V-Cat Voting Models Exploratory Committee Summary

Alternative voting models for the V-Cat Council were discussed at the September, 2019 V-Cat Steering Committee meeting. After discussion, the Steering Committee agreed to ask the V-Cat Council to evaluate a variety of voting models and provide input to the Steering Committee.

A V-Cat Voting Models Exploratory Committee was created in February 2020 at the request of the V-Cat Steering Committee in September of 2019. MCPL expressed interest in being on the committee prior to its creation, however, has since withdrawn its participation (as noted in the February 2020 V-Cat Council meeting minutes).

The V-Cat Council asked for volunteers to join a Voting Models Exploratory Committee at the November V-Cat Council Meeting, and the committee was established at the February 2020 V-Cat Council Meeting. MCPL expressed interest in being on the committee prior to its creation, however, has since withdrawn its interest as noted in the February 2020 V-Cat Council meeting minutes. The current committee members include:

Erica Petersen	Frances Simek Memorial Library, Medford: Chair
Dominic Frandrup	Antigo Public Library
Debra Kiefer	T.B. Scott Free Library, Merrill
Tammie Blomberg	Rib Lake Public Library
Kay Heiting	Granton Community Library
Heidi O'Hare	Tomahawk Public Library
Katie Zimmermann	WVLS ILS Administrator

The V-Cat Voting Models Exploratory Committee met in February, April and June and will meet again on July 16th. Meeting Agendas and Minutes are available at https://wvls.org/v-cat-agenda-exhibits/#voting-models-exploratory-committee%20

Thus far the committee has completed an in-depth review of voting models in use at other library consortia in Wisconsin with shared ILS governance including the following library systems:

- IFLS Library System – Dual voting: weighted voting + one vote per library
- Nicolet Federated Library System / Outagamie Waupaca Library System – Dual voting: weighted voting + one vote per library
- Northern Waters Library System – One vote per library
- South Central Library System – Weighted voting
- Winding Rivers Library System – One vote per library

The committee has reviewed aspects of voting models and governance including:

- majority and supermajority required across the board or for different types of motions
- representation and weighted voting
- possible formulas for weighting including population, circulation, net lending/borrowing, funding, collection size

- the use of weighted and unweighted models within one system requiring two votes on each motion
- whether or not members need to be present at a meeting to vote on a motion, or if voting is allowed for libraries who are not present

The committee has explored the following aspects of V-Cat data as possible factors for formulas to calculate weighted votes:

- Circulation Data
- Holdings Data
- Registered Borrowers Data
- V-Cat Budget Shares
- Net Lending and Net Borrowing Data