

WISCONSIN VALLEY LIBRARY SERVICE

Board of Trustees Meeting

September 21, 2024

Wausau, Wisconsin

NOTE: These minutes are to be regarded as the unofficial record of the meeting until the Board of Trustees has approved them. The next Board meeting is November 16, 2024.

President Tom **Bobrofsky** called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM. Roll call was taken by **Wendt** and a quorum was declared present.

Present

Tom Bobrofsky, President
Mike Otten, Treasurer
Sonja Ackerman, member
Jim Backus, member
Carol Bartlein, member* (arrived 9:45)
Candice Grunseth, member
Louise Olszewski, member*
Kay Palmer, Vice President
Judy Peterson, member
Petra Pietrzak, member
Kari Sweeney, member

Others Present

Marla Sepnafski, WVLS Director
Erica Brewster,* WVLS staff
Susie Hafemeister, WVLS staff
Josh Klingbeil, WVLS staff
Jamie Matczak,* WVLS staff
Brenda Walenton, WVLS staff
Kris Adams Wendt, WVLS staff
Katie Zimmerman, WVLS staff

*denotes remote attendance

Excused

Eileen Persike, member
Jessica Bennett, member
Diane Peterson, member

Vacant

Marathon County representative

NOTE: All exhibits may be accessed at <https://wvls.org/bot-agenda-exhibits/>.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Ackerman/Pietrzak motion to approve the agenda as presented. All aye. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Exhibit 1)

J. Peterson/Palmer motion to approve minutes of the August 17, 2024 WVLS Board meeting. All aye. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS AND CURRENT BILLS (Exhibits 2-7)

Sweeney/Olszewski motion to approve the financial reports and current bills as presented. All aye. Motion carried.

JANUARY - AUGUST 2024 TREASURER’S REPORT (Exhibit 8)

Ackerman/Palmer motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented. All aye. Motion carried.

2025 WVLS PLAN – draft (Exhibit 9)

Brewster drew the Board’s attention to item 6 at the bottom of page 7 added since the draft plan was reviewed on August 17: *Prepare to bring the WVLS website into full compliance with WCAG 2.1 Level AA technical standard to meet the new Title II ADA rule by April 26, 2026.* In mid-August the US Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division announced on ADA.gov updated regulations to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities act, requiring all websites and mobile apps provided by state and local government entities comply with new ADA accessibility standards. All public (Title II) entities, including public libraries, will need to have all website and mobile apps fully compliant with the new ADA standards for accessibility, or suffer the same penalties as when a building is

not fully ADA accessible. More information regarding implementation plans to address these standards for WVLS libraries will be forthcoming.

Otten/J. Peterson motion to approve the revised 2025 WVLS Plan. All aye. Motion carried.

2025 WVLS BUDGET – draft (Exhibit 10)

Walenton explained revisions to the grant income line item. It is anticipated that aligning WVLS library websites with the change to ADA compliance standards may necessitate additional revisions when the Board next reviews end of 2024 reports and adjusts the 2025 budget at its February meeting.

Palmer/Ackerman motion to approve the 2025 WVLS Budget as amended. All aye. Motion carried.

NICE PROJECT; ILS MERGER BETWEEN NWLS NETWORK AND WVLS V-CAT (Exhibit 11)

Zimmermann walked the Board through exhibit 11. The Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration (NICE) Project was an effort by Northern Waters Library Service (NWLS), Wisconsin Valley Library Service (WVLS), and their respective consortia to determine the value and feasibility of a merger to a shared Integrated Library System (ILS). Following an extensive study, it was determined, when put to a vote, that the merger did not have sufficient support among consortium members in either system to move forward at this time. WVLS staff will reflect on the outcome and have follow-up conversations with stakeholders. A report of lessons learned and next steps for V-Cat will be developed, including opportunities for improving V-Cat services for library users and future collaborations. Considerable Board discussion ensued. Appreciation was expressed to Zimmermann and WVLS staff for their considerable efforts.

Pietrzak/Bartlein motion that the WVLS Board go on record in continuing support of the NICE Project, while recognizing the validity of the V-Cat bylaws and decision and recommends keeping the door open to revisiting the project within two years. All aye. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Resource Library (Exhibit 12): The Marathon County Public Library Resource Library Report includes the agenda and Director's Report for the September 16, 2024 MCPL Board of Trustees meeting, as well as the agenda and minutes from the July 15 and August 19, 2024 meetings.

WVLS Director (Exhibit 13): **Sepnafski** and other WVLS staff members in attendance took turns reviewing items from the Director's Report while taking comments and questions. **Wendt** reviewed the state library aid requests from the 2025-2027 [DPI budget released on September 16](#) (see pages 99-119). WLA talking points will be developed for **Library Legislative Day on February 11, 2025**. The next WLA Library Development & Legislation Committee meeting is September 27.

WVLS Library Advisory Committee (Exhibit 14): The LAC held its second 2024 meeting on August 15. The agenda included discussion of collection development issues, as well as review of the draft 2025 WVLS system plan and budget recommended for approval by the WVLS Board.

V-Cat Council (Exhibit 15): Highlights of the September 5 V-Cat Council meeting were covered during the Director's Report.

COLAND (Exhibit 16): **Otten** and **Klingbeil** shared highlights from the September 13 meeting of the Council for Libraries and Network Development (COLAND). The next COLAND meeting is on November 8.

WLA Conference (Exhibit 17): **Bobrofsky** promoted attendance at November 5-8 WLA annual conference in Green Bay and reviewed board travel expenses policy.

CONCERNS, COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM AREA LIBRARY PERSONNEL AND TRUSTEES: Informal discussion topics included the recent downtown fire in Loyal, Central Wisconsin Book Festival, trustee training, and board member visits to interesting libraries outside of WVLS counties.

CALENDAR

WVLS Board meeting: Saturday, November 16, 2024

WLA Annual Conference, KI Center, Green Bay: November 5 - November 8, 2024

ADJOURNMENT: J. Peterson/Olszewski motion to adjourn. All aye. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Kris Adams Wendt, Meeting Recorder