



Library Development & Legislation (LD&L) Committee

Friday, July 20, 2018

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

DeWitt, Ross & Stevens Office

2 East Mifflin St., Madison, WI

MINUTES

Members present: Kathy Pletcher, Connie Meyer, Sherry Machones, Kris Adams Wendt, Mark Arend, Amy Birtell, Bruce Gay, Kathy Klager, Pete Loeffel, Steve Ohs, Jim Ramsey, Vicki Teal Lovely, Scott Vrieze, Plumer Lovelace

Remote participation via GoToMeeting: Nick Dimassis, Heather Johnson, Steve Conway

Members absent: Larry Oathout, Anita Weier

Guests: Dee Pettack (Department of Public Instruction), Kurt Kiefer (DPI), John DeBacher (DPI), Martha Berninger (DPI), Walter Burkhalter (Public Library System Redesign Chapter 43 subcommittee)

Co-chair Pletcher called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Introductions were made around the table. The agenda order was approved without changes.

Approval of minutes from the May 18, 2018 meeting. Minutes of the May 18, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously on a **motion from Klager seconded by Machones.**

Legislative Update. While waiting for Conway to join the meeting at 10:15, Pletcher mentioned the [Legislative Council Study Committee on the Investment and Use of the School Trust Funds](#) and reviewed the most recent changes to investments and programs of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL) proposed as AB857/ SB713 in the last legislative session. The bill didn't pass. Pletcher has been in touch with Janet Vraney from WEMTA which takes point on BCPL issues related to the Common School Fund and is monitoring the study committee which includes WEMTA past-president Kim Bannigan as a citizen member. The committee will meet on August 16. Pettack and Kiefer plan to attend. Pletcher asked LD&L members to contact her if interested in working with her, Conway and Pettack. The study committee must demonstrate full support for any recommendations brought forward. Competition for the banking industry from BCPL low interest loans to public entities (municipalities, schools, counties) appears to spark the interest of some legislators who seek change.

2019-2021 State Biennial Budget – funding goals, service themes, strategy and timeline. Meyer distributed a budget timeline and introduced the latest document draft of WLA Budget Priorities talking points for renewing the gain in public library system aids realized for the current biennium and leveraging additional funding for the next. Now that the 13% index request requirement is gone for public library system aids, emphasis is on keeping a robust but reasonable increase recommended by DPI in the Governor's Executive Budget and throughout the process, rather than working to add funds back during Joint Finance Committee deliberations. Comparison data needs to be gathered showing loss of funding during a succession of stagnant budget appropriations since the 10% cut in 2012. BadgerLink and Newsline for the Blind requests have yet to be finalized. The goal is to develop a 2 sided 1 page

“leave behind” document for meetings with legislative leaders, and staff in the Governor’s office and Department of Administration (DOA) in early meetings. The document can then transition to Library Legislative Day use. Conway stressed the need for examples of the way additional funds realized in the current budget translated to enhanced programs and services at the local library level.

Cross county payments working group. Klager and Birtell shared information regarding a resolution from the Washington County Board of Supervisors to the Wisconsin Counties Association asking support for legislation to consolidate all library services under one statewide public library system. This is the second year in a row the proposal has been submitted; last year’s resolution did not make the final list. DeBacher shared interest on the part of Kewaunee County to consolidate library services with Door County; Chapter 43 does not presently support a two-county consolidated library.

TEACH funding. Lovely shared a draft document summarizing questions, concerns and proposed solutions regarding the TEACH infrastructure grants for public libraries as recognized in the spring grant period. She is working with DPI's E-rate/Broadband consultant Bill Herman and Winding Rivers Library System Director Kristen Anderson, as well as soliciting feedback from other library system IT professionals. A meeting has been scheduled on August 2 with DOA, which controls the criteria, process and procedures for TEACH. LD&L members shared examples from their region where comparisons between eligible and non-eligible libraries provoked questions about criteria. Kiefer and DeBacher explained how DPI/DLT was asked by DOA to establish non-arbitrary and measurable criteria using US Census designations for “small and rural” in order to compile a list of eligible libraries before the first round of grants. Other issues may be matters of interpretation that can be resolved. Conway asked Pettack and Kiefer to share DPI’s contact names at DOA for the TEACH project with him for follow up.

Conway expressed concerns that WLA’s legislative champions want to see evidence of how the library community follows through on its messaging and hearing testimony regarding additional funds secured in the current biennium. Legislators ask him for updates on how the funds are benefitting their constituents through local library services; specific examples will encourage support to leverage additional funds in the next biennium. This includes the Microsoft project and WISEdata/dash funding opened up to library projects.

Conway and Lovelace have met with the Microsoft representatives and asked to “unbundle” the library dollars from the school side so that the money can go out to a minimum of 16 libraries. A key legislative sponsor of the WISE/TEACH bill recognizes there is associated red tape in running a 6 week RFP and/or competitive bidding process through DOA and is willing to suggest an exemption from the RFP to speed things up. Recommending a single source in future appropriations language will remove the necessity for a full competitive process. Annette Smith, Director of Instructional Media Tech Services, has been assigned to this project at DPI.

Conway asked Kiefer for a progress report on inclusion of library services in the WISEdata/dash appropriation. Considerable discussion ensued regarding a recent survey of system directors asking for suggestions to inform the DLT roadmap for WISE funding, and LD&L member uncertainty as to how systems and community libraries would directly benefit. Kiefer provided examples of WISE funds potentially being used to automate licensing (recertification) for library directors, data dashboard tools, shared electronic resources such as Learning Express, as well as PLSR work group recommendations such as a shared ILS discovery layer. Klager asked whether LD&L needs to review WLA member testimony at the hearings for the WISE/TEACH bill. If WISE is DPI project money instead of grant money, then a clearly

demonstrable connection to highly visible projects is still necessary for the LD&L budget team's messaging for the next biennium. Conway requested Pettack's assistance in setting up another small group meeting at DPI similar to the budget discussion on May 15 to address the confusion and move WISE projects forward in time to demonstrate progress going into the next budget process.

Planning for the campaign season. It was suggested that a customizable WLA branded poster be created as a tool for libraries to use when announcing a particular Assembly Representative or Senator was using library space for listening sessions or office hours. Suggested slogan: Civic Space for Civil Discourse. Loeffel volunteered to work on this with DeBacher. Wendt suggested that since many legislators schedule listening sessions in January following the swearing in for a new two-year session, it would be best to use the balance of 2018 to get ready, once November 6 results are known. January listening sessions are used to WLA's advantage during a budget producing year. Invitations to new or re-elected legislators from libraries with public meeting rooms could accompany notes of congratulations. The same poster could be adapted to municipal and county races in the April 2019 spring election.

Federal Legislative Advocate report. Machones reported the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have passed fiscal year FY2019 funding bills which provide level funding for the Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) and Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) including the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). FY2019 funding bills now head to the full House and Senate. Thank you notes to Representative Mark Pocan and Senator Tammy Baldwin, who serve on the House and Senate Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, are appropriate. Machones and Lovely will work together to find opportunities to raise awareness of Pocan's assistance within his district. ALA is monitoring proposals regarding restoration of Net Neutrality and expected to file an amicus brief in a related court case by the end of summer.

WLA Conference. Confirmation has been received that the following LD&L sponsored program is scheduled for Thursday, October 25, from 2:45 to 3:30 PM. Representatives Felzkowski and Loudenberg will be honored guests at the WLTF Luncheon on Thursday.

Libraries and Legislators: Transforming Together! 1:45-2:30* Thursday, October 25, 2018

Moderator: Nick Dimassis, Director, Beloit Public Library;

Speakers: Representative Mary Felzkowski, Joint Finance Committee**
Representative Amy Loudenberg, Joint Finance Committee
Steve Conway, WLA Government Relations Advisor

The panel will lead a discussion on the legislative funding process and how state funding creates value at the local level via local libraries. Those values include: supporting career and workforce development, providing access to technology and sustaining resources for life-long learning. This session supports WLA's relationship-building effort with legislators to recognize libraries as a value added essential in their communities.

LD&L Recorder's Notes:

*Program time was updated from 2:45-3:30 stated on July 20 meeting agenda.

**Representative Felzkowski sent her regrets on Sept. 28 that she would be unable to attend.

DPI/DLT update. Berninger provided an update on WISCAT improvements for greater efficiency under the WISEdata program. The BadgerLink contract bidding and renewal process is slowly coming to a close with notification conversations underway. Wisconsin is still in the running for a grant from the Laura Bush 21st Century Library Program to fund a collaborative proposal submitted by DPI, WLA, Wisconsin

Dept. of Workforce Development (DWD) and Wisconsin Workforce Development Association. DPI and DWD have committed to funding the initiative regardless. DeBacher provided an update on DLT staffing. It's expected that the next annual report form for public library systems will gather data on how the additional \$1.5M in state funding impacted regional programs and local service areas.

PLSR update. A written update had been submitted by John Thompson who was unable to attend the meeting. Burkhalter and Ohs led discussion after providing background to and an overview of the current "recommendation development phase" of the Public Library System Redesign (PLSR) process. A model development summit is scheduled for July 30-31 at which the PLSR Steering Committee, assisted by Core Recommendation Collaborators and additional invited Summit Participants will be discussing two models that have emerged from the process thus far. Ohs and Burkhalter stated the Steering Committee is looking to LD&L for advice going forward. LD&L members were asked to express their concerns regarding the process and product to date. Considerable discussion ensued. Concerns and comments raised included, but were not limited to: the need for more transparency regarding the timely consideration and sharing of communications to PLSR Steering from the library community; how PLSR recommendations to Superintendent Evers will overlay the biennial budget process, fall election and reorganization of a new legislature in January; difficulty of LD&L advising PLSR Steering and/or Chapter 43 subcommittee if potential statutory changes are unknown and the PLSR process is not in sync with the legislative calendar; concerns regarding inadequate time allotted for model analysis and gathering comparable financial/funding data and effects of change for both models; unknowns regarding implementation/transition timeline for both models; reference to the "sunk cost fallacy" whereby time spent and resources invested appears to require a huge change instead of incremental change for which community buy-in and retention of political capital can be more easily marshalled; disappointment that the 333 page workgroup report data and comments have not merited more attention thus far; expectation that the final report should address what's working well now and how to do more of it, as well as suggesting reasonable solutions to identified problems; awareness that the library community needs to come to consensus on desired outcomes and positive messaging before any statutory change is attempted as legislators will not thank us for not thoroughly vetting proposals for potential unintended consequences; recognition that change cannot be forced and needs to take local political will and personalities into account; advice to not only talk about state dollars, but also significant differences in local and county funding when addressing the concept of "equity." Ohs, Burkhalter and Kiefer thanked LD&L members for their thoughts and ideas.

Announcements and other business. None.

Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM on a **motion from Meyer seconded by Gay.**

Upcoming 2018 meetings. September 28, November 30

Respectfully submitted,
Kris Adams Wendt, Recorder