

RAILS
REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM
Universal Service Committee Meeting
March 21, 2019 at 12:30 p.m.
Burr Ridge Service center

Draft Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Ms. Sue Busenbark, Chair of the Universal Services Committee, called the meeting to order at the RAILS Burr Ridge Service Center at 12:32 p.m.

Ms. Schmidt called the roll of the committee members:

Burr Ridge: Susan Busenbark, Dave Barry, Carole Medal, Lynn Stainbrook
Phone: Dee Runnels, Larisa Good

Guests:

Burr Ridge: Deirdre Brennan, Joseph Filapek, Jane Plass, Margae Schmidt
ISL: Greg McCormick, Gwen Harrison

2. Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Barry moved for the adoption of the agenda, Ms. Stainbrook seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4. Review RAILS universal service plan

Ms. Brennan thanked the committee members for their interest in serving the unserved in Illinois. One of the main goals of this committee is to educate stakeholders and figure out a plan of action. Ms. Good stated she has been trying to bridge the gap for unserved in Warren County and the surrounding areas by working with librarians from other nearby counties. Ms. Runnels mentioned the Moline area contains pockets of unserved. Ms. Medal mentioned that Gail Borden Public Library District includes a lot of farm land and new developments that are not part of the district. In 2014, an annexation referendum was proposed to eliminate this problem. An anti-tax group was formed shortly after and the referendum did not pass. The library started quarterly installments to help those who wanted to purchase a nonresident card, but no one has taken advantage of it to date. Ms. Medal stated that many new homeowners do not know their property is not in the library district. It would be beneficial to include that information on a realtor's MLS sheet. Mr. Barry stated the MLS sheet should also include park districts and fire protection.

Ms. Stainbrook stated that Rockford Public Library is a city library and has no interest in becoming a district. There are also pockets of unserved areas surrounding the city of Rockford. The public school district is larger than the city of Rockford, which means there are a large number of unserved children. Ms. Stainbrook mentioned that patrons can still access online services through public libraries if they live too far away to access the physical library. Ms. Good mentioned that they have worked with other county libraries to help serve the unserved. For example, a librarian from Viola Public Library District comes to the Warren County Public Library District periodically to sign up patrons who live in Alexis, Illinois because Alexis is in two counties (Warren and Mercer) . Mr. Barry stated that the committee needs to define the specific problems in rural and urban areas.

5. Discussion of historical documents provided to committee
Ms. Brennan stated that this has been an ongoing issue for the state with very little progress. Approximately one million people are still unserved in Illinois.
6. Discussion of recent conversations with IHLS and ILS
Mr. McCormick mentioned the possibility of an Illinois state library card that would be accepted at all public libraries. Mr. Barry stated that marketing for serving the unserved needs to be better and more focused on the specific issues. The committee also needs to know the size of the unserved areas before developing a plan of action. Ms. Medal discussed how it might be best to focus on the electronic route for library access. Ms. Brennan brought up the idea of a system card for basic services. Ms. Plass mentioned that the subsidies for nonresident library card fees could help families pay for a library card.
7. Brainstorm next steps
 - Identify and define the problems in both rural and urban areas
 - Data collection about unserved areas
 - Better marketing for library services that already exist (ex. Biblioboard)
 - Research other state library systems similar to Illinois
 - Work with realtors to add library information to MLS
 - More bookmobiles
8. Adjourn
The meeting was adjourned at 2:02 p.m.