MINUTES
MORE Executive Committee/Budget Hearing
Friday, June 20, 2025

Present/Attending: Tiffany Meyer (EL), Leann French (DR), Karen Furo-Bonnstetter (WO), Joleen Sterk (ME), John Thompson (IF).

Also Present: Lori Roholt, Katelyn Dubiel, Joanne Gardner, Rachel Thomas (RL), Stacey Brown (BB), Anne Griffin (OS), Sue Christianson (BN), Christina Swearingen (LA), Joe Niese (CF), Lori Gilles (DU), Monica LaVold (NR), Paula Stanton (EC), Samma Johnson (CA), Shelly Rae (SA), Su Leslie (SC), Tori Schoess (RO), Trevor Richards (BR), Barbara Krueger (DP).

Absent: None.

CALL TO ORDER:

Meyer (EL) called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

ESTABLISH A QUORUM:

Meyer (EL) established that a quorum was present.

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. Sterk (ME) seconded. Motion carried.

MINUTES:

Thompson (IF) moved to approve the minutes dated February 7, 2025. French (DR) seconded. Motion carried.

BUDGET HEARING ON 2026 MORE BUDGET:

Roholt prefaced today's discussion that the budget being reviewed today includes for the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium (WPLC). The library subsidy increased from $1750 to $1850. The off the top subsidy will be the same as the first draft budget.

Roholt received pricing on BiblioCore and BiblioApp. The vendor is bundling the two items for a cost of $70,000.

Roholt reviewed the meeting documents which included information on the Discovery/Online catalog. MORE currently uses BiblioCore and another option through our current vendor (Innovative Interfaces) is Vega Discover. The meeting documents include information on both options.

BiblioCore has been in use as the MORE Catalog since early 2020, with staff and public testing in late 2019. About 59,000 MORE cardholders have registered catalog accounts. There are about 100,400 MORE cardholder accounts created or used in the last year. BiblioCore can be used with all major library management systems, including MORE's current product, Sierra.

A vendor demo was provided. As noted in the demo, St. Louis County Library and St. Louis Public Library share a collection but use different public catalogs.

If the group decided to switch away from BiblioCore and BiblioApp, then they wanted to switch back, the consortium would likely be required to pay implementation fees.

Vega Discover is a relatively new discovery service from our Sierra vendor, Innovative Interfaces. Vega Discover can only be used with Innovative's library management system Sierra or Polaris. Vega Discover is the top level with all available functionalities. It has everything that Classic, Plus, and Premium have, with added consortium-specific functionality. The pricing is $10,000 for year 1, an annual increase allowance of 3.5% would apply to new and existing products during the initial term. There is a one-time implementation service of $13,500.

BiblioApp has been in use as the MORE Libraries app since 2021. The average monthly app user count for January-May 2025 is 7,221. BiblioApp can only be used in conjunction with BiblioCore.

A third party company, Solus, and branded Vega Mobile developed Vega Mobile. The interface and patron account portal differ from Vega Discover. The pricing for Vega Mobile is included with Vega Discover ($10,000 for year 1, annual increase allowance of 3.5% would apply to new and existing products during the initial term). There is a one-time implementation service of $10,000.

Included in the meeting materials were questions addressed by Innovative Interfaces following the Vega Discover demo.

One question was the ability to lock in a cap on increases for the next 7-10 years, which they responded they could make this part of the agreement.

Everything is included at the quoted price for Vega Discover. This includes future enhancements like the AI Search Assistant.

Syndetics Unbound is included with Vega Discover. This includes cover images, series information, similar authors, similar series, reviews, awards, contributors, and reading level.

Languages are included with both Vega Discover and the mobile app. There is no additional fee to add them. You can decide what languages you make available to your patrons.

The mobile app has a built-in search function. Both Monarch and Milwaukee County use the built-in app search.

We currently have a three year contract with Innovative that ends in 2028. We are in year 1 of the 3 year agreement. It would be worthwhile as early as this fall to do an ILS investigation. It could take a good two years to make a switch. The pricing for Sierra is set for 2026 and 2027. Roholt is not aware that Sierra is wildly more expensive than other options.

Leslie (SC) noted that Vega Mobile app looks vastly different on the phone. You cannot browse books like you can in BiblioApp. A lot of patrons are starting to use the BiblioApp and to get the word out and learn a different app may be a bad marketing move for patrons.

Sterk (ME) inquired about the BiblioApp user counts. Roholt noted that the user counts are done monthly. The average unique user count is 7,221 per month.

There was discussion about the views between the current BiblioCore and BiblioApp versus Vega Discover and Vega Mobile. BiblioCore and BiblioApp have the same views and search features. Vega Mobile is by a third party working with Innovative, so the patron account looks different between the Vega Discover and Vega Mobile.

French (DR) watched the BiblioCommons demo and compared to Vega Discover. People were unhappy with Vega and the library went back and the patrons were happy showing they preferred BiblioCore and BiblioApp over the Vega products.

It was noted that Innovative has put a lot of work into the development of Vega. It is in active development, and they are rolling out updates every couple weeks. Vega is improving on a regular basis.

It was the consensus that it makes sense to hold off on Vega and consider other ILS's. If the consortium decides to keep Sierra, they could again consider Vega.

Another possible new product for 2026 is patron self-registration. MORE's option for patrons to register online for a card granting immediate access to online resources (MORE ecard) is Sierra Legacy Self-registration. This free product has been in use by MORE since about 2018. If offers no duplicate checking, no data verification, and no spam prevention. There are about 2,877 MORE ecard accounts created or used in the

last year that have not been upgraded to regular accounts. Innovative is developing an updated self-registration service for which MORE could be a test site later this year. Pricing for the updated service is not known but may be included with MORE's Sierra Maintenance.

The new possible switch is a Quipu eCARD. This product is likely to have more customization options than Sierra's self-registration options, both at the consortia and library level. Spam prevention and address verification is included, which would allow MORE to limit registrations by patrons' place of residence. The approximate cost would be $9,000 annually. The consortium set-up fee is $10,500; and $4,000 additional per-library set-up fee (optional).

Roholt noted that another option is Innovative is working on updated patron registration form. There is no pricing available. It is hoped it will be wrapped up in the Sierra costs. The hope would be more customizable, including address verification, and check for spammer registrations.

The hearing on the 2026 budget concluded and the Executive Committee appreciates the feedback from MORE libraries.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON 2026
MORE BUDGET RECOMMENDATION:

Sterk (ME) made a motion to accept the 2026 MORE Budget as presented. Furo-Bonnstetter (WO) seconded. Carried.

ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 11:08 am.

Joanne Gardner, Recorder