

Ralph Illick, **Director**  
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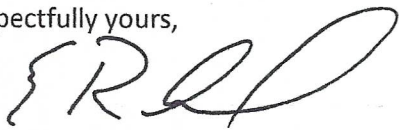
November 8, 2019

Dear Tom,

Thank you for the constructive and respectful invitation to join your board for the November 16, 2019 WVLS Board of Trustees meeting. After conferring yesterday with my Library Board President, Sharon Hunter, we are **not aware of any service issues that we seek to resolve at the present time**. I can tell you that we are presently forming a task force with the assistance of the Marathon County Corporation Counsel that will be charged with reviewing and comparing our present membership in WVLS with a potential membership in the South Central Library System in the future. We believe that there may be added benefit to our membership there, based on factors that would include the potential for collaborating with many other peer-sized libraries, a significantly larger aggregate system collection, and other factors to be explored.

I do appreciate that this will affect a large number of people and libraries, so we are determined to make this **a thoughtful and deliberate process**, which will take our board and the task force well into 2020 to ensure **a thorough process**. We will keep your board apprised of the process, and will look forward to the presentation by the WVLS team at our December meeting. I will therefore respectfully decline your invitation for the present time but would appreciate it if we could keep the invitation open for a later date.

Respectfully yours,



Ralph Illick, Director  
Marathon County Public Library

Cc Sharon Hunter, MCPL Board President  
Kari Sweeney, MCPL Board Vice President  
Katie Rosenberg, MCPL Board Trustee  
Gary Beastrom, MCPL Board Trustee  
MaiGer Moua, MCPL Board Trustee  
Sarah Thurs, MCPL Board Trustee  
Scott Winch, MCPL Board Trustee