

MINUTES
MORE Directors Council
Friday, May 16, 2025

Present/Attending: Heather Wiarda (AM), Leslie LaRose (AU), Beth Sippl (BA), Linda Heimstead (BL), Sue Christianson (BN), Stacey Brown (BB), Kallie Anderson (BO), Trevor Richards (BR), Samma Johnson (CA), Dawn Ayers (CM), Emily Resendiz (CH), Joe Niese (CF), Cricket LaFond (CL), Lisa Bragg-Hurlburt (CO), Denise Korenuk (CN), Rob Ankarlo (CU), Barbara Krueger (DP), Leann French (DR), Lori Gilles (DU), Nancy Kerr (EC), Tiffany Meyer (EL), Nick Andrews (EW), Charlene Conradi (FC), Rochel Karlson (GC), John Thompson (IF), Christinna Swearingen (LA), Jill Glover (LU), Joleen Sterk (ME), Monica LaVold (NR), Amy Abele (OG), Anne Miller (OS), Deb Hyde (PF), Rebecca Puhl (PH), Jenna Beyer (PL), Carissa Langer (PR), Rachel Thomas (RL), Shelly Rae (SA), Kristina Kelley-Johnson (SO), Katie Schneider (SV), Su Leslie (SC), Karen Furo-Bonnstetter (WO).

Proxy: John Thompson for Kati Morley (CV), Barbara Krueger for Rozanne Traczek (FA), Barbara Krueger for Jennifer Mabie (HK), Leann French for Bonnie Carl (MI), Karen Furo-Bonnstetter for Christy Rundquist (PE), Kristina Kelley-Johnson for Tori Schoess (RO).

Also Present: Lori Roholt, Joanne Gardner, Katelyn Dubiel, Jackee Johnson.

Absent: Olivia Moris (AL), Anna Griffin (CE), Heather Marek (FR), Michelle Johnson (HA), Shelley Tougas (HU), Tanya Misselt (RF), Elizabeth Miniatt (ST), Colby Peterson (TL).

CALL TO ORDER:

Meyer (EL) called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

ESTABLISH A QUORUM:

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

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

Certification of compliance with open meeting law was confirmed.

AGENDA:

Furo-Bonnstetter (WO) moved to approve the agenda. Krueger (DP) seconded. Motion carried.

MINUTES:

Sterk (ME) moved to approve the minutes dated March 21, 2025. LaVold (NR) seconded. Motion carried.

LIBRARY NEWS:

Sippl (BA) noted that the native plant giveaway was a successful.

Johnson (CA) stated Cadott was one of the recipients of the flexible facilities grant which will be used to build a new facility. They are holding their capital campaign and have received some generous donations. They hope to break ground in a few weeks.

Scheider (SV) noted this will be her last directors council meeting. She thanked the directors and IFLS for being significant role models and mentors to her.

MORE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Furo-Bonnstetter (WO) noted the Resource Sharing/Collection Development (RSCD) committee met. They focused on the Vega demo. Vega would be a huge cost savings over BiblioCommons. If directors have not yet viewed the demo, they were encouraged to do so. The RSCD committee also recommended a \$10,000 increase for ematerials in the 2026 MORE budget. The committee will meet again on May 30th.

Furo-Bonnstetter (WO) noted that the Operations Committee had two topics that included feedback on the Vega demo and the MORE patron registration policy. This Week at More (TWAM) provided information on reviewing your library's policy as far as identifying people.

Jackee Johnson noted that the MORE Bibliographics Committee has switched authority control vendors and is now using Backstage. The committee also discussed the challenges with series headings moving forward.

MORE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

On March 25th, MORE's Sierra servers were migrated to a service hosted by our primary software vendor, Innovative. Roholt thanked everyone for their patience and working through the migration. The day was disruptive and there were unanticipated pickups, especially around the self check machines. OverDrive was down longer than anticipated for patrons. Problems were discovered and addressed quickly. All seems to be working well since the migration. We no longer have to manage the servers onsite. The IT colleagues are relieved of this duty.

A few IFLS and library staff attended the annual Innovative Users Group (IUG) conference in March. There is a link provided for conference reports. MORE funds for attendance for IFLS as well as 1-2 member libraries to attend. There were also a couple

of others that attended at their library's expense. The conference provides information on new products and developments. There has been a lot of development with Vega. Vega is being considered as a lower cost replacement for the current public facing product.

Now that the Sierra server migration is complete, we can move ahead with a Sierra update. The plan is to do the update towards the end of June. It has been 1-1/2 to 2 years since we received a Sierra update. The update will be done during off library hours. When libraries come in following the update, the Sierra client will take a few moments to get those updates. Roholt will include in TWAM the expected changes with the update and problems that have been fixed from the current version.

Roholt noted that we are trying out a new service from our main catalog and app vendor, BiblioCommons, called BiblioCloudRecords, that makes the OverDrive records automatically appear in the main MORE Catalog as soon as they are available to patrons. Currently, IFLS staff need to load, edit, and maintain 90,000+ OverDrive records locally in Sierra. This new service is expected to be more efficient. This trial project is made possible with federal LSTA grant funds through spring 2026. Feedback is encouraged as the group will need to decide whether to continue with this service or go back to maintaining local records for OverDrive content.

Roholt introduced Jackee Johnson at a previous meeting. Jackee is the new MORE Support Specialist and is staffing the chat for today's meeting. We are happy to have Jackee with us. Meyer (EL) thanked Roholt for keeping everyone updated.

IFLS DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Thompson (IF) noted that Joint Finance met in April and the State Biennial Budget for 2026-2027 is anticipated to be done in August or early September. The state budget is typically approved by July 1st. Because of the political situation they may not arrive at an approved budget and would then use the current budget.

As far as the Federal Budget, the IMLS Group seems to be intact. IMLS authorization is due in the fall. If it is not reauthorized, it may go away. The funding through IMLS is primarily at the division level. It funds a majority of the library division staff. There would be a trick down on BadgerLink because staffing is paid for by federal dollars even though it is a service provided by the state.

The Division is pausing sending money to the library systems for grants and tech dollars. The system may need to make adjustments in our budget depending on how the dollars trickle down. Ben Miller's focus is to maintain staffing levels in the Division as those services at the state level need to be maintained.

Thompson recapped that both the state and federal budgets are in flux. If there is no solid number from the state for the September, the system may need to move forward

with a temporary number and wait until October or November to put the system budget together. Thompson will keep libraries posted.

The IFLS Board of Trustees will be meeting in May. They will be reviewing the 2024 system audit and also discussing and approving the director's evaluation plan.

MORE BYLAWS:

Per the MORE Bylaws, they are to be reviewed every two years. Any changes would require providing the text of the amendment(s) to all member institutions forty-five days prior to the meeting at which the amendments are to be decided.

Today is an opportunity to discuss and recommend any changes to the Bylaws.

Furo-Bonnstetter (WO) inquired if the approval of the timetable and schedule of payments for adding new MORE libraries could be deleted. (Article III, Section 2) Roholt responded that it would not be out of the question to add a non-MORE member library to MORE. It was noted that there is also the possibility a public library could be formed within IFLS boundaries.

The MORE Bylaws will be forwarded as they are at the next meeting of the Directors Council for a vote.

2026 MORE BUDGET PREVIEW:

Roholt will review the 2026 Preliminary MORE Budget. Roholt will take questions and there is no action at this meeting today. In keeping with the MORE budget tradition, the preliminary budget document is shared with the Directors Council in May. It represents the budget with no changes to products and services. Some known cost increases are provided, and others include estimates. The updated percentage for each library is responsible for is included on the 2026 MORE Costs to Library Participants sheet.

There are also the Cost Allocations using 3 year Average for Items & Circulation. The Cost to Library is arrived by totaling the library's circulation and item count and averaging over the last three full years (2022, 2023, 2024). The averaging is to help minimize year-to-year fluctuation. The percentage differs from 2025 but is close. Roholt noted directors should find their budget percentage and keep that in mind when the group talks about changes to products and services.

The cost to run MORE is \$1,202,741. There is also an IFLS subsidy taken off the top of \$48,250. The amount billed to libraries is \$1,154,491. There is also an additional per library subsidy of \$1,750. The off the top subsidy helps the larger libraries, while the per library subsidy helps the smaller libraries.

Another portion is the subsidy to the cataloging partners. Libraries do pay for MORE cataloging costs as a whole, and there is a subsidy to Chippewa, Eau Claire, and River Falls.

The 2026 Preliminary Budget provided today includes the approved 2025 amounts, revisions to 2025, and the preliminary 2026 budget with notes.

Line 1 – Annual Maintenance-Innovative. Annual maintenance to Innovative. We are in the midst of a multi-year agreement, and this is non-negotiable.

Line 2 – Software Insurance. Software Insurance to preserve system software code. This is a nominal cost.

Line 4 – Authority Control Service. Ongoing authority processing service. In 2025 we switched from MARCIVE to Backstage. The costs are similar.

Line 5 – NoveList Select Subscription. Online catalog enhanced content: readalikes, series, etc.

Line 6 – Discovery/Online Catalog. Online catalog software: BiblioCore starting 2020; preliminary 2026 includes an estimated cost increase. We do not have a multi-year contract. MORE is considering Vega for next year.

Line 7 – Collection Development/Statistical Analysis Tool. Statistical and collection development tool: Decision Center. 2026 estimated 5% increase based on year-to-year agreement.

Line 8 – Cover Images for Online Catalog. Cover images for online catalog. In 2025 expect to switch from Content Café to Syndetics. There is a 3-year term at 4% increase per year.

Line 9 – iTIVA from Illion. Telephone notification and renewal service. 4% increase based on 3-year agreement (billed with other products from Innovative).

Line 10 – BiblioApps library app from Bibliocommons. The cost is based on 25% of Bibliocore. 2026 cost is an estimate. Must have Bibliocore to support library app.

Line 11 – Niche Academy. Training/tutorials platform. 5% increase over actual 2025 cost. Cost shared with IFLS.

Line 12 – Text Message Notification Service. Beginning 2025: Text4Library from ShoutBomb. 2026 cost includes an estimate.

Line 13 – New Products From Carryover. MORE has historically used carryover for one-time costs and implementation fees. In 2025 it was used for Text4Library service and Sierra hosting services. There is no expenditure included for 2026.

Line 15 – IFLS Management Charges. Includes some IFLS personnel, CABS, centralized bibliographic services, committee meetings, training travel/meetings, and

telephone expenses. This line is largely for MORE staff support to make MORE operate. The amount for 2026 is an estimate. In the past it has been tied to state aids IFLS receives. The state aids for 2026 are unknown.

Line 16 – Sierra Server Hosting. In 2025 we switched to Sierra hosting services via cloud hosting. This is included in the 3 year agreement with a 4% increase for 2026.

Roholt noted that year 2026 is the year to review the multiyear agreements with Innovative.

Line 18 – Management Team Training. Seminars, webinars, etc. for IFLS staff.

Line 19 – Conferences. This is primarily used for the annual Innovative Users Group (IUG) conference. In 2026 the conference will be held in Chicago. It might not be more affordable, but at least it is closer.

Line 21 – Publicity, Promo Items, and Training Materials. Professional printing of the MORE brochures as well as the MORE passport materials. This is with the assumption that the passport program will continue in 2026. There has been some discussion about the continuation.

Line 22 – Bibliographic Utility. For OCLC and a few other cataloging tools.

Line 23 – Operating Contingency. MORE has historically had money in the operating contingency.

Line 25 – WPLC E-Content Buying Pool. Statewide OverDrive collection buying pool including OverDrive magazines. Some funds returned for the system Advantage account. 2026 includes an estimated 5% increase. By the MORE budget hearing, we should know the actual cost from WPLC. This includes ebooks and audiobooks as well as magazines.

Line 26 – OverDrive Content. IFLS OverDrive Advantage is for additional materials for just the MORE member cardholders. MORE Resource Sharing/Collection Development is recommending \$80,000 for 2026. This is \$10,000 above 2025 allocation. This has been a valuable service to continue for users.

Line 27 – Collection Development Project. To purchase high demand materials in any format. Eau Claire staff manages the selection, order, and delivery. It includes books, DVDs, and audiobooks. If some unspent during the quarterly cycles, it goes into the OverDrive Account. The RSCD Committee recommends this level remain at \$10,000 for 2026.

Line 33 – Operating Expenses from Carryover/Reserves. The group opted for \$20,000 from carryover to help offset costs. There is nothing in this line for 2026.

Another sheet was provided that includes the Uncommitted Funds Summary. The estimated carryover at the end of 2025 is \$57,329.69. This is at a more reasonable level compared to years earlier.

The document labeled 2026 MORE Costs to Library Participants is arranged in the order that the library joined MORE. It lists the percentage the library is responsible for in 2026. The total cost is split between content/materials and general maintenance.

LaFond (CL) inquired how much money from Collection Development Project is going to the Overdrive Advantage account? Could the Overdrive Content increase of \$10,000 for 2026 be eliminated? Furo-Bonnstetter (WO) noted that last year they were thinking about high demand holds sunsetting. In reviewing, that is not being recommended. There is a year out on almost everything. Roholt will check how much is going to the OverDrive Advantage.

The MORE Budget Hearing is scheduled for Friday, June 20th. Like today's meeting, there will be an in-person or online option. This hearing is open to everyone. It is your chance to discuss potential changes to the budget. Following the hearing, the MORE Executive Committee will meet to discuss and put together a recommended MORE budget for 2026. That version with any recommended changes will be brought to the MORE Directors Council on July 18th for approval. Changes can be made. The budget vote must pass by 75% of the libraries present and 75% of library votes.

ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 11:13 am.

Joanne Gardner, Recorder