

MINUTES OF THE SRLAAW MEETING  
WLA Office, Madison  
May 19, 2000

Present: Ken Hall, Milton Mitchell, David Polodna, Jane Ameal, Paul Nelson, David Weinhold, Carol Gibson, Matt Bollerman, Michael Tyree, Joan Airoidi, Karen Krueger, Alan Engelbert, Terry Dawson, Rick Krumweide, Mark Morse, Jessica MacPhail, Bernie Bellin, David Jacka, Doug Baker, Larry Nix, Thomas Hennen Jr., Pete Hamon, Doris Nix, Kate Huston, Paula Kiely, Cal Potter, Barb Dimick, John Nichols, Rick Gustafson, Sally Drew, Al Zimmerman, and Cal Potter.

**Preliminaries:**

The meeting was called to order by Milton Mitchell at 10:10 a.m. It was then determined that we had a quorum.

Additions were made to the agenda under *New Business*:

- Distribution of Division documents (Rick Krumwiede)
- ACT 150 Payments (John Nichols)

Doug Baker moved to approve the Agenda; Pete Hamon, seconded; the motion carried unanimously.

**New Business:**

*Overview of the Retreat in Mosinee:*

Milt expressed his appreciation for the retreat and its value. He reminded everyone that the ensuing discussion would be for understanding, not necessarily endorsement.

Thanks were given to Karen Krueger and Paul Nelson for chairing the follow up committee. Paul Nelson handed out a new report of the retreat, clearing up some language. A review of the purpose of the retreat and guiding principles and themes from the report and general overview was carried out at this time.

Karen Krueger suggested a new title for the report and offered the opinion that R&D does not necessarily have to be tech related. John Nichols and Milton Mitchell agreed. Several individuals present discussed in more detail how R&D might work. John Nichols suggested R&D be able to act quickly in technology and help justify 3% budget increase. He also offered the opinion that R&D could be contracted out to private company or a university. Peter Hamon suggested that there is a need for social research.

(Overview of the Retreat in Mosinee Continued:)

Tom Hennen suggested that both reports (the Overview and the Report of the Themes and Principles Committee) be shared in the library community. He also suggested that SRLAAW be expanded with additional representatives from system member libraries. (The consensus of the group was to put off discussion of this suggestion until a future meeting.) Tom pointed to certain “flash points” in the report that might engender considerable controversy around the state. Such points include system structure, role of resource libraries, and minimum standards. He suggested that discussion focus on these points because of controversy.

Dave Polodna suggested not sharing the report until the next step can be taken of creating alternatives. Doug Baker agreed that models should be created and suggested that there are several more hot points. John Nichols suggested that there is a need to hear what other people may think in order to find out what the flash points are. Bernie Bellin stated libraries are already reacting with suspicion to what they view as a secret meeting.

The opinion of the division was solicited: Larry stated that the Division is looking for change but not taking a position at this point, but was looking for wider discussion. Cal Potter suggested SRLAAW should tend to process and calm people by getting a report out quickly and solicit participation. David Weinhold suggested WLA be used to disseminate the report. Tom Hennen expressed the opinion that more questions are raised than answers and that answers are needed.

Dave Polodna suggested: 1) expanding documents to describe who participated, 2) making a strong statement describing rationale for holding retreat, and 3) the need for a clean concise statement looking for feedback on this document. Dave Polodna volunteered to do the revisions in the document.

John Nichols suggested each system should present information to libraries. Terry Dawson suggested the need to have a way to gather reaction at system meetings, the WLA presentation etc. The consensus of the group was to disseminate the reports through WLA conference presentation and through system level or regional meetings.

David Weinhold discussed the mechanics of getting on WLA Program agenda. It was decided to form a panel with a facilitator for a WLA Program.

- Facilitator will run through report. (Milt Mitchell)
- Panel will react to comments
- The panel will include Larry Nix, Paul Nelson, Mike Gelhausen (WLA Incoming President), Karen Krueger, and Pete Hamon.

A Cover letter from Milton Mitchell, Barb Kelley, and Cal Potter endorsing the concept of creating a system for the future will be written in for the report. It was stated that System meetings should be done in time for SRLAAW discussion on August 11<sup>th</sup>

**The meeting was recessed at 12:00 p.m. for lunch and reconvened at 12:40 p.m.**

*Other New Business:*

Pete Hamon was appointed by Milton Mitchell as alternate to the WiLS Governing Board (Formerly COWL).

Distribution of Division Documents — Rick Krumweide requested that division documents (such as Standards) be distributed in sufficient quantity for all trustees. Larry indicated that for budget reasons documents can be put on WEB for downloading and printing locally. Further discussion ensued with no recommendation for further action.

Discussion by John Nichols of requirement for municipalities to send statistics to counties of library use by rural residents. Larry pointed out that the Division is simply stating what the law means as it is required to do. The Division is not the entity that will enforce the law.

Karen Kruger asked how the 70% formula impacted counties that already were giving more than 70%. Several members responded.

*Division Matters:*

Cal Potter discussed the budget request (see his handout). Larry outlined issues related to 13% system funding. Rick Krumweide asked for statistics outlining the financial benefits to libraries of TEACH and related funds. Barb Dimick asked how CESA's went about establishing their necessity with the legislature.

Larry discussed proposed statutory language relating to crossover borrowing between municipalities. The proposed language would enable (not require) systems to adopt plans and require municipalities to take part in reimbursement for crossover borrowing between municipalities.

The Division will attempt to obtain eligibility for systems to get loans from state trust funds, either through the budget or with a separate law.

Sally reported on proposals to adjust the costs of delivery to library system and the problem of equally dividing costs among those who benefit. It is expected that the costs to the systems will go up. She emphasized that no matter what method of payment is instituted, all systems must take part or delivery may fall apart. Considerable discussion of the equitability of the different formulas ensued. A decision was made to put further discussion on the agenda for the next meeting. Terry Dawson pointed out that South Central has a wealth of statistics on their web site.

There was considerable discussion of the wisdom of using funding of shared delivery as a justification for 13% system funding.

A motion was made by Bernie Bellin to endorse the DPI Budget request and to instruct the Chair to convey our support to John Benson. Ken Hall seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

*Treasures Report:*

Dave Polodna indicated that our balance of funds is currently \$1,024.20.

*Last Minute Action:*

Motion by Tom Hennen, seconded by Doug Baker to register SRLAAW.org as a domain name. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned promptly at 3:00 due to the diligence of the chair in keeping the meeting moving forward. **The next meeting will be August 11 in Wausau.**