

Council on Library and Network Development

November 14, 2025

[Appleton Public Library](#)

200 N. Appleton Street

Appleton, WI 54911

Council Members

Present:

Ellen Kupfer (Chair)
Nick Dimassis (Vice Chair)
Terri Muraski (Secretary)
Michael Otten (Member at Large)
Joe Davies
Eric Genrich
Jaime Healy-Plotkin
Joshua Klingbeil
Linda Leonhart
Zander Miller
Dennis Myers
Colleen Rortvedt
Rachel Thomas
Kristi Williams

Missing:

Terrence Berres
Katelyn Dubiel
Rebecca Ferrell
Christinna Swearingen

DPI Staff:

Ben Miller
Elizabeth Tomev
Monica Treptow
Lauren Jackson
Teresa Schmidt
Kim Vercauteren

Guests:

Marla Sepnafski, WVLS
Madeleine Plotkin

Call to Order

- E. Kupfer called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.
 - **Roll Call** - Quorum present
 - **Changes/Additions/Approval of Agenda** - Motion to accept Agenda by Dennis Myers, second by Kristi Williams. Unanimously approved
 - [Approval of September 12, 2025, Minutes](#) - Motion to approve minutes by Kristi Williams, second by Jaime Healy-Plotkin
 - **Public Comments** - No public comments. Chair Kupfer explained that public comments are limited in length and do not involve discussion.

Introduction of Guests/Visitors

Guests and visitors present and online were introduced.

Welcome and Tour of the Appleton Public Library

Chair Kupfer congratulated the Appleton Public Library on being named WLA Library of the Year. C. Rortvedt, COLAND member and Director of the Appleton Public Library, provided a tour of the facility.

Report of the Chair

After the tour, Chair Kupfer encouraged everyone to check out the APL. The new facility is amazing!

- Kupfer attended the SRLAAW meeting. Kudos given for the successful postcard initiative. The loss of Baker & Taylor as a library supplier was also discussed. B. Miller shared that SRLAAW is discussing their role and the possibility of having a leadership summit with the various library groups, including COLAND, to discuss roles and overlap. M. Otten suggested that each group write a one sheet description.
- Digital Equity/Public Service Commission (PSC). The second round of grants is close to finalized, but funds are limited. The PSC gave an interesting presentation on the digital dashboard. Kupfer is going to this presentation for the COLAND broadband subcommittee.
- [Governor's Task Force on Broadband](#) met in October. The meetings are recorded and available online.
- B. Miller provided an orientation for new COLAND members.
- Please report any access problems with Apple products.

Flexible Facilities Program Background and Status

State Librarian B. Miller presented on the Flexible Facilities program (FFP). Libraries dominated the program, both in requests and funded proposals, with nearly \$100 million awarded, for libraries spread throughout the state. Miller shared a few projects:

- Denmark - new build at the Denmark branch of the Brown County Library
- Cadott - new building designed to be a library
- Independence - library/community center/food pantry combination
- Stanley - historic building remodel
- Hammond - new build

Telehealth is a focus of the FFP program and is included in all of the current projects. There is also discussion with DHS on funding libraries as a space for rural health initiatives. Discussion of included FFP as a model for community safety services with building needs. The FFP projects often include cooperative management with other departments.

There is an extensive need for building project funding and for wraparound support for planning and continuing education. Miller gave a shout out to John Thompson, chair of IFLS, for his leadership for FFP. Z. Miller shared support for ongoing training on planning and managing new buildings. The group also stressed the importance of local and state support for ongoing planning and funding.

Biennial Report

B. Tomev shared information on the biennial report from DPI to COLAND on intertype library cooperation and resource sharing. She welcomed input from COLAND on important topics to include in the report and shared a chart of possible organizations and programs. Suggestions should be shared with Tomev before the end of the month. Topics

discussed for inclusion are Public Library System Redesign (PLSR), PSC and broadband access expansion, Corrections libraries, Tribal libraries (TLAM)

DPI and School Libraries Updates

B. Miller shared that IMLS funding is not included in the Congressional continuing resolution that reopened the government. The shutdown did not have significant impact on DPI and libraries in

Wisconsin due to its timing. T. Schmidt reported on the Public Library Standards Project steering committee. The committee was chosen from 63 volunteers. Those selected come from various libraries throughout the state with a variety of levels of experience. E. Kupfer suggested using the volunteers list to fill future COLAND openings. B. Miller reported that the first PL state aid payments will go out December 1.

M. Treptow reported on school libraries support via workshops and mentors. Multiple new standards have been released. The number of school district plans for libraries continues to grow in the WISEadmin portal. B. Miller thanked Treptow and stressed the importance of her work on this portal. There was discussion of ongoing issues related to cutbacks in school library staffing, especially assigning more tasks or schools to existing responsibilities. Treptow stressed the documented positive effects of school media specialists on literacy.

B. Miller reported that DPI is migrating their files to Microsoft to enhance security. COLAND files will be later in the process. If you have any trouble with access to documents contact DPI.

Lunch break until 12:20

The DPI report continued with B. Tomev presenting on her Library Road Trip with B. Miller in conjunction with National Library Card Sign-up month. They visited public libraries in Brown County, Green Lake, Neshkoro, Kenosha, Menomonee Falls, Germantown, Mineral Point, Darlington, Schullsburg, Hazel Green, Belmont and Evansville. More fun details and images are available on the [Wisconsin Libraries blog](#). J. Healy-Plotkin shared that she stresses the range of libraries and library jobs with her students.

Legislative Update

K. Vercauteren reported on recent legislation including new restrictions on the use of wireless devices in schools. The governor vetoed an in-person work bill. Bills related to school consolidation and grade sharing will be considered in this session. E. Kupfer asked about a bill related to returning to work after retirement. This bill is still in committee. B. Miller reported that ALA has new leadership who seems to be more willing to work with COSLA. Attendance at the National Library Legislative Day is now more open. COLSA is planning a Voices for Libraries event in March. Contact Miller if interested in attending. Common School funding is an ongoing issue in Milwaukee. Changes are expected

Subcommittee Reports

- Network Development Subcommittee Report

- E. Kupfer reported on a session on the Digital Navigator. This training could be set up for any library or library system. Z. Miller shared that patrons are increasingly asking about and making use of various AI applications.
 - [Broadband Subcommittee Minutes for September 19, 2025](#)
 - [Broadband Subcommittee Minutes for October 17, 2025](#)
- DOC Subcommittee Report and Tribal Library Subcommittee - E. Kupfer reviewed membership lists. The goal is to have an organizational meeting for each group in the next few weeks. A doodle poll will be sent out to enable scheduling.

Other Business

- Old Business
 - COLAND Letterhead - B. Miller will reach out to the graphic design department at DPI.
- New Business
 - COLAND Outreach - COLAND members attended WLA. DPI is encouraging information about meetings and the agenda. Participation on the DPI blog is also a possibility. We should have a clear direction and plan regarding who we want to target and the difference between sharing information on COLAND and looking for input. J. Healy-Plotkin will continue to promote outreach to library school students. Outreach will continue to be on each meeting's agenda.
 - K. Williams shared that she learned so much on the APL tour. She suggested the idea of a round table on new initiatives in Wisconsin libraries. This idea could be incorporated into the next two virtual meetings.

Announcements - none

Review Meeting Dates and Tentative Locations

- Virtual meetings - January, March
- 2026 meeting dates
 - May and July - options on eastern side of the State, maybe FFP libraries.
 - Fall, 2026 - new renovation in Beloit

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 1:45