

**WHITE PINE LIBRARY COOPERATIVE
ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES**

March 9, 2011

Welcome: Bryon Sitler welcomed members.

Minutes: Nannette Pretzer moved to approve the minutes from the February 9, 2011 Advisory Council Meeting. Erin Schmandt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Director's Report: Bryon reported that:

- The second meeting to discuss PA 164, the city, village township law will be held on Friday at 10:00 am in Frankenmuth. 18 people are registered for this event. 23 attended the discussion in Lakeview.
- There will be a Rural Libraries Conference next year. It will be held in May 2012 at the Grand Traverse Resort.
- The Beginning Workshop will be held in Gaylord May 17 2011 for three days. The New Director's workshop will be held in Lansing in September.
- There will be an Alliance (FOML group) workshop which is geared for trustees on April 28 at the Kent District Library.
- Bryon attended the retirement party for Charlotte Simmons and Susan Dean in Breckenridge.
- McLaren Health is willing to offer health insurance to White Pine members with one or more staff member. The Cooperative would have to act as the umbrella agency.
- State aid and supplemental checks are still in Treasury waiting to be released.
- Libraries will be able to use the new census figures effective October 1st. The new census figures will be used to complete your 2012 state aid report.
- Bryon spoke to Senator Kahn's office informing them what libraries and cooperatives do.
- The Plan of Service needs to be revised next year. This is a good time to evaluate services.

Book List On-line Subscription: Bryon asked if there were any libraries that would be interested in sharing an online subscription to Booklist. The Cooperative could buy the annual subscription for \$500.00 a year and divide the cost among participating libraries. Participating libraries would be given a password to access the subscription. Bryon will research Booklist further and report back to membership.

State Aid Reduction/Future of the Cooperative: Bryon reported that for the fiscal year 2012 state aid was projected to be reduced to \$.1134 cents. This is not enough to operate the Cooperative.

Budget Options include:

Charging membership an additional .05 cents per capita for membership fee.
No delivery.
Close the Cooperative on Fridays.
All staff reduced to 20 hours.
32 hours for director.

This will be discussed again at the next advisory council meeting.

Early Literacy Station: Paul Getzen demonstrated the Version 7 Early Literacy Station.

The Literacy Station provides education content that covers seven curricular areas focused for children from the toddler stage to 10 years old.

The hardware includes a touch screen that allows young children to engage in activities by touching a colorful screen. They can choose their own screens and avatars. Kids can learn how to count money, sharpen their word and number skills and solve problems.

The all in one unit sells for approximately \$2,800.00 and includes a 3 year warranty. Updates cost \$350.00 annually.

Group purchases of 10 will be given a volume discount.

Software can be purchased separately and loaded on to a computer. The software only option costs \$590.00 per station per year but has some loading issues.

Funding sources for the station include:

PC Bank
Dollar General
BTOP grants

For more information about this product go to www.awe-net.com

USDA: Adrin Wagner explained rural development grants and programs made available through the USDA. Grants and loans are provided to rural communities for projects.

The program available for libraries is the Community Facility Program. Libraries could apply for a grant or loan or both for a building project.

This year there may not be money available for grants but loans will be available. The process for applying for a loan is lengthy, involves a lot of red tape and inspections:

45 days to review application

Selection of architect

Review of architect report

Environment report

Wait for available funds

Letter of conditions

Letter guaranteeing funds

There is also a telecommunications loan and grant program that libraries could participate in.

If you would like to review an application, have one sent to you or for more information contact Adrin Wagner at adrin.wagner@mi.usda.gov