

## **RAILS CONSORTIA COMMITTEE LLSAP SUSTAINABILITY WORKING GROUP**

Monday, August 30, 2021  
125 Tower Drive  
Burr Ridge, IL 60527

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. Welcome**

Paul Mills RAILS Consortia Committee LLSAP Sustainability Working Group Chair, welcomed everyone at 10:00 a.m. and called the meeting to order. Mills read the following statement:

In accordance with the government emergency administrative Act PA100-0640, the RAILS Board of Directors finds an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent and believes it is in the best interest of RAILS to hold a virtual meeting to perform essential business. This meeting will be recorded as per the statutory requirements.

#### **2. Roll Call of Members**

Rubel called roll of the working group members.  
Burr Ridge: Paul Mills, Scott Pointon, Alex Vancina  
Coal Valley: Carolyn Coulter  
East Peoria: Kendal Orrison, Thomas Stagg  
Telephone/Zoom: Dawn Bussey, Rebecca Malinowski

#### **3. Introductions of Guests; Announcements**

Burr Ridge: Jody Rubel, Anne Slaughter, Karen Voitik  
Telephone/Zoom: Deirdre Brennan, Karen Goyer, Greg McCormick

#### **4. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

#### **5. Adoption of the Agenda**

Vancina moved, and Orrison seconded, that

THE RAILS CONSORTIA LLSAP SUSTAINABILITY WORKING GROUP ADOPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Dawn Bussey, Carolyn Coulter, Rebecca Malinowski, Paul Mills, Kendal Orrison, Scott Pointon, Thomas Stagg, Alex Vancina

#### **6. New Business**

##### **a. Possible meeting schedule and working group timeline**

Mills reminded the working group that it is an extension of the RAILS Board and would need to comply with the Open Meetings Act requirements. RAILS staff would communicate legal meeting locations pending any extensions of the Governor's emergency declaration. A plan recommendation should be finalized by March 2022 to present at the April 2022 Consortia

Committee meeting. The working group agreed upon to meet monthly until the group has a sense of the work’s progress.

Monday, September 20, 2021	10:00 a.m.	
Monday, October 18, 2021	1:00 p.m.	
Monday, November 15, 2021	10:00 a.m.	
Monday, December 20, 2021	10:00 a.m.	
Monday, January 10, 2022	1:00 p.m.	
Monday, February 21, 2022	10:00 a.m.	President's Day (to be rescheduled)
Monday, March 21, 2022	10:00 a.m.	

**b. Review of charge**

It was stated that at the October Consortia Committee meeting an amended charge would be presented to adjust for one additional LLSAP representative. Mills read the charge to aid in the discussion for later in the meeting.

**c. Background Information on LLSAPS and library systems**

McCormick shared historical background on the LLSAP inception, evolution, and purpose from the 1980s and 1990s. Three purposes were 1) assist local library collection management; 2) sharing resources; 3) cost effective electronic application. Initially the Illinois State Library and Secretary of State’s offices provided significant funding to systems to develop the LLSAPs. In the 1990s the system formula was changed where 10% was allocated to funding automation systems. Today it is back to formula-based funding to the systems. The LLSAP definition in the Administrative Rules outlines systems commitment and or in-kind support to member libraries. The funding was always intended to focus on capital and large one-time expenses rather than a reliance on funding for operational expenses. The challenge is to find an equitable balance.

**d. Overview of RAILS LLSAPs and LLSAP support**

**i. Current and historical LLSAP landscape**

Slaughter gave an overview of RAILS LLSAP history and noted key points in the RAILS LLSAP definition. Initially there were ten LLSAPs and only four received system support through an intergovernmental agreement tied to legacy system support. Currently, there are six LLSAPs in the RAILS system. Over the years, the RAILS LLSAP definition changed that eventually opened support to RAILS affiliated LLSAPS through a grant-application process.

**ii. Overview of RAILS support to LLSAPs**

The annual grant program is in its fourth year. The grant program provides a framework for uniform distribution, it is rational, and transparent. Each group applies annually with the FY2023 application due September 15 and award notification at the end of October.

Since 2015, RAILS began offering cataloging grants twice per year paid directly to libraries to join LLSAPs to cover the costs of data migration. Slaughter noted RAILS supported three group mergers in recent years. LLSAPs are surveyed in advance of preparing the next year’s budget

to gain a sense whether there are any potential libraries joining a LLSAP. No grant applications were received for FY2022 so far.

iii. Review of LLSAP-related Administrative Rules

Slaughter reviewed the Illinois Administrative Rules concerning LLSAPs.

<https://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/023/023030300B02150R.html>. During the 2021 Illinois State Library Annual Certification, all library types reported on whether the library participates in a shared bibliographic database to comply with the administrative rules. Slaughter then invited comments. Brennan explained it was important to understand the LLSAP history and the evolution to plan for the future. History documents a long standing concerns with sustainability, system contributions, membership fees, and repayment to systems. RAILS understands joining a LLSAP is not for every library, and is cognizant of balancing needs of non-participating libraries. Mills emphasized now is the time to develop a LLSAP self-sustaining plan so that the work of consortia continues regardless of RAILS's financial situation. Mills reiterated Brennan's opinion of the importance of supporting member libraries not in a-LLSAP. Brennan posed the question, "what if RAILS was not around?" and pointed out the potential impact to consortia and patrons. Mills shared how the LLSAP grant award allowed Pinnacle to explore and implement special projects while other groups are dependent on the grant for operations. The discussion led to thoughts on reduction in membership, membership tiers, benefits and barriers of a statewide ILS, patrons seeking reciprocal services at other libraries. Some specific points to keep in mind during the future discussion include needs of libraries that fall off LLSAP membership, school library needs, and the circumstances of under-funded libraries.

e. **Brainstorm of possible support ideas**

Possible support ideas discussed included big-picture shifts in the consortium and library landscape, statewide ILS, service levels, centralized services, alternate funding sources and revenue streams, library taxation structure, LLSAP membership expectations, resource sharing benefits, and LLSAP collaboration. At the September meeting, ideas would be discussed further and prioritized.

f. **Next steps**

Slaughter tasked with defining themes, organizing ideas, and research. The group asked RAILS Staff to invite an IHLS SHARE representative to a future meeting to give an overview of the consortium's model.

**7. Adjournment**

At 11:55 a.m., Mills thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting.