

**WHITE PINE LIBRARY COOPERATIVE  
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
Minutes, December 4, 2013**

**Welcome:** Bryon Sitler welcomed everyone. Members introduced themselves.

**Minutes:** There were no minutes to approve.

**MLA Report:** Gail Madziar, Executive Director of MLA reported that:

- The Legislature was just back from hunting/Thanksgiving break and would only be in session for a 6 more days before it is off again so not much will be done. Insurance, Medicaid, and Medicare will be the agenda items for the few remaining sessions.
- HB4887, the bill which proposes to limit millage elections to 2 times a year in August and November. MLA testified at hearings in May and February. Gail stated that November millage elections are more likely to fail due to the number of other issues on the ballot. The House Elections and Ethics Committee chair, Representative Lyons, wants to reduce taxes. The committee did not vote it out to the House floor. MLA was able to delay it. Jill Fox from Mayville ask if this is for all millages. Renewals will not be restricted unless it is an increase. MLA expects the bill to go through but hopes to be able to restore May elections. MLA would like February elections back as well. If a millage fails in August there are only 8 days to get the millage back on the ballot. Libraries need to have a board meeting scheduled and a plan in place in case the August millage fails.
- Certification Issue: A school district public library superintendent near Calumet thought that the school library should still get state aid after eliminating the professional librarian position. MLA met with Senator Casperson, Escanaba, to discuss his bill allowing a non-certified school library employee to qualify the library to receive state-aid and why it is not acceptable.
- Tax Increment Finance Authority (TIFA) and Downtown Development Authority (DDA) siphon off library millage funds. A library has the right to opt out of the authority but once a library is in, they have no choice. State Administration has started to show an interest and has heard MLA complaints. Currently these Authorities are not being audited.
- Personal Property Tax (PPT). Administration is looking for a way to include a 100% reimbursement. Libraries that fall below 3/10 mil will lose state aid. MLA will know more in February when the budget recommendations come out.
- Open Meetings Act Issue – Can board meetings be held legally by phone. This issue is on hold until January and most likely will not be acted on until April.

- The District Library: Representative Price agreed to run the legislation. This bill will allow a district library to remain intact if one or more of its partners dissolves.

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

- Bryon attended MLA in Lansing.
- Several more libraries have signed up for Health Insurance through the Cooperative. He is waiting on more information from Fosters, Collins and Smith concerning the Affordable Care Act to see what it will mean for libraries.
- Statistics were sent to members after revamping the process.
- Libraries, please remember to send their State Aid reports to Bryon.
- Job descriptions were adjusted and duties were incorporated into current positions.
- White Pine will be removing the photocopier because of the monthly fee. A desktop version will be purchased.
- An Overdrive meeting was held on November 13.
- Bryon attended a meeting of the Gratiot County Librarians on November 20 and visited Sherman Township Library.
- The Delivery service vote won with 94% of the 26 votes.
- Bryon mentioned possibly having a Book Fair in the afternoon following the April Advisory meeting. (The group thought that since the Rural Library Conference is in April, it seems redundant.
- Since the meetings are going to be held a week earlier the financial reports will be a month behind to have vendors here that month.
- The audit will be presented at the board meeting.

**Computer Lab:** WPLC will be removing most of the computers from the computer lab. Suggestions for uses: Bridgeport Library partners with the Ames United Methodist church on their Youth Center, perhaps they could use them.

**Plan of Service:** Bryon mentioned that the Plan of Service is expiring and needs to be revised. The board will be discussing it at the meeting following the Advisory meeting. Members should let Bryon know if they have any suggestions.

**Authors:** David Anthony and Charles David provided an entertaining presentation for their books and provided a shopping opportunity. More at: <http://www.realherosread.com>

**Sharing:** Jill Fox (Mayville) mentioned they've had an increase in damage to their video cases in delivery even though items are packaged correctly. She felt that it was due to the packages being at the bottom of the pile in the bin. Billie Jo Bluemer (Hemlock) said the drivers literally throw the packages during sorting. Bryan Dinwoody (Alma) wanted to know what is happening with the \$1200 he paid the delivery service for research. There has never been any follow up. Bryon will bring this up at the Cooperative Directors Association meeting on December 20. Lynn Clark mentioned that she had started with 2-day delivery and had to go to 3-day and she was told that this would be a year of transition. Most members said that their delivery drivers

never use the barcode scanners. Kay Montei (Unionville) said that her driver is only coming two times per week, not the 3 that are required.

Jeanette Bach said they celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and have a new Children's room, which is named "The Roberta Richmond Room". Ms. Richmond was a former Library Director from years ago. They also have new vinyl flooring in their reference room.

Vicki Mazure (Harbor Beach) reported that their unique library, which is also a theatre, needed to convert to a digital format projection rather than the 38 mm. The community was able to raise \$58,000 for the equipment.

**Next Meeting:** April 2, 2014