

**Michigan Cooperative Directors Association
Meeting Minutes for April 17, 2009 Library of Michigan, Lake Erie Room. 10:00
a.m.**

Attending: Bryon Sitler, Suzanne Dees, Jim Lawrence, Sandra Wilson, Rick Hulsey, Sherry Hupp, Rick Rosekrans, Jim Seidl, Nancy Skowronski, Roger Mendel
Guests: Sheryl Mase, Kathy Webb, and Terri Assif, Library of Michigan

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 and the following was added to the agenda. A Treasurer's Report.

Moved by Sherry Hupp, seconded by Bryon Sitler that the Agenda be approved as amended to include a report on the Stimulus program. Motion carried.

Moved by Nancy Skowronski, seconded by Suzanne Dees that the minutes of February 20, 2009 be approved as presented, Motion carried.

Futuure of HAL: There was discussion concerning the various rumors concerning the disposition of the Library of Michigan. Included in the discussion was the need to convey to the Legislature and the Governor that the Library of Michigan should stay in state government and that it should remain intact under whatever department it is moved to. There was also much discussion concerning the Senate version of the budget bill which calls for a 25% cut in state aid to public libraries. This is have a profound affect on the cooperatives. The directors discussed the local match which state aid provides for the State to receive LSTA monies and indicated that IMLS should be contacted concerning the maintenance of effort and how the drastic state of the economy will be dealt with by IMLS.

The group decided to form an Impact Statements Committee to address the issues and prepare talking points to be distributed to library directors and trustees as well as interested individuals from the public. The members of the committee include: Jim Seidl, Suzanne Dees, Sherry Hupp, Roger Mendel, Bryon Sitler.

The Library of Michigan report: Kathy Webb reported that she is up-to-date on state aid payments for the first 50%. Kathy is moving to the Department of Education and so today is her last day at LM. She will continue working on state aid for public libraries. This courtesy was extended by the Department of Education Administration. All wished Kathy success in her new position.

Terri Assif distributed the new Data Digest and indicated that they have also been sent to legislators.

Sheryl Mase reported on the Broadband Summit, reviewing the day's agenda and encouraged everyone to register. She also discussed the Rural Libraries Conference and as of April 20 there were 350 people registered. She indicated that three LSTA grants were awarded and that the RFP for the PLINKIT program was sent out on April 15. Sheryl talked about a new program called Park and Read which is being developed to provide Adventure Passes to libraries to check out to individuals and families who plan to camp at one of the state parks. Class I libraries will receive 2 passes in this program.

Stimulus Update: In two weeks the feds will release the guidelines for stimulus projects. It seems unlikely that any library in the state will receive any of this money. They are looking at super large size projects.

Rural Libraries Conference Cooperative Directors Booth.

Bryon distributed displayed the materials that will be used in the booth at the Rural Libraries conference. Detroit Library Cooperative did a great job producing the graphics and handouts for the booth. Bryon also discussed the schedule for manning the booth.

What's happening at your Cooperative?

White Pine: Waiting for National Library Week to kick off their cooperative-wide PR campaign. Charter Communication is giving their libraries a great deal on commercials. White Pine is again offering a Beginning Workshop program. This is the last time that they will be offering this, since LM will not recognize this in the future.

Lakeland: They have a new library. An RFP for a study of sorting and delivery has been distributed. There are a number of things that they are updating after several years with the change of directors and interim directors over the past few years.

Southwest Library Cooperative: 26 Early Literacy Stations were delivered to libraries. They have a committee on Webpage and Technology as well as a Plan of Service Committee. They have buses going to ALA in Chicago and they are paying for MeL Delivery for everyone.

Mid-Michigan Library League: They too are doing buses to ALA. Jim distributed his workshop schedule of the year. He was interviewed about HAL.

The Library Network: TLN is busy looking for a new director. Interviewing will happen in the next few weeks. The volume of business on their ILS has increased dramatically. They have new broadband connections in a number of their libraries.

Suburban Library Cooperative: They are still working on integrating the Library for the Blind in their operation. The RFID project is rolling along. They are looking at strategic planning in the near future.

Northland Library Cooperative: They have a committee working on the Plan of Service to include a new location and director for the cooperative. For ALA, the cooperative is giving a stipend to every library to attend the conference or for any other conference this year. The OCLC subscription fee has been eliminated this year.

Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative: They have 350 performances scheduled for next summer reading programs. 40 performances for the May tour of libraries utilizing the talents of The Storytellers. There are a number of workshops scheduled for the year including a workshop with the Black Belt Librarian on March 24.

Superiorland: Working on getting fiber to some of the libraries. They have an Overdrive subscription for downloadable books. They have hired a new training and development librarian.

Woodlands: They have an Overdrive group and are working on a Tutor.com Group. They approved their Plan of Service. Have a program with Zingerman's scheduled for October and a book repair workshop in May. The last two libraries in Woodlands will join MelCat soon. The cooperative is planning to have a training on LEAN a system to assist making the workforce more efficient.

Gretchen Couraud, Executive Director of MLA gave the group a legislative overview including the latest on the HAL dissolution. She indicated that HAL would most likely be dissolved by September 30, 2009. After the Executive order calling for HAL's dissolution is made there is a 60 day window for input from the legislature. She doesn't see that there will be any major action by the legislature, although she did indicate that Senator George will try to save HAL. She was pleased to see that LM is to be moved as a whole, with the exception of the Census staff. She met with Bob Emerson (governor's budget director) in November to discuss the impact of workforce development that libraries were involved with as well as other issues related to the increase in use of public libraries. This probably helped keep state aid intact for the next budget.

Gretchen will be pairing up librarians and legislators for the upcoming budget hearings and keep up the discussion related to libraries helping people in their job searching. She also indicated that they are monitoring tax capture bills that are presently before the legislature.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Our next meeting will be April 17, 2009, 10 a.m. in the Lake Erie Room of the Library of Michigan.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Mendel
Secretary