

# Southwest Michigan Library Cooperative

## Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 11, 2010 at 3:00 pm  
Parchment Community Library

---

**Present:** Deborah Jones, Dennis Krepps, John Mohney, Jennifer Ray, Ann Rohrbaugh, Sherry Sims, Teresa Stannard, Ralph Weessies, Ryan Wieber

**Also present:** Rick Hulsey

**Absent:** Stephanie Daniels, Lawrence Kapture

---

**Meeting called to order:** 3:10 pm

**Corrections or additions to Agenda:** Add the amendment to the 2009-2010 Budget to the Treasurer's Report.

**Approval of March 11, 2010 Agenda:** Motion to approve with changes by Ann, support by Ralph; motion carried.

**Approval of January 14, 2010 Minutes:** Motion to approve by Ralph, support by Dennis; motion carried.

### Treasurer's Report

1. **Financial report – Lawrence:** This report was tabled since Lawrence was not able to attend.
2. **Approval of bills to be paid in January and February:** Motion to approve the bills paid through February 28, 2010, by Ralph, support by Dennis; motion carried.
3. **Amendment to 2009-2010 Budget:** Based on the first State Aid received, Rick amended the 2009-2010 budget. Estimated income from State Aid was reduced from \$185,000 to \$122,695 and from Miscellaneous Revenue from \$1000 to \$750. Estimated expenditures were not changed. The estimated Fund Balance at the end of the year was reduced from \$273,747 to \$215,305. Motion to approve the amended budget by Ralph, support by Ann; motion carried.
4. **2008-2009 Audit:** Jennifer distributed copies of the final audit.

### Old Business

1. **Status of MLA Membership:** Rick and Jennifer reported that SMLC has purchased an institutional membership in MLA for \$455. Rick noted that not all co-ops are members of MLA, and that such membership is critical to funding lobbying efforts at the state level on behalf of libraries. Libraries need lobbyists in order to communicate our interests and positions to legislators. Ann said that she senses that MLA will soon offer full service only to institutional member libraries. John mentioned that institutional membership dues cost far less than libraries could potentially lose through undetected tax captures and other damaging legislation that we need lobbyists to track. Ryan said

# Southwest Michigan Library Cooperative Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 11, 2010 at 3:00 pm  
Parchment Community Library

that today when libraries are losing funding but are busier than ever, supporting lobbying efforts is critically important. Rick suggested that SMLC should consider purchasing an MLA institutional membership for all SMLC public libraries. We will need to wait until MLA has completed restructuring its fee schedule before determining if this is feasible. Teresa suggested that libraries could use part of their Professional Development grant to pay their MLA dues. Ryan asked Rick to invite Gretchen Couraud from MLA should come to a Council meeting and discuss this.

## New Business

1. **Kent District Library and Grand Rapids Public Library request for membership:** Discussion included: the addition of these two large library systems would boost SMLC's per-capita State Aid and would allow us to significantly increase our grants; would these new libraries be demanding/dictatorial?; would the loss of their two largest library systems cripple the Lakeland Co-op?; would this cause more libraries to leave their co-ops and prompt the legislature to cease funding co-ops? This question will be referred to Council for discussion at the April 15 meeting.
2. **Sky River vs. OCLC:** Rick suggested reading the recent LJ Hotline article re: MSU and Sky River. MSU used Sky River for cataloging rather than OCLC in order to save money, and then discovered that OCLC would charge \$31,000 to upload the records rather than the expected \$6,000.
3. **CultureGrams issue:** Rick reported that ProQuest was unhappy that he allowed Battle Creek schools access to the CultureGrams database through the Willard Library website. ProQuest maintained that a student could not be considered a "remote user" when he entered another institution. Rick considers anyone logging in to CultureGrams with a library card number to be a legitimate user regardless of location. He also noted that the version of Ancestry.com that libraries can purchase is not as complete as the version offered to individual buyers.
4. **Hire someone to go thru Co-op files in storage?** Rick believes that some of the SMLC files stored at Iron Mountain could be discarded, and suggested hiring someone (perhaps a library intern) to go through the boxes. If we store fewer boxes, we might be able to reduce the \$125 we pay to Iron Mountain each month. Sherry offered to work on this during the summer. Rick suggested payment of \$10/hr., not to exceed \$4000.
5. **Legislators & State Aid:** Gretchen is trying to set up a meeting with State Senator Ron Jelinek, who is head of the Appropriations Committee, and another library director from his district in order to forcefully lobby for State Aid to libraries, especially funding for MelCat and the Mel Databases.
6. **Future Council presentations**
  - a. **ELF product:** This is a child-safe web browser produced by the same company who makes the Early Literacy Stations. Rick suggested we have a demo of this at an upcoming Council meeting.

# Southwest Michigan Library Cooperative Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 11, 2010 at 3:00 pm  
Parchment Community Library

- b. Township/City/County library law (Butler & Seurnak):** Rick suggested that we bring in Dick Butler and Ann Seurnak for a presentation on altering township/city/county library law to clarify who controls the money – the library boards or the township/city/county boards. Jennifer warned that Mr. Butler charged \$600 to attend a board meeting. Rick will see if he can schedule this for the July Council meeting.
7. **Any news from the co-op directors – Rick:** Rick said that of Michigan’s ten library co-ops, four have part-time directors. Also, he has found that no library in SMLC is using OCLC for Interloan. The White Pine Co-op is willing to act as an OCLC Interloan site, if necessary. He read the announcement regarding the reductions at the Library of Michigan to comply with the new budget reductions.

## Comments from Board Members:

1. John noted that the Michicard database will no longer be updated. He wondered if his library should continue participating since he cannot determine which libraries are participating. Deb is also considering dropping reciprocal borrowing because of the strain it puts on her budget, but her trustees and staff currently wish to continue it. Ann said that KPL is considering restricting many services, such as computer training, to KPL residents only.
2. Rick said that of Michigan’s ten library co-ops, four now have part-time directors and their budgets are declining. Also, he has determined that no library in SMLC is using OCLC for interloan. The White Pine Co-op is willing to act as an OCLC interloan site, if necessary.
3. Ralph announced that the Lawrence Memorial Library will have a Plinkit website beginning April 14.
4. Dennis said that local artists of all ages are featured at the KIA this Spring.

**Next Meeting:** April 15 at the South Haven Memorial Library. Dinner will start at 6:00 pm and the meeting will begin at 7:00 pm with the Board meeting to follow.

## Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm on a motion by Sherry, support by Ann; motion carried.