

Council on Library and Network Development

September 8, 2017

River Falls Public Library

River Falls, WI

The meeting convened at 9 am in the Board Room of the River Falls Public Library.

Bruce Smith of WiLS and John Thompson, PLSR Chair, were on the phone to provide their leadership perspective on progress with the Public Library System Revision committee. John mentioned that the blueprint for Phase 3 is being worked on, outlined what the next steps will be, and emphasized that the PLSR process will continue to include updates and ask for feedback from stakeholders throughout the state.

As part of this effort, each of the 7 work groups will give a 45 minute presentation at the upcoming WLA conference. Post conference presentations to stakeholders are also planned based on feedback gathered from the conference programs. System Directors are essential to the revision process so as part of the PLSR committee's communications effort, regular presentations will be scheduled with SRLAAW, which of course includes resource library administrators. The role of resource libraries is receiving particular attention from PLSR including exploring service gaps between various resource libraries, with a goal of equalizing services between libraries, regions & throughout the state.

At least in part, this is conceptually similar to the library culture in Colorado where all patrons of the state are served equally by any & all libraries regardless of a resident's area or local library affiliation.

The pursuit of equity is apparently what State Superintendent Tony Evers hopes to see as the main goal of the PLSR project. The recommendations PLSR comes up with should therefore have a demonstrable & positive impact throughout the state by overcoming some of the service inequities that currently exist.

In projecting a time frame for PLSR, Bruce Smith said that the Workgroups are busy taking the ideas they have, determining what is feasible, and this fall they will have a bit more structure to those ideas & models. More concrete information will then be available at the WLA conference this fall, with deliverables in the February/March timeframe, feedback and assessment following that, and then final recommendations to the project managers by the end of March. Bruce reiterated that regional meetings are scheduled to ensure that stakeholders around the state can ask questions directly, get information and be engaged, while affording PLSR the opportunity to accumulate feedback & suggestions.

In other reports, a major rewrite of the state's Public Library Standards is now in draft form & will be presented to COLAND for endorsement at its next meeting. The last major revision of the Standards was in 2000, with minor revisions in 2005 & 2010 so a completely updated version is due. Keeping the Standards up-to-date is a DPI priority for many reasons, not the least of which is their potential use by libraries as part of their county funding plans.

In the State Superintendent's Report, DPI Consultant Martha Berninger reported on formation of a state-wide eBook contract arrangement for all Wisconsin schools to purchase eBooks at

heavily discounted prices, similar to the state-wide eBook purchasing program currently utilized by public libraries. Resource sharing is a primary focus of COLAND so its interest in the evolution of this project is considerable.

It was reported during the DPI standing report that 2018 LSTA funds are expected to be allocated in the federal budget, which is especially pertinent locally since LSTA funds 2/3 of the DPI's staff positions & is essential to avoid vacancies, such as currently exist: 3 of 5 consultant positions in the DPI Public Library Development group are unfilled at this time due to past federal funding shortfalls.

The report from DPI also noted that Public Library data is being prepared & will be ready shortly, despite the absence of Al Zimmerman, the Division's former & highly experienced statistician.

In the Legislative Update, DPI staff covered challenges to the concept of net neutrality by the current FCC.

It was noted that there are 4 professional openings on COLAND.

The location of the next COLAND meeting hasn't been determined but a school district venue is being sought & Oshkosh is being considered.

Submitted by Doug Lay