

**Northland Library Cooperative
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2025 10:30 a.m.
Wolverine Community Library**

Introduction of Members:

Members Present:

Amber Alexander (Presque Isle District Library)
Michele Howard (Traverse Area District Library)
Val Meyerson (Petoskey District Library)
Cheyenne Wilcox (Fife Lake Public Library)
Nellie Danke (Suttons Bay-Bingham District Library)
Linda Adams (Northland Library Cooperative)
John Roberts (Kalkaska County Library)
Brice Bush (Cheboygan Area Public Library)
Jennifer Mikesell (Crooked Tree District Library)
Tanya Procknow (Mackinaw Area Public Library)
Pamela Williams (Elk Rapids District Library)
Jacqueline Skinner (Otsego County Library)
Judy Jacalone (Topinabee Library)
Sue Warner (Wolverine Community Library)

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Treasurer, Michele Howard.

Approval of Agenda:

P. Williams made a motion to approve the agenda with the proposed additional Federal Funding/MeL & MeCat item. J. Skinner seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes:

V. Meyerson made a motion to approve the October 30, 2024 minutes with proposed edits. M. Howard seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Financial Reports:

March 2025 Financial Report: L. Adams presented the financials. MLA memberships have been paid. The expense was higher than anticipated but the budget is on track. S. Warner made a motion to approve the March financial report. B. Bush seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Audit Review: L. Adams presented the audit for review. A. Alexander made a motion to accept the audit. V. Meyerson seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Directors Report:

Linda Adams reviewed her report emailed in the meeting packet.

Business:

- **NCMC - request to join NLC:** Discussion of NCMC joining NLC took place. V. Meyerson made a motion to accept NCMC as a member of NLC. C. Wilcox seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**
- **NLC Member Survey Results/future planning:** Linda pointed to the NLC Member Survey 2025 results document included in the packet for members to review. Discussion of future planning included implementing a similar survey every two years, continuing the informal chats via zoom, and creating a shared google drive for document sharing. Overall members expressed high satisfaction and decided no strategic planning process is required at this time.
- **Federal Funding/MeL & MeLCat:** Linda presented facts related to the current situation with IMLS and federal funding. Discussion was held regarding the effects future funding cuts would have on NLC libraries and what can be done.

What's happening at your library?

Val Meyerson (Petoskey District): Val has recently joined the Rank MI Vote effort after learning about the nonpartisan group's mission at a service club meeting. The Rank MI Vote will be conducting a Spring petition drive to get on the November 2026 ballot in Michigan. Send Val an email if you are interested in hosting an informational presentation about Rank MI Vote.

Pamela Williams (Elk Rapids District): Pam shared campaign materials for the fundraising effort of the new library in ELk Rapids. Approximately 2.1 of the needed 3.5 million dollars has been raised so far from private donors. There will be a bond coming in the August or November election. They've had over 100 donors support the library effort and they haven't gone public yet. The estimated total budget needed is 7 million dollars and they are showing dedication to the greater community by fundraising half of the funds before making the public ask.

Jennifer Mikesell (Crooked Tree District): Jen will be leaving the library and Cindy Place will be managing director for the next year. There will be a branch manager at each of the two library locations for the next year. Reorganization will take place after the millage campaign.

John (Kalkaska County): Kalkaska library received an estate bequest of \$200,000. Working with the schools is going phenomenally well and the schools are considering providing the library with funds for an additional staff member to serve students. The focus will be on the 5th - 6th grade transition with a whole child/holistic program appealing to parents to not provide their students with smartphones. Please contact John if you are interested in working with him on devising a plan for a smartphone pledge.

Linda Adams (NLC): Linda reiterated the fact that library funds may not be spent on advocacy.

Adjournment:

V. Meyerson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. J. Skinner seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 12:12 p.m.

The next Advisory Council meeting will be held at the Mackinaw Area Public Library on Wednesday, August 13 at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brice Bush, Cheboygan Area Public Library