

**Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative
Advisory Council Meeting
Bay County Library System – Alice & Jack Wirt Branch
August 7, 2007**

I. **Roll Call:** Members Present: Maureen Hirten; Shirley Roos; Betsy Hull; Julie Chrisinske; Louise Goward; Kate Pohjola; Melissa Barnard; JoAnne Mondowney; Carolyn Nash; Trish Burns; LaRene Klink; Laura Friesen-Lynn; Denise Hooks; Amy Schweitzer; Kevin Ayala.

Members Absent: Ken Uptigrove (excused); Kay Hurd (excused); Sandra Chavez; Karen Lambert; Desta Ureel; Carol Kirchoff.

Guests: Carl Roos; Katlyn Schweitzer.

Co-op Staff: Roger Mendel; Irene Bancroft.

II. **Call to Order:** Roger called the August Advisory Council meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

III. **Sharing by Libraries:**

Carolyn Nash: Genesee District Library e-commerce on-line software purchased allowing patrons to pay fines on-line and make donations on-line. Sandra Brown author visit was a huge success.

Trish Burns: Public Libraries of Saginaw finished their Summer Reading Program recently. Celebrating their sesquicentennial along with the City and using a coloring book as a promotional material. School supplies being given as promotional materials.

LaRene Klink: Genesee Schools getting ready to start the new school year. Have a new superintendent.

Maureen Hirten: Capital Area District Library Summer reading program still going very strong, will end mid-August. The Board has approved a non-resident fee beginning January 1, 2008. Still working on the Capital Improvement process for the system.

Shirley Roos: Holly Township Library has had several months of staff health issues to contend with. Annual Summer Reading ending program will be this week.

Betsy Hull: Community District Library has had a busy summer reading, and is preparing a full schedule of activities for fall.

Julie Chrisinske: Edna C. Bentley Memorial Library wrapped up summer reading program with a good summer. They are in the process of transitioning to Community District Library.

Louise Goward: Vernon District Library within \$40,000 of having the building completely built and paid for.

Kate Pohjola: Lapeer District Library on the ballot today for their operating millage. Successful summer reading program despite closed branches.

Laura Friesen-Lynn: University of Michigan – Flint Campus recently broke ground for campus housing. Super Science Day targeting middle school students hosted by the college in May. Early College School on campus targeting at risk high school students interested in a career in Health Care.

Melissa Barnard: Grace A. Dow Memorial Library has enjoyed 'loaning' duct-tape guy William Beacom with the Cooperative library members. Grace A Dow will be participating

in the Great Read program beginning in September. Partnering with the Chamber to participate in a “Better awareness of clean water in the world”.

JoAnne Mondowney: Flint Public Library extraordinarily busy summer, including the 28th annual Storytellers Festival. Delightful ice cream social with a band and lots of ice cream and cake held the first week of August. Most recent Public Library Quarterly features information about Flint Public Library.

Amy Schweitzer: Grand Blanc Community Schools undergoing several changes with staff. National issue with the No Child Left Behind process will require certified media specialists in all schools by 2010.

Denise Hooks: Mott Community College on the ballot today for an operational millage renewal. Author Heather Brewer will be visiting the college in September 17th. Renovation process in the ballroom progressing.

Kevin Ayala: Bay County Library System approved for a ballot issue in November for their operational millage. The county commissioners appointed a new board member this morning to the Library Board. The limited summer reading program has been successful.

IV. Director’s Report:

- a. **State Aid Update:** Roger reported that the state budget process has been put on hold. It is anticipated the Legislature will begin working on the budget again in late August. The final payments for the current year state aid are expected to be released after August 15th.
- b. **Changes in the Cooperatives:** Roger reported that he is serving as the Interim Director for Northland Library Cooperative. Southwest Library Cooperative is still on hiatus with all staff laid off, Rick Halsey is serving as Interim Director. Capital Cooperative ceases existence on September 30, 2007. The Library Network & Suburban Library Cooperatives are currently utilizing staff to serve as Interim Directors.
- c. **Summer Reading Programs:** Irene reported that the process for 2008 has been started: Committee meeting scheduled for September 11th at the Cooperative Office; Summer Reading Workshop planned for October 16th at Fenton Community Center.
- d. **MadCap Puppets Tour:** Roger reported that the tour was a huge success with rave reviews from all hosting libraries.
- e. **MMLC Interlibrary Loan Committee:** Roger asked that members consider working on the revision of the ILL procedure manual.
- f. **MMLC FY 2007-2008 Budget:** Roger reviewed the FY 2007-2008 budget with an anticipated 50% cut in state aid. **Motion by Kate Pohjola, seconded by Julie Chrisinske to recommend to the MMLC Board adoption of the budget as presented. All yeas. Motion carried.**
- g. **State Librarian’s Reorganization of Cooperatives Discussion:** Roger briefly reviewed State Librarian Nancy Robertson’s blog on her vision for the future of Cooperatives. Kate voiced the opinion that she likes the MMLC system, especially since she is familiar with The Library Network and Suburban Library Cooperative. Betsy asked how we can influence how the cooperatives are modeled. Melissa voiced the opposition to the loss of autonomy from the State of Michigan in the running of the cooperative. If the Cooperative Director becomes a State employee, autonomy would be lost. With the state mandating what the services will be, local libraries will be hampered in servicing the actual and sometimes unique needs of

their individual constituents. It has been the recent trend in state government to reduce costs. The proposal to have the Cooperative Managers serve as state employees would be the direct opposite of the trend. A draft white paper will be sent to members to be reviewed. JoAnne suggested verbalizing the positive enhancements and valuable services in our response to the state librarian. Role of cooperatives as advocate of state wide services should not be overlooked. Roger proposed that the white paper be ready for presentation to the State Librarian by the end of August.

1. (Monday, August 13th meeting; 10:00 a.m. at MMLC Office)
Committee: Betsy Hull; Shirley Roos; Carolyn Nash; LaRene Klink; Melissa Barnard; Kate Pohjola; JoAnne Mondowney; Sue Hill.
2. Stress these things:
 - a. Retention of autonomy
 - b. Board
 - c. Services
 - d. Director
 - e. Our cooperative as model of success
 - f. Multit-type involvement
 - g. Economic fitness
 - h. Libraries have options for membership not restricted by geography
 - i. Per capita funding needed
 - j. Eight areas minimum; 10 optimal
 - k. Access to contracted services
 - l. Advocacy & representation
 - m. Testimonials

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Irene Bancroft
Administrative Assistant

Next Advisory Council Meeting:

Tuesday, October, 2007
9:30 a.m.