



V-Cat Voting Models Exploratory Committee Meeting

Thursday, July 16, 2020
9:00-11:00 am.

Wisconsin Valley Library Service
300 First Street - Wausau WI, 54403

Due to precautions concerning COVID-19 this meeting will be held by remote attendance only.

Meeting Facilitator: Erica Petersen, Committee Chair

Meeting Minutes

(prepared by Katie Zimmermann)

Attendees:

Committee Members: Erica Petersen – Medford, Debra Kiefer – T. B. Scott, Heidi O’Hare, Tomahawk, Tammie Blomberg – Rib Lake, Dominic Frandrup – Antigo, Kay Heiting – Granton, Katie Zimmermann – WVLS **Others:** Peggy O’Connell - Minocqua

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Erica Petersen, Committee Chair.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve meeting agenda was made by K. Heiting, seconded by T. Blomberg, seconded.
Motion carried.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: June 2020

Motion to approve meeting minutes with minor correction was made by T. Blomberg, seconded by D. Kiefer. Motion carried.

Review of Net Lending as a Potential Factor in a Weighted Voting Model

K. Zimmermann presented data for calculating a net lending factor. Interlibrary loan numbers were pulled from the WVLS statistical booklet for 2017, 2018, and 2019. A net lending factor was calculated from a three-year average of items sent divided by items received. Subtracting one from this number yields an average amount of items lent above or below an equal exchange of items. This number can be used to add an additional factor to a library’s weighted vote, but can be capped at one.

Committee members agreed that this is a fair way to factor in member libraries’ net lending to the voting model.

The committee reviewed the data for calculating a weighted voting model using a three-year average of V-Cat Shares plus a net lending factor. It was noted that the net lending factor should be added to the three-year V-Cat share average before the numbers are rounded to calculate a weighted number of votes.

Review of Difficult V-Cat Council Motions

K. Zimmermann presented review of V-Cat motions from 2017 to the present date. Motions that required a roll call or ballot vote, because consensus could not be reached, include the following:

- Give precedence to local holds circulation option – May 2020 (18 Y, 1 opposed)
- Recommendations for Check Out Periods on Books, Audiobooks and Non-Series Visual Materials – February 2020 (21 Y, 3 opposed)
- V-Cat Recommendation for magazine circulation with variable – September 2019 (15 Y, 5 opposed, 2 abstaining)
- Recommendation for magazine circulation (multiple votes were taken to determine factors in the final motion) – June 2019 (final vote 14 Y, 6 opposed, 3 abstaining)

K. Zimmermann reported WVLS staff could only remember one other difficult motion in August of 2014 regarding a potential ILS Merger between NWLS and WVLS. The motion had a majority vote, but not a supermajority of two-thirds and did not pass. The final vote was 14 yes, 8 no and 1 abstaining.

T. Blomberg stated that motions on something that libraries cannot opt out of are likely to be of concern.

The committee reviewed magazine circulation motions from June of 2019 were reviewed and it was noted that a couple of factors made the motions more difficult. First that the motion included too many details and second, that the original recommendation changed during the meeting, and members were asked to vote without the opportunity to consult with their library staff or boards.

It was noted that minutes from June 2017, November 2018, February 2019 and June of 2020 were not included in this review and could be consulted before the next meeting.

V-Cat Council Budget motions were reviewed, and it was noted that budget motions have passed by consensus in 2018, 2019 and 2020 without the need for roll call votes.

V-Cat Bylaw Changes were reviewed. The last bylaw changes were made in 2014. The changes were presented at the February 2014 meeting, a revision was requested, and the revised bylaws were passed at the April 2014 meeting by consensus and a roll call vote was not necessary.

A review of motions shows that V-Cat has been able to operate making decisions by consensus without the need to have frequent roll call votes.

Discussion of When to Employ Weighted Voting or One Vote Per Library and When to Require a 2/3 Majority or a 51% Majority

The committee reviewed information from the April Voting Models Exploratory Committee meeting on voting models in place at public library consortiums in Wisconsin regarding how and when weighted models are used, and when a supermajority is required.

The committee discussed the practice of arriving at decisions primarily by consensus and the ability for members to call for a roll call vote. The committee discussed the difference between a roll call vote and a ballot vote and did not want the bylaws to be too restrictive.

The committee agreed that the preferred option is to start by seeking consensus, and if an outcome is unclear, then a vote would be taken.

Two concerns arose during the discussions. One that libraries dis-satisfied with a consensus could call for a weighted vote, causing the final outcome to be the opposite of the consensus vote. Secondly, that a large library could have enough votes to block a consensus vote depending upon the majority or supermajority required to pass a motion.

When considering majorities and supermajorities, note that the number of votes and weights are going to shift over time as collection sizes and circulation numbers change. It is unlikely, however, that changes will be dramatic.

The committee agreed that input further direction from the Steering Committee would be helpful in considering the impact of each voting model and level of majority.

Discussion of Information to Present to the V-Cat Steering Committee

The committee agreed that suggestions and feedback from the Steering Committee are needed if the Voting Model Committee should take this work further.

The committee agreed that the report for the Steering Committee should include the Voting Models Exploratory Committee meeting minutes, and examples for weighted voting models using the following data:

- V-Cat Shares
- V-Cat Shares with a net lending factor
- V-Cat Shares with net lending and net borrowing factors

Request for Future Agenda Items

The committee will meet to review a report for the steering committee.

The committee will discuss what the process of calling for a vote will look like.

Set Next Meeting Date

Doodle poll will be sent to set next meeting

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by H. OHare, and seconded by K. Heiting. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 a.m.