

Council on Library and Network Development

July 11th, 2025

Marathon County Public Library

300 North First Street

Wausau, WI 54403

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Council Members

Present:

Ellen Kupfer (Chair)
Rachel Thomas (Secretary)
Michael Otten (Member at Large)
Terrence Berres
Nick Dimassis
Katelyn Dubiel
Rebecca Ferrell
Jaime Healy-Plotkin
Josh Klingbeil
Linda Leonhart
Terri Muraski
Dennis Myers
Colleen Rortvedt
Christinna Swearingen
Kristi Williams

Missing:

Eric Genrich

DPI Staff:

Ben Miller
Elizabeth Tomev
Allyson Hanz
Monica Treptow
Melissa Aro
Teresa Schmidt

Guests:

Marla Sepnafski, Wisconsin Valley
Library Service Director
Leah Giordano, Marathon County
Public Library Director

1. Call to Order

E. Kupfer called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Roll Call

Quorum present

Introduction of Guests/Visitors

Guests and visitors present and online were introduced to the group.

Changes/Additions/Approval of Agenda

A motion from K. Dubiel to approve the agenda with an amendment to add the election of officers and second by J. Healy-Plotkin. E. Kupfer reviewed with the group that the officer roles are as follows: Ellen Kupfer as Chair, Nick Dimassis as Vice-Chair, Terri Muraski as Secretary, Mike Otten as Member at Large. All in favor, Motion Carried.

Approval of May 9, 2026 Minutes

A motion from D. Myers and second by C. Swearingen to approve the minutes. Motion Carried.

2. Welcome and Tour of the Marathon County Public Library

The group was welcomed by the Wisconsin Valley Library Service Director, Marla Sepnafski. A tour of the Marathon County Public Library was provided by Library Director, Leah Giordano.

3. Report of the Chair

E. Kupfer has been attending SRLA meetings, keeping up with Public Service Commission news and keeping track of BEAD projects. Kupfer attended a Digital Navigator Network meeting and mentioned that DOC libraries came up. Some DOC institutions do not have good internet connections, making it difficult to do Digital Navigator training at DOC institutions.

- Biennial Report Committee
 - skipped
- Letter to the editor/IMLS advocacy (Steven Hesser from Milwaukee County Federated Library System)
 - A brief update was provided. IMLS is critical. A marketing cohort was formed, made up of library system staff across Wisconsin. A website,

Speak Up for Libraries, and a postcard campaign was created by the cohort. Postcards are collected at libraries and go to Federal representatives. One batch was sent in June and another batch will be sent in August.

- S. Hesel shared with the group a draft of a letter to the editor from the Marketing cohort with the intent for the letter to come from COLAND. The letter to the editor would be distributed to a list of regional newspapers, Federal representatives and LD&L (legislative committee of WLA). The name and location of each COLAND member will be listed.
- A motion was made by K. Williams and second by D. Myers to pass the letter as written. J. Klingbeil made a friendly amendment to the motion to make a slight word change to one sentence. With the letter as amended the Motion carried.
- Library Standards Steering Committee Appointment
 - T. Schmidt shared that there will be revisions made to public library standards. The current standards are based on 2016 data. There is no statutory requirement to have a COLAND member on the committee but Schmidt invited COLAND involvement on the standards committee. J. Healy-Plotkin is interested in being on the committee. A motion was made by E. Kupfer and second by D. Myers for Jaime to represent COLAND on the Library Standards Steering Committee. Motion carried.

4. DPI and School Libraries Updates

B. Miller shared that Dr. Underly's 2nd term started with a reorganization of DPI's structure. The Division for libraries and technology will now have a working title of Division of School and Library Operations with a Bureau of Libraries moving forward. Ben Miller has been designated as State Librarian. Miller reported that most work remains the same. Monica Treptow will move to the Office of Literacy.

T. Schmidt shared that the Public Library Space Planning Outline Guide is available now. The new version was published July 10th to the website.

5. **Legislative Update**

B. Miller shared updates on federal funding. On June 16th, DPI received the 2nd half of the IMLS award, a little more than 3.2 million. The initial projections show that staff can be funded through Sept of 2026 with this IMLS funding.

Tribal library grant funding has been restored. Tribal libraries have received their 2025 basic grants which are essential for operations.

The Federal budget bill passed on July 4th, and it does not include earmarked funds. Miller explained that the Budget bill is a framework for what funding will become so it does not resolve the issue of IMLS funding. On July 21st the House Appropriations subcommittee will hold their first meeting. The IMLS Authorization Act needs to pass this fall. If funding isn't authorized, there is a chance for current funding to be pulled back with an Executive Order. 80% of funds given to IMLS go out through the Grants to States program.

Miller also updated us on the State budget which passed July 3rd. Aid to public library systems is increasing, library service contracts are also increasing and will fund Wiscat, ILL and Badgerlink authentication. Miller also shared that the funding for Wisconsin's cultural heritage was not targeted or removed.

6. COLAND Biennial Report

The group reviewed the COLAND Biennial Report 2023-2025. A motion was made by K. Dubiel to approve the report as amended with some grammatical changes. A second by D. Myers. Motion carried.

The group took a break while waiting for lunch. K. Williams and B. Miller left the meeting at 11:18 am.

7. Lunch (11:30)

8. Law 4 Libraries: School Edition

M. Treptow went over the Law 4 Libraries: School Edition powerpoint presentation with the group. The powerpoint gives a school perspective, legal concepts and not legal advice.

Copyright protects original works that are creative and fixed in expression. Public Domain gives an expiration date for copyright, i.e. author life + 70 years OR corporations = 95 years. The presentation also educates school librarians on Fair Use and Rights and current event tools like Internet Archive.

Educators need to know about privacy acts such as:

FERPA - family educational rights and privacy act (parents have different rights at school libraries than they do at public libraries).

COPPA - children's online privacy protection act (new rules taking effect in June 2025).

CIPA - children's internet protection act (protects what graphics are seen by children on the internet). FCC is responsible for CIPA.

The presentation goes over the First Amendment - the five freedoms of the First Amendment: religion, speech, press, assemble, and petition the Government. In libraries the freedom to read is based on the First Amendment rights.

The presentation also goes over understanding obscenity which has to be determined by the court of law. There are three parts to the Miller test and they all relate to the work as a whole.

The harmful to minors test of a material must be viewed from the perspective of the oldest minor. The serious value test can only be found by a court and the material has to be deemed harmful as a whole. Libraries have gone to courts numerous times and have been supported by the courts numerous times.

Currently there are no current cases in the state that are being tracked.

Action items to educators are provided at the end of the presentation.

Treptow is available to present this presentation to groups.

9. Network Development Subcommittee Reports

- [Network Development Subcommittee Minutes March 21, 2025](#)
- [Network Development Subcommittee Minutes May 16, 2025](#)
- [Network Development Subcommittee Minutes June 20, 2025](#)

E. Kupfer shared updates from the Network Development Subcommittee. The group rewrote their goals, incorporating the COLAND goals on Broadband. The cuts to federal funding have effects on grant funding but Kupfer reported that communities are still installing fiber with some changes. The Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the E-Rate program. The group is looking at the impact of unfilled library tech jobs. Chris Stark will present on digital navigators at the next meeting in July. And the TEACH program announced they will be reducing the cost of TEACH network data lines by half.

10. Review Meeting Dates and Tentative Locations

- **2025 Meeting Dates:**
 - Friday, September 12th, 2025
 - **Colonel Robert H. Morse Library**

Beloit College
731 College Street
Beloit, WI 53511

- Friday, November 14th, 2025
 - TBD

C. Rortvedt suggested Appleton Public Library as a future location.

J. Healy-Plotkin will see if the Morgridge Hall (UW Madison) building for information services will be available next year.

D. Myers recommended visiting recipients of the flexible facilities act and suggested possibly visiting the Beloit public library in a year.

K. Dubiel mentioned that Stanley, Cadott, and Fall Creek are all building new libraries as well. The group also discussed that Sun Prairie will finish a big renovation, New London is moving into an old bank, and Kenosha as well as a possible visit. UW Stevens Point has a new building planned for next fall. LaCrosse, International Baccalaureate school, North Woods was also mentioned.

11. Announcements

No announcements from the group

12. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:36pm.