

MINUTES
MORE Executive Committee
Friday, September 5, 2025

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

Also Present: Lori Roholt, Jackee Johnson, Joanne Gardner, Deb Faulhaber, Su Leslie (SC).

Absent: None.

CALL TO ORDER:

Meyer (EL) called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.

ESTABLISH A QUORUM:

Meyer (EL) established a quorum was present.

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

Certification of compliance with open meeting law was confirmed.

AGENDA:

French (DR) moved to approve the agenda. Sterk (ME) seconded. Motion carried.

MINUTES:

Furo-Bonnstetter (WO) moved to approve the Executive Committee minutes from August 1, 2025. French (DR) seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION OF ILS EVALUATION PROCESS:

Roholt first made mention of the evaluation process in an Administrator's Report for the MORE Directors Council. The evaluation would be for the main staff facing software for MORE. The product through Innovative Interfaces is called Sierra and has been used since 2012. The prior product through the same company was called Millenium. It is a good idea for the automation consortia to periodically evaluate the backbone software that is used.

The plan is for IFLS to take the lead in this process. Roholt is open to other opinions about that. Because this will likely be a lengthy process and in depth, it seems to make

the most sense for IFLS to pull together a task force, set meeting dates, and act in that administrative capacity.

Roholt has put out a call for volunteers in the last few TWAMs. The process needs to be library staff heavily involved in and using these ILS tools. It will ultimately be a Directors Council level decision based on the recommendations from the task force.

The deadline for volunteers for the core task force will be next Tuesday. There will also be a call for functional experts and a gathering of folks to weigh in on specific points.

There are nine volunteers who have come forward for the core task force and will provide a good mix and size of the force itself. This includes a reasonable mix of larger and smaller library representatives. The nine volunteers include Lynn Gates of Eau Claire, Paula Stanton of Eau Claire, Tori Schoess of Roberts, Heather Johnson of River Falls, Martha Spangler of Altoona, Melissa Nichols of Menomonie, Trevor Richards of Bruce, Laura Hanneman of Prescott, and Jennifer Rickard of New Richmond. There are a few more days for volunteers to step forward. Roholt was interested in the Executive Committee's thoughts on the mix.

Meyer (EL) responded that the mix looks good. Additionally, it will be helpful that others can also provide advice on specific functions such as cataloging and acquisitions.

French (DR) felt Jennifer Rickard will be exceptionally good on the core task force. French thought having a mix including smaller libraries would be helpful. Sometimes, smaller libraries do not use Sierra to the maximum capacity of time and resource limitations.

Roholt stated that there will be a timeline which includes vendor demos where all will be invited to see those and weigh in to gather as much input as we can. The core group will undertake specific tasks and keep the evaluation process rolling.

Sterk (ME) inquired at what point budget would be a consideration. Given that some smaller libraries may not use the software to the full capacity, the recommendation is based on consideration of costs for all sized libraries.

Roholt borrowed some of Milwaukee County's evaluation process as it was documented thoroughly, including the timeline for the process.

It was noted that for MORE, it is important to look at the functionality and cost considerations side-by-side. The taskforce is a thoughtful group and will review both in tandem.

The proposed timeline would include a recommendation from the MORE taskforce to the Directors Council by November 2026. This is in consideration that the current maintenance agreement runs through 2027. The budget for 2027 is set in the summer of 2026 and the budget for 2028 decided in the summer of 2027. The taskforce will

need more time than the later half of 2026 if the group decides to make a change. The Directors Council can make the decision in November 2026, but it would need to be clear it is in advance of the regular budget cycle.

All activities within the timeline are with the November 2026 recommendation in mind. This does place vendor demos in the summer months of 2026. These decisions will not affect the 2027 budget, but rather the 2028 budget.

Roholt noted concerns on the timing for running day long vendor demos during the summer which can be tricky for libraries generally. She will take advice and thoughts from the committee as well as the task force. Meyer (EL) noted that recording the demos would be helpful so everyone could watch. Sterk (ME) was in agreement. There is never a suitable time for everyone. French (DR) added that in reviewing demos, it should be highlighted that this work is for the 2028 budget, not the 2027. Sterk (ME) noted that August would be a better time for the demos as the 2027 budget would be passed.

Roholt plans to keep the Directors Council updated in the Administrator's Report as well as in blurbs in TWAM as relevant. There will be reminders of the process and the timeframe that is involved.

Furo-Bonnstetter (WO) inquired how many different ILS' are being considered. Roholt noted Polaris, SRSI Dynix Symphony, and our current product Sierra. These three for certain seem viable products for a large library consortium. There are some open source products that have been used in libraries in Wisconsin, but they are now moving away from them. Furo-Bonnstetter inquired was product Milwaukee County went with following their evaluation. Roholt replied that they stayed with Sierra.

Roholt wants to ensure the MORE Executive Committee is aware of how the evaluation plan will be executed and provide a forum for speaking up. Roholt will make an update for the MORE Directors Council and have the taskforce assembled at that time.

Roholt noted that the Directors Council will need to decide about the maintenance agreement for the current public facing catalog. They did opt for BiblioCore and BiblioApps for at least 2026. BiblioCommons would like to know if we would agree to a multi-year agreement with them. There will be a few options for the Directors Council to decide on in November. This ties into the ILS evaluation process in that if we switch, we will pay some money to make the switch on the backend.

It was noted that we may not want to make the staff facing and public facing change at the same time. Roholt noted she will make a clear timeline and cost with BiblioCommons products, and with ILS change. This will be brought to the September Directors Council meeting with the decision to be made at the November meeting. The Directors Council opted to stay with BiblioCore and BiblioApps. This package needs to be decided on and for how many years.

Roholt gave a shout out to the other systems and to Jackee Johnson who have been through similar processes.

ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 am.

Joanne Gardner, Recorder