

**Council on Library and Network Development**

May 9th, 2025

**Northwoods Elementary School**

3600 Northwoods Lane

Eau Claire, WI 54703

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Virtual Meeting: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

Call in Option: +1 608-620-9781 Conference ID: 710 437 87#

1. **Call to Order** (Action; 5 minutes) Ellen Kupfer, COLAND  
*Chair*  
  
[Roll Call](#) (Yellow Tab)/**Determination of Quorum**  
(Information) Rachel Thomas, COLAND  
*Secretary*  
  
**Introduction of Guests/Visitors** Ellen Kupfer, COLAND  
*Chair*  
**Changes/Additions/Approval of Agenda** (Action) All  
[Approval of March 14th, 2025 Minutes](#) (Action)
  
2. **Welcome and Tour of Northwoods Elementary School**  
(Information, Discussion; 45 minutes) Luke Stordahl,  
*Northwoods Elementary  
Principal*
  
3. **Report of the Chair** (Information, Discussion, Action; 20  
minutes) Ellen Kupfer; COLAND  
*Chair*
  - Follow-up on Department of Corrections
  - Biennial Report CommitteeAll  
  
[COLAND Goals](#) (Information, Discussion, Action; 30  
minutes) Ellen Kupfer; COLAND  
*Chair*  
All  
  
**COLAND Biennial Report** Ellen Kupfer; COLAND  
*Chair*  
All
  
4. **Discussion of Secretary Workflow**  
(Discussion, Action; 15 minutes) Ellen Kupfer; COLAND  
*Chair*; Katelyn Dubiel,

- Nomination Committee
    - COLAND [Bylaws](#) Article III Section 2
    - See [Column L](#)
  - COLAND Officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary)
    - COLAND [Bylaws](#) Article I Section 2
    - See [Column M](#)
  - Refining Secretary Workflow
- Kristi Williams, Dennis Myers
5. **Public Library Annual Report Summary** Melissa Aro; DPI Staff
- Lunch (11:30)
6. **[DPI and School Libraries Updates](#)** Ben Miller; DPI Staff  
 (Discussion; 30 minutes)  
 Biennial Reports s. 43.07(4), (5), (7)
7. **Federal Funding** Ben Miller; DPI Staff  
 (Information, Discussion, Action; 30 minutes)
8. **Legislative Update** (Discussion; 10 minutes) DPI Staff; *DPI*
9. **Law 4 Libraries: School Edition** (Information, Discussion; 30 minutes) Monica Treptow; DPI Staff
10. **Network Development Subcommittee Reports** Ellen Kupfer, COLAND Chair;  
 (Discussion; 15 minutes) DPI Staff
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11. **Review Meeting Dates and Tentative Locations** Ellen Kupfer, COLAND Chair;  
 (Information, Discussion; 5 minutes) All
- **2025 Meeting Dates:**
    - Friday, July 11th, 2025
      - **Marathon County Public Library**  
 300 North First Street  
 Wausau, WI 54403
    - Friday, September 12th, 2025
      - **Colonel Robert H. Morse Library**

Beloit College  
731 College Street  
Beloit, WI 53511

- Friday, November 14th, 2025

**12. Announcements**

Ellen Kupfer, COLAND  
Chair;  
All

**13. Adjournment (2:00 pm)**

Ellen Kupfer, COLAND  
Chair;  
All

**COLAND Goals:**

- 1. HUMAN RESOURCES:**
  - RECRUITMENT:** Support efforts inspiring middle school, high school, and college students to consider a career in library science.
  - EDUCATION:** Evaluate and support educational pipelines, continuing education, professional standards, inclusive practices, and licensing/certification for both school and public librarians.
  - RETENTION:** Increase the retention of professional librarians and help advocate for competitive salaries, benefits, and recognition for service in the field.
- 2. BROADBAND ACCESS:**
  - ADVOCACY:** Advocate with stakeholders in achieving statewide broadband service that is accessible and affordable for all Wisconsinites—a foundational element of digital equity.
- 3. INNOVATION:**
  - OBSERVATION:** Actively and thoughtfully monitor trends, developments, and challenges in modern library services.
  - ENCOURAGEMENT:** Support the Department of Public Instruction, library districts and systems, individual libraries, and professional groups as they implement and experiment with new programs—especially those which serve marginalized populations.
- 4. OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT:**
  - AWARENESS:** Increase awareness of COLAND through outreach to libraries, library systems, and professional groups.
  - NETWORKING:** Develop and support active relationships with—and between—libraries, librarians, and vital organizations aligned with COLAND goals.
- 5. INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM:**
  - PROTECTION:** Vigorously defend intellectual freedom and the Right to Read.
  - PERSEVERANCE:** Support libraries and their staff as they face a recent surge in book challenges; carefully monitor state and national trends in book challenges, as well as the groups and opinions fueling them.

- 43.07 Council on library and network development.** The state superintendent and the division shall seek the advice of and consult with the council on library and network development in performing their duties in regard to library service. The state superintendent or the administrator of the division shall attend every meeting of the council. The council may initiate consultations with the department and the division. The council shall:
- (1)** Make recommendations to the division in regard to the development of standards for the certification of public librarians and standards for public library systems under s. 43.09.
  - (2)** Advise the state superintendent in regard to the general policies and activities of the state's program for library development, interlibrary cooperation and network development.

- (3) Advise the state superintendent in regard to the general policies and activities of the state's program for the development of school library media programs and facilities and the coordination of these programs with other library services.
- (4) Hold a biennial meeting for the purpose of discussing the report submitted by the state superintendent under s. [43.03 \(3\) \(d\)](#). Notice of the meeting shall be sent to public libraries, public library systems, school libraries and other types of libraries and related agencies. After the meeting, the council shall make recommendations to the state superintendent regarding the report and any other matter the council deems appropriate.
- (5) On or before July 1 of every odd-numbered year, transmit to the state superintendent a descriptive and statistical report on the condition and progress of library services in the state and recommendations on how library services in the state may be improved. The state superintendent shall include the report as an addendum to the department's biennial report under s. [15.04 \(1\) \(d\)](#).
- (6) Review that portion of the budget of the department relating to library service. Recommendations of the council in regard to the budget shall accompany the department's budget request to the governor.
- (7) Receive complaints, suggestions and inquiries regarding the programs and policies of the department relating to library and network development, inquire into such complaints, suggestions and inquiries, and advise the state superintendent and the division on any action to be taken.

**History:** [1979 c. 347](#); [1983 a. 524](#); [1985 a. 177](#); [1995 a. 27](#); [1997 a. 27](#).

## Council on Library and Network Development

May 9th, 2025

### Northwoods Elementary School

3600 Northwoods Lane

Eau Claire, WI 54703

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

#### Council Members

##### Present:

Ellen Kupfer (Chair)  
Rachel Thomas (Secretary)  
Michael Otten (Member at Large)  
Amy Beth Bahena-Ettner  
Terrence Berres  
Andi Cloud  
Nick Dimassis  
Katelyn Dubiel  
Rebecca Ferrell  
Eric Genrich  
Jaime Healy-Plotkin  
Josh Klingbeil  
Linda Leonhart  
Terri Muraski  
Dennis Myers  
Christinna Swearingen  
Kristi Williams

##### Missing:

Rob Nunez

##### DPI Staff:

Ben Miller  
Elizabeth Tomev  
Allyson Hanz  
Monica Treptow  
Melissa Aro

##### Guests:

John Thompson, IFLS Library System  
Director  
Caroline Akervik, Eau Claire Area School  
District Librarian  
Luke Stordahl, Northwoods Elementary  
School Principal  
Marla Sepnafski, WVLS Library System  
Director

#### Call to Order

E. Kupfer called the meeting to order at 9:11am

#### Roll Call

Quorum present

#### Introduction of Guests/Visitors

Guests present and online were introduced to the group.

#### Changes/Additions/Approval of Agenda

A motion from D. Myers and second by A. Cloud to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

#### Approval of March 14, 2025, Minutes

A motion from A. Cloud and second by K. Williams to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

## **Welcome and Tour of Northwoods Elementary School**

Northwoods Elementary School Principal, Luke Stordahl, provided a tour of and information about Northwoods as well as the Eau Claire School District. Every location has a part-time librarian. Northwoods has 300 students and is a 2-section school - every grade has 2 classes. Luke provided tour. 300 students, 2 section school grades have 2 classes in them. Northwoods Elementary is a neighborhood school, a cluster site location, a Special Olympics Unified Champion school, a Title 1 school. Northwoods is also an AGR (achievement gap reduction) school and has a little more staffing because of more needs. The class size range for K-2nd grade is 18-25 and for 3rd-5th grade it is 22-29. 13 elementary schools in Eau Claire. The school offers open enrollment and the boundaries for Northwoods touch Fall creek and Altoona. The free/reduced lunch percentage is 55% and the need has increased. The library at Northwoods has a makerspace and technology like a 3d printer, lots of signage, and plants. The library has a robust summer library program. The 1st grade class takes a field trip to the public library and the children's librarians come to all of the public schools in the spring. There is a close partnership between the schools and the public library.

## **Report of the Chair**

E. Kupfer provided an update on member appointments. Today's meeting is the last meeting for Andi Cloud. A new member has been appointed, Colleen Rortvedt, the Appleton Public Library Director. E. Kupfer attended the SRLAAW meeting and the Executive Committee met to discuss and send out a letter in support of DPI staff.

The group had a follow up discussion about the Department of Corrections and discussed possible next steps to support DOC libraries in acquiring materials. DPI staff will work with DOC staff to learn more about their guidelines and priorities for library materials. Each DOC library site will likely have specific needs/restrictions, so the thought is to start incrementally, with one site as a possible pilot project. The group can discuss the topic again at the next COLAND meeting. M. Otten also asked if there is a committee for the DOC libraries.

The group discussed the COLAND goals for the biennial report in July. The Broadband goal has been rewritten to provide more detail. There was a lot of discussion about where and how to add Tribal libraries into the goals and many ideas were suggested like adding a 6th goal specific to Tribal libraries or adding Tribal libraries to Innovation or Outreach. DPI will help find a way for Ellen to receive input from the group about goals prior to the next meeting. The Biennial Report is a reflection on the last 2 years of COLAND work. A summary of ongoing work will be added to the report going forward.

## **Discussion of Secretary Workflow**

The Nominations Committee reported having trouble trying to fill the Secretary role. The Committee shared with the group an idea to record DPI meetings and create a template so that the Secretary could review the recording and fill in information. The group discussed the idea and some difficulties in recording. The group decided to keep the process the same and not record meetings. The Nominations Committee shared the candidates for the Executive Committee:

Chair - Ellen Kupfer

Vice Chair - Nick Dimassis

Secretary - Terri Muraski

Member at Large - Mike Otten

### **Public Library Annual Report Summary (Melissa Aro)**

Melissa Aro shared with the group a summary of the public library annual report. Circulation was affected during the pandemic but has been on an upswing since and is closer to returning to 2018. Electronic usage is taking up more of the circulation trend. Borrowers have been trending down but are going back up. Visits and program attendance have gone up since the pandemic. During the pandemic many libraries streamed programs, but many libraries have returned to in person programs and decreased streaming programs. Many libraries tried to increase access to Wi-Fi outside of the building and expanded their Wi-Fi range. Public computers have changed as well since the pandemic, seeing a decrease in use during the pandemic due to outdated technology and low visits to the library. 39.3% of libraries offer hotspots. 92.1% of libraries report that bandwidth is sufficient at times of peak use. 85.3% of libraries offer digital literacy courses, training, or other kinds of assistance. 47.1% of libraries report 100MB connection speed. There was conversation and suggestions from the group about defining sufficiency reported by libraries regarding connection during peak use as well as seeing more information about the difference between physical and electronic collection use.

IMLS provides annual report data, and it is important in understanding how the landscape of library services is changing. The Library Statistics Working Group (LSWG) helps staff understand how to submit state data to IMLS and they discuss the data elements that will be collected, removed, or changed. M. Aro shared that it is difficult to compare statewide availability of electronic collections because of accidental duplication in reporting access to electronic resources. They are looking at possibly collecting data on public meeting spaces in libraries because that is another way that libraries serve communities.

Right now, no one is working at IMLS, so currently state employees are not submitting data. Wisconsin uses Counting Opinions as their vendor for collecting data, but some states have needed to cancel contracts with vendors because of potential loss of funding. Wisconsin uses LSTA funds to pay for Counting Opinions services.

### **DPI and School Libraries Update**

B. Miller shared that the results from the State's annual report show that library systems are giving effective service to libraries and DPI has paid library systems. The new Director training camp was in April, John Thompson and Beth Tomev both presented. Teresa Schmidt has rebranded the training camp and it lasts for two and a half days. John Thompson presented facility assessments. B. Miller shared that Badgerlink has a new advisory cohort, and the first meeting is on April 22nd. This is a two-year cohort group of around 10. DPI is currently collecting Badgerlink stories. They are asking for public library video testimonials that share why library resources are important and what would happen if those went away. This is an ongoing campaign to show the return on investment in

libraries.

B. Tomev shared that it is School Library Month and there are many proclamations, messages and articles from Jill Underly and Dr. Williams.

M. Treptow shared that the Common School Fund disbursed \$70,000,000 to 421 school districts. For some districts the Common School Fund is the only way to add materials to their libraries. M. Treptow asks that COLAND continues to advocate for the Common School Fund.

There is a recorded 5-minute video message from Dr. Barb Noval (Director of the Office of Literacy) about Act 420 highlighting the valuable role libraries play in literacy. M. Treptow also shared that the Foundations of WI Librarianship offers a 3-day event for public library staff serving youth and school library media specialists.

Dr. Williams shared his visit to Vincent high school where kids engaged with a young author. DPI received partial funding from IMLS and a letter that the second part should be coming. Dr. Williams gave thanks to DPI staff for being able to speak at the New Directors Training Camp. Dr. Williams shared that there will be changes with the structure to DPI and that his position will be restructured. His last day with DPI will be on June 30th. Dr. Williams shared that he is glad to have been part of DPI for the last two years and has been honored to have served in his position. He shared he will continue to support libraries in any way possible and appreciates all the work that COLAND does.

B. Tomev added news that the 10th Madison branch will open next year in September of 2026.

There were questions and a discussion about the Common School Fund and where they come from as well as the loans to communities. The funds are managed by the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands.

### **Federal Funding**

B. Miller shared updates on Federal Funding news. An Executive Order was signed on March 14th regarding IMLS funding. The LSTA Grants to States is what DPI receives from IMLS. DPI heard in April that they'd get paid. Keith Sonderling was appointed as the new acting director of IMLS. On March 31st all IMLS staff were put on administrative leave. On April 3rd, 12 staff (of 70) were brought back to active roles. There is now only one program officer for all 50 libraries. Wisconsin joined a lawsuit against the Executive Order. Tribal libraries received notice of grant funding termination. On April 23rd, DPI received a part of the Grants to State funding. DPI received notice that they will get the rest of the funding. There is another lawsuit by ALA and a multi-state and multi-agency lawsuit filed this week due to irreparable harm. Last night (May 8th) Carla Hayden, the Librarian of Congress, was terminated.

At DPI, of the 19 library staff, 16.1 are federally funded. Currently DPI is not offering grant awards to libraries, they are using funds to keep DPI services going and stretch their staffing funds as long as possible. IMLS will hopefully be reauthorized by Congress this fall. A stop gap could be the State's reserve funding to fill in future losses. M. Treptow shared that what happens with the Department of Education also affects library services

because DPI does have roles that serve libraries and the Department of Education.

B. Tomev shared the Take Action: Speak Up for Libraries website and information about the marketing cohort's work on advocacy. The marketing cohort created a campaign and website to share information and encourage people to share public testimonials. The cohort made it as easy as possible for local libraries to share and for people to participate and engage actively with the website. There is also a toolkit for local libraries. Postcards to collect testimonials will be available in libraries. There is a ripple effect to the loss of federal funding that all libraries will feel for a few years down the road.

B. Miller shared that there were 4 Joint Finance Committee listening sessions across the state. All 4 sessions are available on video. N. Dimassis shared what it's like to speak at a listening session and shared that it's a pleasant experience. This year a positive thing was that there were new library representatives who spoke. B. Miller shared that Joint Finance released information about reductions and libraries are not listed as part of that reduction. The target date is August 7th for passing the budget.

There was a question about the Flexible Facilities Program. The draws are continuing to happen with a minimum threshold of \$25,000. Until the work starts it's hard to spend that money.

#### **Law 4 Libraries School Edition**

Will be postponed until July Meeting

#### **Network Development Subcommittee Reports**

E. Kupfer shared that the April meeting worked on rewriting subcommittee goals. The May meeting discussed funding cuts. And Zander Miller from the Kenosha Public Library is a new subcommittee member.

#### **Review Meeting Dates and Locations**

E. Kupfer thanked Allyson and Caroline for their help with the meeting. The next meeting will be in Wausau. Looking for recommendations for the November meeting.

#### **Announcements**

A. Cloud shared that it was an honor to serve on COLAND and that she has learned so much from the visits and meetings. It's been a nice experience, and she will continue to check in from time to time. She thanked everyone for being kind and accepting. She remarked that there are 12 Tribal Nations in the state and 11 are federally recognized, which makes Wisconsin a really rich place because of its diversity.

#### **Adjournment**

E. Kupfer adjourned the meeting at 1:46pm