

Council on Library and Network Development

September 12, 2025

Colonel Robert H. Morse Library

Beloit College

Beloit, WI 53511

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Council Members

Present:

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

Missing:

Rebecca Ferrell
Terrence Berres

DPI Staff:

Ben Miller
Elizabeth Tomev
Jeni Schomber
Melissa Aro
Teresa Schmidt
Jennifer Robertson

Guests:

Steve Ohs - Director of Prairie Lakes Library System
Ted Wilder - Beloit College Library Director/CIO
Chanell Crawford, Assistant State Superintendent, DPI Division of School and Library Operations
Kim Vercauteren, DPI Division of School and Library Operations
Barb Novak, Director, Office of Literacy
Cassy Leepport, Director of Tribal Libraries, Archives, and Museums at UW-Madison iSchool

Call to Order - E. Kupfer called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

Roll Call - Quorum present

New Members announced - Joe Davies, Zander Miller

Changes/Additions/Approval of Agenda - D. Myers moved to approve the agenda without changes, second by K. Williams. Motion approved

Approval of July 11, 2025 Minutes

A motion from K. Williams and second by J. Healy-Plotkin to approve the minutes. Motion Carried.

Public Comments - none

Introduction of Guests/Visitors

Guests and visitors present and online were introduced.

Welcome and Tour of the Colonel Robert H. Morse Library

The group was welcomed by Ted Wilder, CIO/Library Director at Beloit College. He presented a brief history of the library followed by a tour.

Report of the Chair

Chair Kupfer explained the new agenda format, including the addition of a public comments section. Group introductions were provided by those present and online. A general orientation for those who have never had one. The chair shared information from the last SRLAAW Meeting. The postcard campaign for library support has been very successful. Kupfer also shared information from the Digital Equity meeting, including information on broadband access and public comments procedures in meetings. B. Miller shared that the library advocacy letter was published and reactions were positive. The Chair thanked those who served in leadership roles in 2024-25 - Rachel Thomas and Jaime Healy-Plotkin - and all those who served on the committee and decided not to continue serving. Kupfer is working with B. Miller to plan an orientation program for COLAND members. DPI will have a booth at WLA in Madison and welcomes participation by COLAND members. WEMTA is another one that might be a possibility. The chair recommended an [ALA online conference](#) on advocacy that is archived online.

Division of School and Library Operations (DSLO)

Chanell Crawford, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of School and Library Operations introduced herself and shared information on the recent [DPI reorganization](#).

Barb Novak, Director, Office of Literacy at DPI in the Division for Academics. M. Treptow is now a part of the Office of Literacy. This change emphasizes the importance of school libraries in literacy. There was discussion of early literacy, Act 20, and the role of libraries. B. Miller recommended J. Schomber and M. Treptow from DPI as first points of contact.

DPI and School Libraries Updates

B. Miller reviewed the DPI report. DPI is focusing on thanking library workers for their role in National Library Card Sign-up month. There was some discussion of partnerships and incentives for signing up. M. Aro shared information on the annual report. She reported the great news that the contracts to authorize work on the data have been reinstated. She shared a [link](#) to the IMLS Library Search & Compare tool. T. Schmidt reported on the project to review public library standards. Miller recommended checking out the Play Make Learn Conference held in August. A Back to School checklist on Badgerlink was sent out to libraries including information on the new Britannica School AI search tool. M. Treptow added that the new Badgerlink AI tool is not generative AI. She also reported on her attendance at the WEMTA retreat, the DPI Foundations of Wisconsin librarianship event. She also worked on evaluating pathway portfolios for teachers seeking to transition to school media specialists. She encouraged participation in the [school libraries standards review](#) process. B. Tomev reported on a DPI summer workshop and on the library teen summer internship program.

Legislative Update (with break for Lunch at 11:35)

K. Vercauteren reported on recent Wisconsin legislation related to schools and libraries. B. Miller continued with the federal legislative update after the lunch break. The FCC is

proposing that all applications for e-rate funding to expand hotspots be denied. IMLS funding is continued in both the House and Senate subcommittee budget proposals. Regular activities and operations are restarting at IMLS following a lawsuit and a stay on the executive order by a federal court and a court of appeals. Future federal grants have an emphasis on funding for America 250. The DPI hopes to fund projects with big impacts. Gov. Evers recently announced a grant program for local building projects, including libraries. This will be similar to the federal Flexible Facilities Program, but will require a local match. Miller shared information on a possible reduction in the Common School Funds for Milwaukee County. DPI staff is working with the WEMTA board on this issue. M. Treptow shared a [letter from WEMTA](#) on their position

Tribal Libraries

Cassy LEEP, Director of the Tribal Libraries, Archives and Museums (TLAM) at the UW-Madison iSchool introduced herself and provided a history of the TLAM program at UW-Madison and the nine tribal libraries in Wisconsin.

This program includes coursework and service-learning projects developed in partnership with tribal nations. She also presented information on the dire funding situation in tribal libraries. The libraries rely heavily on IMLS federal grants which were cancelled and other external funding sources. Questions and discussion followed. LEEP suggested Next steps identified include reaching out to tribal libraries to increase awareness. Motion by E. Kupfer, second by N. DiMassis to establish an ad hoc subcommittee to work on tribal libraries partnership ideas. Motion carried. The Chair called for volunteers interested in serving on the subcommittee. Volunteers will be contacted to confirm their membership.

Network Development Subcommittee Reports

[Network Development Subcommittee Minutes June 20, 2025](#)

Other Business - Motion made by D. Myers, second by K. Williams to form a Department of Corrections subcommittee. Motion passed. Chair Kupfer called for volunteers interested in serving on the corrections subcommittee. Volunteers will be contacted to verify their interest in serving.

Announcements

B. Miller recommended watching the movie "Bad River" on Netflix

Review Meeting Dates and Tentative Locations

2025 Meeting Dates:

Friday, November 14th, 2025

Appleton Public Library

E. Kupfer proposed a second virtual meeting in March, 2026. No objections.

Possible locations for 2026 were reviewed including Stanley, UWSP, or visiting one of the libraries that received a building grant.

Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 2:07