

Good morning all,

My previous email shared a link to the May 17 agenda and meeting packet that was broken. The correct link is shared below.

I regret any confusion,

Marla

Colleagues and Friends,

The next meeting of the Marathon County Public Library Board of Trustees will be on **Monday, May 17 at 12:00 pm**. The agenda and information packet for this meeting are available [here](#).

[Agenda Packet \(including April 19, 2021, March 5, 2021, and March 15, 2021 Minutes\)](#)

Persons wishing to attend the meeting by computer may join the meeting by using this link <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/734474941> or by calling (Toll Free) 1 866 899 4679 or 1 571 317 3116. The Access Code for the meeting is 734 74 4941.

A WVLS [April 15 Update](#) announced the **April 19** MCPL Board meeting and alerted readers that the agenda included this item: "**(10 minutes) Follow-up timeline for public hearing on system change motion - For Discussion and Possible Action.**"

The minutes from the April 19 MCPL Board meeting, received on May 11, state:
"Follow-up on timeline for public hearing on system change motion. We have gone through the process with the task force of looking at system membership, our board has also gone through the process of voting. In my conversations with county administration, we felt the best plan moving forward would be to communicate with municipalities and have listening sessions so we can learn more from the public and also help them understand why this recommendation was made. A motion was made by Jeff Campo; seconded by Sharon Hunter to allow Ralph to start the process to inform the public in informational meetings about the reason we made the motion to move to a new system. Motion carried." (The speaker using "my" is MCPL Director Ralph Illick.)

WVLS has not yet been made aware of any dates and times for the anticipated informational meetings / listening sessions with the public.

The minutes from the March 15 MCPL Board meeting regarding the "Statement Concerning Public Library System Effectiveness" state:

*"Last month we made a motion to sign the annual report and check the box of discussing this with DPI. Apparently, we need to make a decision of Yes or No. Library Director Illick stated that he thinks we should check the box that says they were effective. **A MOTION WAS MADE BY KARI SWEENEY; SECONDED BY GARY BEASTROM TO CHECK THE BOX YES FOR SYSTEM EFFECTIVENESS. MOTION CARRIED.**"*

The motion passed 6-0.

WVLS has noticed that the [draft April 2021 SCLS Board meeting minutes](#) state:

"Marathon County has postponed making a decision to join SCLS. M. Nelson inquired how this decision will affect the northern delivery hub. PLSR is moving forward on their statewide delivery plan with the southern hub to be completed first and the northern hub later. SCLS is interested in having the northern delivery hub at Marathon County and we can pursue it independently of PLSR."

We find this to be puzzling. It should be noted that the Wisconsin Public Library System Redesign Project (PLSR) that is being implemented by DPI is a result of a three-year study process whereby workgroups of experts and other stakeholders thoroughly studied how public library system services are provided in Wisconsin and around the country. Workgroups identified desired service outcomes, designed service models to improve how services are delivered and determined how new service models could be implemented in the most equitable and affordable way for all public libraries and public library systems across the state.

When SCLS shared a price quote for their courier service with representatives from MCPL, WVLS, IFLS Library System and Northern Waters Library System in early 2019, their projected cost to replace Waltco as MCPL courier was significantly higher than what WVLS currently pays Waltco for the same routes. At that time, the proposal was rejected.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The [March 26 Update](#) shares the Department of Public Instruction's response to questions received by the MCPL Board and Administration.

The [February 5 Update](#) announces that while the Marathon County Extension, Education and Economic Development Committee (Marathon County EEED Committee) had planned to set a date for a public hearing (the next step in a process for Marathon County to withdraw from WVLS), the MCPL Board requested the Committee postpone the public hearing until further notice. The update referenced a [WSAU news post](#) in which Committee Chair Sara Guild said, "...she had received an email request from the Library Board in the morning to postpone setting a date for the public hearing. 'They would like to continue conversations at the Library Board level to gather additional information before a public hearing is scheduled.' Guild did not have details about what type of information the Library Board would be gathering regarding the request to change library systems. But she did mention the public hearing issue could come before the Committee again. 'Once the Library Board garners whatever information they are looking for, then at that time it could come back to this committee.'"

An earlier [January 26 Update](#) announces that the seven-member MCPL Board of Trustees struck down a motion for Marathon County to continue its membership in WVLS in a 3-4 vote. Votes to stay with WVLS were cast by Marathon County Supervisors **Gary Beastrom** and **Michelle Van Krey**, and **Kari Sweeney**, MCPL (resource library) liaison to the WVLS Board. Dissenting votes were cast by MCPL Board President **Sharon Hunter**, and trustees **Scott Winch**, **Dino Corvino** and **Jeff Campo**. The recommendation moves to the Marathon County EEED Committee for further study.

WI Statute [43.18](#) outlines the process for a county to withdraw from a library system. The earliest date Marathon County could withdraw is January 2022, following adoption by 2/3 vote of a resolution by the Marathon County Board of Supervisors at least 6 months prior to the close of the system's fiscal year.

FOR FURTHER REFERENCE

The MCPL System Exploration Information [and Updates page](#) on the WVLS website offers complete information about MCPL Task Force meetings since January 2020, including WVLS' responses to

requested information; WVLS presentations to the MCPL Board prior to the task force process, WVLS responses to the [December 2020 MCPL Financial Report](#), [October 2020 SWOT Analysis](#), and [September 2020 MCPL Staff Letters](#); and, most recently, the March 2021 DPI [response](#) to questions and concerns raised by the MCPL Board. The WVLS website also shares an extensive list of letters the MCPL Task Force and Library Board, and Marathon County Supervisors have received from Marathon County and area library leaders. Anyone interested in MCPL's investigation of systems and the future of WVLS should take the time to read this information.

This matter continues to be of grave concern to WVLS member libraries and libraries across the state served through WVLS' partnerships with several other public library systems. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know. I will continue to share news on the system membership process as I receive it.

Thank you,

Marla

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