

WISCONSIN VALLEY LIBRARY SERVICE**Board of Trustees Meeting**

February 18, 2023

Wausau, Wisconsin

NOTE: These minutes are to be regarded as the unofficial record of the meeting until the Board of Trustees has approved them. The next Board meeting is March 18, 2023.

President Tom **Bobrofsky** called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. Roll call was taken by **Wendt** and a quorum was declared present.

Present

Tom Bobrofsky, President
 Pat Pechura, Vice-President
 Mike Otten, Treasurer
 Sonja Ackerman, member
 Jim Backus, member*
 Carol Bartlein, member* joined 9:50 AM
 Jessica Bernett, member*
 Eileen Grunseth, member*
 Louise Olszewski, member
 Kay Palmer, member
 Diane Peterson, member
 Judy Peterson, member
 Pietra Pietrzak, member
 Kari Sweeney, member

Others Present

Marla Sepnafski, WVLS Director
 Susie Hafemeister, WVLS staff
 Josh Klingbeil, WVLS staff*
 Brenda Walenton, WVLS staff
 Kris Adams Wendt, WVLS staff
 Katie Zimmermann, WVLS staff

*denotes remote attendance

Vacant

Marathon County representative

NOTE: All exhibits may be accessed at <https://wvls.org/bot-agenda-exhibits/>.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL:

Item 7 was removed, as the WVLS annual report was still in process of being reviewed by DPI.
Pechura/D. Peterson motion to approve the agenda as amended. All aye. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Exhibit 1):

Olszewski/Ackerman motion to approve minutes from the November 19, 2022 WVLS Board meeting as presented. All aye. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS AND CURRENT BILLS (Exhibits 2-7):

Pechura/J. Peterson motion to approve the financial reports and current bills as presented. All aye. Motion carried.

2022 WVLS Treasurer's Report (Exhibit 8):

Pechura/Sweeney motion to approve the 2022 WVLS Treasurer's Report as presented. All aye. Motion carried.

Bobrofsky welcomed new board members **Bartlein** (Forest County), **Palmer** (Marathon County) and **Pietrzak** (Oneida County). Members old and new introduced themselves in a round robin discussion.

REPORTS:

Resource Library (Exhibit 9): The Resource Library Report includes the agenda and Director's Report for the upcoming February 20, 2023 MCPL Board of Trustees meeting, as well as agendas and minutes from November and December 2022 and January 2023. Three new library board members will be welcomed on February 20. **Sweeney** reported that she was elected board president with **Reid Rayome** as vice president. The MCPL

Board engaged the law firm von Briesen & Roper, S.C. in December 2022 to review interactions between the library board and Marathon Co. Board Supervisors linking reduced library funding to demands that challenged library materials be removed from the MCPL collection. The attorneys concluded first amendment violations had occurred, however no legal action has been filed to date against the county or individual supervisors regarding these matters.

MCPL Expectations Assessment: WVLS Report for 4Q/2022 (Exhibit 10): **Sepnafski** drew the boards' attention to the fourth quarter report including a cost benefit analysis which she delivered to the MCPL Board on December 19. **On January 23, the MCPL Board voted unanimously to maintain Marathon County's public library system membership with Wisconsin Valley Library Service.**

COLAND (Exhibit 11): **Otten** reported COLAND (Council for Libraries and Network Development) last met on November 11, 2022 and shared information from recent committee work regarding 2023-2025 COLAND goals.

WVLS Director's Report (Exhibits 12, 12a, 12b): **Sepnafski** and other WVLS staff members in attendance took turns reviewing the items in the **2022 Staff Report** (Exhibit 12b), taking comments and questions.

Olszewski/Ackerman motion to approve the 2022 Staff Report as presented. All aye. Motion carried.

V-Cat (Exhibit 13): **Zimmermann** summarized the November 10, 2022 V-Cat Council meeting.

NWLS/WVLS Joint Consortium Exploration (Exhibit 14): **Zimmermann** summarized the January 2023 **NICE (Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration) Team Report**. Northern Waters Library Service (NWLS) and WVLS are collaborating to engage in a comprehensive joint ILS consortium exploration project to determine value and feasibility of an ILS merger between the two systems and respective ILS consortia. NWLS and WVLS applied for and received LSTA funding for this project and are working with WiLS consultants to guide the process.

WLA Library Legislative Day (Exhibits 12a-1,15, 15a, 15b): **Wendt** reported that Library Legislative Day on February 7 was well attended with 220 registrants. The 11 legislators whose districts include portions of WVLS counties were visited by 15 people from WVLS member libraries, WVLS staff and Board of Trustees. Messaging focused on the ways in which state aid to public library systems provides infrastructure support for Wisconsin libraries at the local level. 2023 is a budget producing year. A team from the WLA Library Development & Legislation (LD&L) Committee is meeting individually with legislative leaders and Joint Finance Committee members. Library supporters will be recruited to appear at a series of public budget hearings on dates to be determined.

2022 WLA Conference (Exhibit 16): The board's attention was drawn to post-conference reports submitted by Heather Bain (MCPL-Hatley Branch), Thorp Public Library Director Carsyn Soderstrom, Sarah Moscatello (MCPL-Mosinee Branch), and Westboro Public Library Interim Director Melissa Highfill who received WVLS scholarships to the 2022 WLA Conference.

DISPOSITION OF 2022 UNENCUMBERED BALANCE/2023 BUDGET REVISIONS (Exhibit 18): **Sepnafski** drew the board's attention to details and recommendations enumerated in Exhibit 18.

Otten/Olszewski motion to approve the recommendations for disposition of 2022 unencumbered balance and corresponding 2023 budget revisions as presented. All aye. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Nominating Committee **Sweeney** (Chair), **Olszewski** and **Ackerman** recommended a slate of 2023 officers returning **Bobrofsky** as President, **Pechura** as Vice-President, and **Otten** as Treasurer, along with at-large Executive Committee members **Olszewski, J. Peterson, D. Peterson** and **Sweeney**.

ELECTION OF 2023 OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

There being no further nominations from the floor, **Ackerman/Sweeney motion to elect the officers and Executive Committee members as presented by acclamation. All aye. Motion carried.**

WVLS CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND DISCLOSURE FORM (Exhibit 19):

Board member conflict of interest and disclosure forms for 2023 were distributed among members attending in person. Copies will be mailed with a postage paid envelope to members attending virtually with the request that they be updated and returned promptly.

WELCOME NEW TRUSTEES DISCUSSION:

Veteran board members were invited to recall their first meetings as a WVLS Trustee and share advice with the three newly appointed members. Helpful resources such as the Wisconsin DPI [Trustee Essentials Handbook](#) and the [WVLS Glossary of Acronyms & Library/System Related Terms](#) (soon to be updated for 2023) were recommended.

SELECTION OF DATES FOR 2023 BOARD, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND V-CAT

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS (Master calendar [Exhibit 20](#)): The remaining 2023 WVLS Board meetings will be held on March 18, May 20, August 19, September 16, and November 18.

ADJOURNMENT: Grunseth/J. Peterson motion to adjourn. All aye. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at noon.

Respectfully submitted, Kris Adams Wendt, Meeting Recorder