

**WHITE PINE LIBRARY COOPERATIVE  
ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES**

March 12, 2008

**Welcome:** Rose Rice Gutierrez welcomed everyone.

**Introductions:** Members introduced themselves.

**Minutes:** Larry Haubenstricker moved to approve the minutes from the December 5, 2007 meeting. Jim Rancilio seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Director's Report:** Bryon reported that:

- He went to Breckenridge on March 3<sup>rd</sup> for a workshop on Board Roles and Responsibilities.
- He attended the H.A.L. appropriations hearing on March 5<sup>th</sup>.
- He attended Mayville's Board Meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup>.
- His last day of work is Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.

**State Proposed Model for State Aid:** Members reviewed the proposed plan.

Under the proposed plan the Library of Michigan would administer state aid funds.

- Libraries could purchase core services which are defined as: Connectivity/broadband, technology support, promotion of MeL, training and participation in/enhancement of statewide core services.
- No state funds would be provided for Cooperatives.
- Cooperatives would have to become self supporting and charge fees.
- Libraries would have benchmarks in addition to filling out a state aid report.

It is unclear at this point, if the core services are set in stone and what dollar amounts would be committed to public libraries.

**Letter & Resolution:** Bryon reported that he had drafted a letter disagreeing with Nancy Robertson's testimony that Cooperatives were not doing well in the state of Michigan and that there was no accountability. A resolution to oppose the state model was also written. Eight of the other Cooperatives will also write a similar letter and a resolution to use with their memberships. The letter and resolution will be sent to legislators, MLA and state officials.

Rose Rice Gutierrez made a motion to recommend that the board send a letter and resolution to legislators, MLA and state officials. Kim White seconded the motion. Motion carried. The motion passed with a majority vote.

A list of libraries that support the letter and resolution will be attached. Members will be asked by e-mail if they wish their name added to the support list.

Bryon will send out a draft letter and the resolution that can be revised by members accordingly. Members were asked to send a letter and have their individual boards sign the resolution for maximum impact.

**New Rules for Libraries and State Aid:** HAL in conjunction with the Library of Michigan has prepared a draft of proposed administrative rules. The proposed rules are intended to assist the State with implementing the current State Aid to Public Libraries Act. Areas of concern are rules pertaining to:

- 3/10 mill/contract population area
- Service contracts
- Certification/ce requirements
- Audit requirements/separation of duties

The new rules were published February 13<sup>th</sup>. Action could be taken around April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Bryon will send out the proposed rules with red highlighted concerns for members to review.

**Membership Billing:** Bryon reported that because White Pine had a healthy fund balance it was possible to bill membership 50% in the FY 2009. This would be a one year occurrence.

Lise Mitchell made a motion that a recommendation to the board be made that membership billing is reduced by 50% for FY 2009. Barb Butch seconded the motion. Motion carried. The recommendation was passed by a majority vote.

### **Committee Reports:**

**PR:** Marsha Boyd reported that the committee had met in January. The committee has a \$10,000 budget to increase library awareness across the White Pine area. The committee talked about the usage of TV, billboards, radio and other media. They also discussed the possibility of grant opportunities and partnering with other Cooperatives.

**Collection Development:** Erin Schmandt reported that the collection development committee also met in January. They discussed non-fiction evaluation tools to test the currency of collections. They will do a test at committee member's libraries and then are willing to go on to member libraries.

**Interim Director:** Bryon Sitler introduced Jeff Johnson who is willing to act as Interim Director through September 30, 2008. He would work 2 days a week at WPLC headquarters and 4 hours a week at home taking phone calls and answering e-mail.

Membership asked if Bryon would continue as acting director for a salary increase. He said he would think about it.

**Other:** Lise Mitchell recommended that the board investigate combining Northland Library Cooperative with White Pine and that Nancy Robertson be invited to the next Advisory Council Meeting to discuss Cooperative issues.