



**Northland Library Cooperative  
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes  
December 15, 2022 10:30 a.m.  
Via Zoom**

**Introduction of Members:**

**Members Present:**

Val Meyerson (Petoskey District Library)	Linda Adams (Northland Library Cooperative)
Amber Alexander, Presque Isle District Library	Brian Frietag (Tahquamenon Area Library)
Amy Knepp (Oscoda County District Library)	Nellie Danke (Suttons Bay-Bingham District Library)
Dawn LaVanway (Jordan Valley District Library)	Mark Bronson (Cheboygan Area Public Library)
Kelsey Rutkowski (Indian River Area Library)	John Roberts (Kalkaska County Library)
Denise Bearre (Alcona County Library)	Monica Peck (Boyne District Library)
Jackie Skinner (Otsego County Library)	Ryan Deery (Charlevoix Public Library)
Leanne Milliman (Crooked Tree District Library)	

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 am by President, Val Meyerson.

**Approval of Agenda:**

The agenda was approved by consensus.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes of the November 3, 2022 meeting were approved by consensus.

**Approval of Financial Reports**

- **November 2022 Financial Report:** L. Adams presented the financials. Reports approved by consensus.
- **FY 21-22 Audit.** L. Adams reported Northland's finances were determined to be in good order.

**Directors Report:**

Linda reviewed her report emailed to us in the board packet, noting the following updates: LM State Aid Report window is open and will close February 1<sup>st</sup>. FY 22-23 NLC Enhancement and Continuing Education grants are now open. The Up North Digital steering committee voted to approve the Reciprocal Lending Agreement, allowing the consortium to borrow and lend to other Overdrive consortia. This reciprocal borrowing will be implemented in the new year. Shannon White is retiring in February, so Library of Michigan staffing issues continue. On January 1, 2023, Michigan's minimum wage rate will increase from \$9.87 to \$10.10 per hour. See Michigan's Improved Workforce Opportunity Wage Act of 2018 for more information. Penal fine distribution reports are available thru the Library of Michigan's web site.

**Business:**

- **Intellectual Freedom discussion:** Val and Linda attended MLA's first session of Think Space on Intellectual Freedom in Grand Rapids. Key takeaways were:
  - \*Well-funded and organized groups are behind book challenges.
  - \*MLA's Right to Read toolkit is an invaluable resource. Everyone should be familiar with it.
  - \*Materials reassessment policies should limit the number of challenges a patron can submit.
  - \*When discussing intellectual freedom, do not focus on one title; focus on the bigger picture.
  - \*Library Boards should be regularly educated on intellectual freedom issues. There should also be time limits for any public comment at meetings.
- **LSTA Mini-grant discussion:** Because the small federal grants that the Library of Michigan's Karren Reish administers each year has become too much work, the Library of Michigan is discussing the possibility of Cooperative

directors distributing those federal monies in 2024. Karren will make an announcement in the new year. Amy Knepp, Monica Peck and John Roberts will meet with Linda Adams about these LSTA grants and how to streamline the process.

### **What's happening at your library?**

**Amber Alexander (Presque Isle District Library):** A family holiday movie was shown, and 160 folks attended. Finishing year end duties and State Aid Report.

**Mark Bronson (Cheboygan Area Public Library):** The Library was currently closed due to power outage in downtown Cheboygan. Christmas program featuring a reindeer was a huge success. Around 400 people attended. He will share with everyone the contact info to book the reindeer.

**Dawn LaVanway (Jordan Valley District Library):** New carpet was installed. Dealing with roof and elevator issues, and still have difficulty with laptop received with ARPA funding. JVDL's digital usage is very high.

**Kelsey Rutkowski (Indian River Area Library):** Closed today due to weather. Weeding of the collection is being done. The library successfully participated in the Indian River Christmas providing craft tables. 230 people participated. Have two new computers.

**Nellie Danke (Suttons Bay-Bingham District Library):** The Library's covered entry way is complete, and a ribbon cutting was held. Having issues with their power assist door.

**John Roberts (Kalkaska County Library):** The Friends of the Library are holding their Christmas basket and cookie fundraisers.

**Leanne Milliman (Crooked Tree District Library):** CTDL is hosting Christmas music as well as a Kid's Christmas party. Mahjong and book clubs are meeting and thriving. Boyne Falls will have new interior paint in 2023, and the state aid report is complete.

**Monica Peck (Boyne District Library):** Boyne is working on their strategic plan which has included focus group meetings and a community survey. They are looking for a Bookmobile driver and have starting offering finger printing thru Idemia.

**Denise Bearre (Alcona County Library):** A draft of a contract between Alcona and Curtis and Township is the works. Alcona participated in the local Christmas in the Village event and had 70 kids participate. Also working on the annual report.

**Ryan Deery (Charlevoix Public Library):** Looking for a new youth services coordinator. Charlevoix will be soon posting another full-time position. A new strategic planning process had begun, and they offering a holiday music series.

**Brian Frietag (Tahquamenon Area Library):** Brian has completed the annual report. TAL's enhanced millage passed, and construction should begin in Summer 2023 including LED lighting and a public meeting room. TAL has a gaming and coding group as well as a therapy dog reading program.

**Amy Knepp (Oscoda County District Library):** OCDL's millage passed and is now officially a district library. Amy and her husband are available to appear as Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus. The Library was also approached about donating a building to be used as the Fairview Branch.

**Jackie Skinner (Otsego County Library):** OCL is receiving a grant-funded literacy hub through Child and Family Services of Northeast Michigan and the COPESD Great Start Collaborative. As part of this grant, Jim Gill will be performing the December 17<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm in Gaylord at the library.

**Val Meyerson (Petoskey District Library):** Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7 pm is the **Americans and the Holocaust Exhibit** opening reception at the Petoskey District Library. Any local school groups interested in take a tour are welcome to contact Val. The exhibit will be displayed thru February 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 11:32 am.

The next Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for the Indian River Area Library on Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 10:30 am. A potluck will follow the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jackie Skinner, Director, Otsego County Library

**No Northland Library Cooperative Board Meeting was held.**