few years. If we were to use Decision Center but see more benefits of LibraryIQ as the data comes in, it would allow time for a more thorough comparison.

Mussehl (CV) inquired if the benefits of LibraryIQ nullify what benefits we would lose with Decision Center. LaVold (NR) tried almost all the modules of LibraryIQ. When a new analysis tool is presented, it is common to question the voracity of the data. LaVold did some comparison reports between Decision Center and LibraryIQ. Her thought was that the LibraryIQ data was more accurate than Decision Center. LibraryIQ stats provide information all the way down to title and can quickly show where data is coming from and what it is telling her. If the group would choose to move forward with continuing LibraryIQ on a smaller basis, it would be worthwhile.

Thomas (RL) noted that Rice Lake has very little room for fiction and the collection needs to be weeded constantly to keep the collection fresh and tidy. LibraryIQ is used to do an analysis and it is easier to look at all the needed data.

Meyer (EL) thought LibraryIQ was a great product. She inquired since there is already a relatively significant increase in the budget, would those who prefer LibraryIQ continue to do so on their own? Maybe it could be revisited as a group in 2025. That would provide a full year of use.

It was suggested that with more time for LibraryIQ to develop and get the other reports Decision Center does would be beneficial. Roholt noted that LibraryIQ talked about developing reports but hasn't seen that happen yet. They are now just getting circulation reports sorted out.

There was discussion of the nine libraries continuing with LibraryIQ, even if MORE decides to stay with Decision Center for the 2024 budget. LaVold (NR) would do again if the other libraries contribute again. Leslie (SC), Thomas (RL), Wiarda (AM) is interested in contributing to LibraryIQ dependent on the cost.

The vote on the motion to approve the 2024 MORE Budget carried.

ADJOURN:

Krueger (DP) moved to adjourn at 12:14 pm. LaVold (NR) seconded. Motion carried.

Roholt noted that the approved 2024 MORE budget will be posted soon.

Joanne Gardner, Recorder