

Agenda
White Pine Library Cooperative
Advisory Council Meeting

Thursday, February 21, 2008

White Pine Library Cooperative Headquarters
10:00 am – Noon

Welcome

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Director's report

Old Business

State Librarian's model for state support of public libraries
What is our response – how to make it known
Letter from the White Pine Board (copied below)

New Business

New rules for State Aid (not related to the proposed model for cooperatives)

Other:

Membership news

Next meeting date

March 12, 2008

January 18, 2008

Nancy Robertson, State Librarian
Library of Michigan
P O Box 30007

Lansing, MI 48909-7507

Dear Ms Robertson;

At its January 9, 2008 meeting, the White Pine Library Board discussed the proposed model of State Support for public libraries in Michigan.

The Board unanimously rejected the proposed model.

- The proposed model is based on a false premise. Most of the cooperatives in Michigan are doing well. They are providing the services their members want and need. We strongly feel that State Aid has been used effectively
- The model does not support equitable service for all Michigan libraries. It favors only well-funded libraries.
- The model will increase local out-of-pocket costs to provide service, such as continuing education and consulting services.
- The model does not provide any budgetary information on State Aid use upon which we can make informed decisions.
- The model does not establish any minimum requirements for local responsibility, initiative for library services or development.
- The five categories for which State Aid can be used are not well defined and will cause dissention in the library community.
- The model assumes libraries use cooperatives only for inter-library loan of materials and delivery. This is not true. The cooperatives provide so much more, including continuing education, consulting, advice on collection development, etc.
- The model implies that State Aid to public libraries will be used to support programs that are, we feel, used more by academic and school libraries than public libraries. Those other institutions should pay their share of the cost. They get a great deal more per capita funding than public libraries. Why is only State Aid to public libraries being tapped to pay for this service?
- There appear to be no limits set for how much Aid will go to H.A.L to pay for the state-wide programs. As costs rise, will State Aid to public libraries diminish?
- We are very concerned about small and rural libraries who will no longer receive enough State Aid to make it worthwhile to apply for. That has very negative implications for future library development. This will result in a diminishing level of library service for patrons.

- The model does not allow for the continuation of cooperatives in Michigan. Their costs, to be self-supporting, would be too high for most of the libraries to take advantage of. Cooperatives allow member libraries' local dollars to go farther.

The Library Cooperative Directors' Association has created a model that we feel is more supportive of small and rural libraries.

- It keeps the requirements of supporting state-wide initiatives.
- It provides support for local library development.
- This model is also more in keeping with the original intent of The State Aid to Public Libraries Act, which is to help local libraries provide better services to the residents of Michigan.
- It provides specific percentages of how State Aid should be divided among the participants.

We request that you reconsider your proposed model and work with the library community to create a sustainable level of library support and development in Michigan.

Sincerely,

Mimi Herrington, President
White Pine Library Cooperative Board

Cc: Governor Jennifer Granholm
Dr. William Anderson
Gretchen Couraud

1. You know what you get from the Cooperative. This list is put on the wall during the discussion (in larger font, of course).
 - a. Bibliographic access and Maintenance
 - b. Delivery, 2-day a week
 - c. Local workshops
 - d. Networking
 - e. Consulting
 - f. Administrative support
 - g. Local workshops at low rates
 - h. OCLC inter-loan
 - i. Advocacy
 - j. Training lab
 - i. Local
 - ii. State
 - iii. Federal
 - k. Discounts
 - l. Board training
 - m. Programming support
 - n. Grant writing
 - o. Technology support, e.g.
 - i. Web pages
 - ii. Mel-cat assistance
 - iii. Electronic discussion list
 - p. A should to cry on
2. Even if you don't use all of the services, you know they are there when you need them.
3. Gov and Senate already agree on "consolidations", House will follow. This is a bipartisan effort.
4. "Consolidations" is the key word for the FY09 budget.
5. What we do, will have to be done at the legislative level
6. How do we want to approach the State Librarian's model?
 - a. Support
 - b. Recommend CDA's model
 - c. Create new model
7. Each library needs to agree to send three letters to the Governor, State Librarian, Dr. William Anderson and your legislators. This will include a letter from the library director, a board member and a patron.
8. We also need to put them on the State Librarian's blog.
 - a. If patrons don't want to write a letter or make a phone call, ask if you can quote them in a letter to the above.
 - b. Friends groups should be willing to write and call.
9. Have contact information for each of the above on a sheet of paper with all the addresses, e-mail addresses and phone numbers to hand to the patron. (This is providing information, not lobbying).

There seems to be a national trend towards consolidations. Indiana has introduced legislation to eliminate all libraries except county libraries. It will force all other types of libraries to join together into a county library system. New Jersey is also recommending more mergers among its libraries.

Is this the next step for Michigan? Once the smaller and less funded libraries begin disappearing, will mergers be more strenuously recommended? Now, district governance is the model of choice. It may become even more so.

Nancy Robertson, State Librarian
Library of Michigan
P O Box 30007
Lansing, MI 48909-7507

Dr. William Anderson, Director
Department of History, Art and Libraries
P O Box 30007
Lansing, MI 48909-7507

State Senate District: 31

Senator: Jim Barcia (D)
PO Box 30036
Office Location: 1010 Farnum Building
Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: (517) 373-1777: Arenac, Bay,
Huron, Sanilac, & Tuscola Counties
E-mail Address:
SenJBarcia@senate.michigan.gov

District 83

Representative John Espinosa (D)
S1187 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514
Phone: 517-373-0835
Fax: 517-373-9876
E-Mail: johnespinoza@house.mi.gov
Counties: Sanilac

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm
P O Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909
PHONE (517) 373-3400
FAX (517) 335-6863