

**Northland Library Cooperative
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2024, 10:30 a.m.
Lewiston Branch - Montmorency County Public Libraries**

Introduction of Members:

Members Present:

Amber Alexander (Presque Isle District Library)
Michele Howard (Traverse Area District Library)
Val Meyerson (Petoskey District Library)
Cindi Place (Crooked Tree District Library)
Cheyenne Wilcox (Fife Lake Public Library)
Linda Adams (Northland Library Cooperative)
Denise Bearre (Alcona County Library)
Amy Knepp (Oscoda County District Library)
Lori Haas (Montmorency County Public Libraries)
John Roberts (Kalkaska County Library)
Monica Peck (Boyne District Library)
Kelsey Rutkowski (Indian River Area Library)
Brice Bush (Cheboygan Area Public Library)

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by President, Monica Peck.

Approval of Agenda:

V. Meyerson made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. A. Alexander seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes:

M. Howard made a motion to approve the August 14, 2024 minutes. A. Knepp seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Financial Reports:

- **August 2024 Financial Report:** L. Adams presented the financials. The budget is on target except for a few lines that will require a budget amendment. M. Howard made a motion to approve the August financial reports. A. Alexander seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

- **Proposed budget amendments FY 23-24:** D. Bearre made a motion to recommend the budget amendments as presented to Northland Library Cooperative Board. A. Knepp seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**
- **Proposed Budget FY 24-25:** A. Alexander made a motion to recommend the budget include the emergency legal fund of \$1000.00, to roll over from year to year when unused and authorize Linda Adams to administer the fund. V. Meyerson seconded the motion. **Motion carried.** A. Alexander made a motion to recommend including \$20,000.00 of fund balance, every year for the next five years, with a review in five years' time of the fund balance, to spend down the balance. D. Bearre seconded the motion. **Motion carried.** A. Alexander made a motion to recommend the budget with additions to the Northland Library Cooperative Board. D. Bearre seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Directors Report:

Linda Adams reviewed her report emailed in the meeting packet.

Business:

- **Board Officers:** A. Alexander made a motion to propose the slate of officers for FY24-25 to the board as follows; Ryan Deery - Chair, Jackie Skinner - Vice Chair, Brice Bush - Secretary, Michele Howard - Treasurer. M Howard seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**
- **Members at large:** A. Alexander made a motion to propose made a motion to propose the Members at large for the FY24-25 to the board as follows; Cheyenne Wilcox (Class 1), Ryan Deery (Class 3), Brice Bush (Class 4). K. Rutkowski seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**
- **Director Evaluation:** M. Howard reported on the director evaluation process and results. Linda Adams received an excellent evaluation. D. Bearre made a motion to accept the director evaluation. M. Peck seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**
- **Other:** Discussion about a strategic plan for the co-op was addressed and it will appear on the meeting agenda for the October and/or December meeting(s). The Plan of service will also be included on the next meeting agenda for discussion and approval, to be included with the strategic plan discussion.

What's happening at your library?

John (Kalkaska County): Awarded \$5000 Robin grant, using money for consultants to report on youth media consumption to improve youth literacy, while also considering senior quality of life programming; scam avoidance and tax services. Millage passed for another 5 years with the same percentage of no voters as the last election. Plans to target no voters with outreach and marketing now for more yes voters next millage campaign.

Kelcy (Indian River): Music & Movement for wigglers is popular, storytime scheduled to follow the music program and attendance has greatly increased. Installation of security cameras is underway.

Lori (Montmorency County): Received a relentless care foundation grant of \$6500 for art and administration supplies. Attended the RSLC in Mass. great conference. Gleaned good information from the story hour with the Eric Carle museum presenter in hopes of redesigning the toddler story hour in Montmorency. Summer reading numbers were low in Atlanta and school enrollment is way down.

Amy (Oscoda County District): Very trying times at the library since April. Issues with a staff member related to behavior outside of employment responsibilities. Public fallout at board meetings. Things are starting to calm down.

Denise (Alcona County): The groundbreaking for a new building in Hubbard Lake has taken place! She is busy with figuring out furnishings and completing computer upgrades. New staff have been on board long enough now for everyone to feel a real sense of teamwork. Next Northland meeting will take place on October 30th at Alcona County Library in Harrisville.

Cheyenne (Fife Lake): Cheyenne started as director in July. Welcome Cheyenne! Her background is in education so everything is new. She is working on creating and recreating community connections since the library was without a director for 8 months. They have strong senior and youth traffic in Fife Lake but are struggling with getting 18 - 50 somethings through their doors.

Cindy (Crooked Tree District): Cindy is the interim director through late October when they hope to onboard a new director. She has been there since late July busily working on improving employee relations, getting more people into the libraries, craft kits, storytimes, collaborating with schools, and overall program planning. Big proponent of Library Makers; for anyone doing anything maker-like in libraries. Contact Cindy for more information. Website: librarymakers.org

Val (Petoskey District): They've gone from age specific storytimes to 3 weekly storytime programs for all ages and it is going really well. Val is working through a strategic planning process with an internal committee, and using responses from the survey done through the Post Pandemic Public Library cohort she is participating in. Staff surveyed non library users at a football game and got 15 responses to incorporate in the planning process as well. Two township millages passed in August, two more on the ballot in November. TOPO Adventures library kits have been really popular and circulate well. There are three adventures to complete through the Petoskey specific kits. TOPO Adventures will work with you to find funding for programs like this at your library.

Michele (TADL): In the beginning phases of the strategic planning process with local companies in the Traverse City area. Staff participated in training open to the public through Grand Traverse Child Advocacy. TADL millage passed, and they are now working on installing Little Free Libraries in areas where no voters reside. Michele will share information regarding polling location training and safety via email. TADL main library is hosting a party during MLA annual, please come!

Amber (Presque Isle): The closet is finally done! There is no dress shop in Presque Isle County and the library facility offers dresses to three area high schools. The Theater has been listed on the National Registry of Historic Places, the second location in Rogers City to attain that designation. The first location received the historic designation thirty years ago.

Brice (Cheboygan Area Public): Saturday, September 28 we are hosting the Detroit Zoo for a program about bats. Patrons have the opportunity to register to attend one of three sessions to learn about bats, walk the library neighborhood to collect data, and then discuss the data collected. The Straits Area Audubon Society and the Friends of the Library collaborated with the library to cover the costs.

Monica (Boyne District): Bonnie Jo Campbell tonight in Boyne City! The red building on the library's property is in the process of being demolished. The library is working with Library Design to refresh the Children's department. Monica shared an impactful takeaway from the Post Pandemic Public Library cohort presentation with Eva from Canton Library; there are problems to solve and there are tensions to manage.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 11:59 a.m.

The next Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for the Alcona County Library - Hillsdale on Wednesday, October 30 at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brice Bush, Cheboygan Area Public Library