

**Northland Library Coopera
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting
April 16, 2020**

Introduction of Members:

Members Present:

Val Meyerson (Petoskey District Library),	Julie Kintner (Fife Lake Public Library),
Denise Bearre (Alcona County Library),	Dawn LaVanway (Jordan Valley District Library),
John Roberts (Kalkaska County Library),	Michele Howard (Traverse Area District Library),
Amber Alexander (Presque Isle District Library),	Ryan Deery (Charlevoix Public Library),
Vicki Shurly (Peninsula Community Library),	Monica Kroondyk (Boyne District Library),
Rudy Wright (Indian River Area Library),	Maureen Derenzy (Otsego County Library),
Dion Mindykowski (Tahquamenon Area Library),	Amy Knepp (Oscoda County Library),
J. Michaels (Mackinaw Area Public Library),	Linda Adams (Northland Library Cooperative Director)

Special Guest: Debbie Mikula (MLA Director)

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:33am by President, Amber Alexander.

Approval of Agenda:

D. LaVanway made a motion to accept the Agenda, seconded by J. Kintner. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

Amy Knepp made a motion to accept the December 5, 2019 Minutes seconded by J. Roberts. Motion carried.

Approval of Financial Statements/March 2020:

L. Adams presented the financials noting nothing was outstanding. M. Howard made a motion to recommend to the NLC Board to accept the Financial Report, seconded by J. Michaels. Motion carried.

Directors Report:

Linda reviewed her presented report, noting the following:

- Members should join/like the Northland Facebook Group.
- Northland chats will continue on Tuesday mornings at 11:00am with the following discussion topics: budget, summer reading, unemployment/payroll, databases, advocacy.
- Website has been updated with information and forms.
- She has visited 14 co-ops prior to COVID.
- 2020-23 E Rate contract with Merit.
- Paid OverDrive bill.
- Co-Op Directors are developing reopening documents taking in many considerations. Templates are available.
- Recommends listening to Library of Michigan Friday updates via zoom.
- Continuing Education and Enhancement grants: Reminder to continue to apply.
- Legislation Funds: All monies set aside for events will be rolled over.
- Concerns of no State Aid.

M. Howard made a motion to recommend to the NLC Board to support SB611, seconded by R. Deering. Motion carried.

Zoom Remote Meeting Subscription for Coop?

Linda will not purchase the meeting subscription.

Continuing Education Grants:

Linda will review the budget and roll the monies allocated over to next year's budget.

Updates from MLS Director (11:00am): Debbie Mikula

SB611 Michigan Library Privacy Act:

D. Mikula clarified changes to SB611 Michigan Library Privacy Act as it relates to video surveillance. The new bill will revise video surveillance, and it will not be considered part of library privacy act. If the bill passes, video surveillance within library grounds would be sharable with law enforcement without a warrant.

Senator McGregor agreed with the strengthened and clarified bill that it will go through. At this time it is half way through the judiciary process: will go to the senate and house, then the Governor's Desk. The government shut down due to COVID may hold up the process for the time and that continued co-op support is important.

Mikula also informed the group of the following:

- Revenue concerns in the government. At the state level, there is currently a deficit in the budget of over 2.8 billion dollars and in the 2021 Fiscal year the state will be looking at a 3 to 5 billion dollar deficit in the general fund. There is possibility for funds through the CARES Act to help with increased deficits due to COVID. The state has discussed possible hults on spending. ‘
- Kathy Webb is working on the 1st half of State Aid to libraries with concerns that the 2nd half will not be approved on a state level.
- Penal fines and state taxes have decreased.

Mikula will keep us posted and how to position ourselves. She advised us to prepare for worst case scenarios and that the next two years will have negative budget ramifications affecting state and local funding.

On a positive note, Mikula advised:

- Michigan received 90 million dollars in CARES Act funding to be distributed to schools and other educational facilities, i.e. Libraires.
- Advocacy is important. Libraries are critical and essential to education.
- Encouraged our members to write notes to Governor Whittmer reminding her that we are part of the “other educational” and what an essential role we play in access to digital resources which a portion of the CARES Act is specifically dedicated to.
- 4th Stimulus bill is at the Federal level.
- Visit ALA and MLIS websites for draft letters and more information.
- Libraries can obtain 501C3 status which allows them to fundraise in a different way.

COVID-19 Discussion and what's happening at your library?

Many members expressed concerns for reopening procedure, feeling of being overwhelmed at times between recommendations and requirements from the health department, Federal Laws, State Laws, EO's and numerous reports from library organizations. This has been a very sobering experience. All mentioned the appreciation of the support of colleagues during this experience.

Congratulations on Maureen's Retirement!

Dawn: Virtual summer reading, paying employees while the library closed, doing general maintenance are repairs: technology, ccleaning, rekeying, shared concerns of reopening related to masks and drive up services.

John: Discussed what we can learn to be better prepared next time. Working with school to reach many without access. Over ½ of the community do not have access to technology. He hopes we learn as a region and state and attack the digital divide to easily transition in the future to online resources. He hopes for legislation to push for better services for schools & libraries in regards to connectivity in the rural communities.

Michele: New program; virtual reference for adult services, preparing for board meeting and approval at meeting of remote meeting.

Ryan: Taking it day to day but working on future plans, online meetings, looking forward to reopening plans, new service; hot spots in rural township halls.

Vicki: Staff only in the building at this time with concerns for the many vulnerable residents in her community, staff hosted a trial story hour, summer reading will be virtual.

Rudy: looking for advance notice to reopen, has concerns with the August Mileage campaign and would appreciate any guidance from the members.

Monica: Held board meeting and included budget approval with the understanding there would be budget amendments to come, thanks "Linda" for all the advice, utilizing Facebook Live, the network of community connections and collaborations has paid off in a very positive way during COVID, working on phased opening.

Val: Mileage concerns for August - May deadline making it a bit stressful, working on Newsletter, hosting open chat - remote reference, reopening plans, making masks with 3D printer.

Maureen: Officially retired, new Director: Jackie skinner, tough time to take over but confident with all her experience and knowledge of the area, hired new Public Services Librarian, they are taking COVID very seriously with increased numbers in area, proud to have been a part of the library world and how everyone is stepping up and serving their communities.

Jackie: Set-up online library card registrations, added digital services, hosting remote weekly staff meetings.

Amy: Canceling summer reading program, working with a teacher for zoom meetings and electronics resources.

Dion: Following official guidance, because of location in the school will be speaking with lawyer in regards to opening dates and procedures.

Nellie: Restructuring library, board held remote meeting, working on pandemic policy, August mileage.

Amber: Making hard decisions and working on staff lay off plans, Smithsonian exhibit cancelled but can still utilize grant monies, working on cuts in budget, appreciates everyone sharing information.

Denise: Similar to everyone else, working on staff layoffs, budget cuts and making hard decisions.

Julie: Working on PPE's, staff paid, not much remote access in the area making it challenging. Utilizing school meals programs to reach area families.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 12:10pm.

The next scheduled Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for August 20, 2020 at 10:30am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Kintner, Director, Fife Lake Library