

VIRTUAL MEETING
RAILS CONSORTIA LLSAP SUSTAINABILITY WORKING GROUP

Monday, January 10, 2022
125 Tower Drive
Burr Ridge, IL 60527

Minutes

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Paul Mills RAILS Consortia Committee LLSAP Sustainability Working Group Chair welcomed everyone at 1:02 p.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

RAILS Administrative Assistant Jody Rubel called roll.

Telephone/Zoom: Dawn Bussey, Carolyn Coulter, Rebecca Malinowski Paul Mills, Kendal Orrison, Scott Pointon, Jennifer Slaney, Thomas Stagg, Alex Vancina

3. Introductions of Guests; Announcements

Burr Ridge: Deirdre Brennan, *ex-officio*

Telephone/Zoom: Leslie Bednar, Grant Halter, Stacy Palmisano, Jody Rubel, Anne Slaughter, *ex-officio*; Cassandra Thompson

4. Public Comment

No public comments.

5. Consent Agenda

Slaney moved, and Vancina seconded that,

THE RAILS BOARD CONSORTIA LLSAP SUSTAINABILITY WORKING GROUP APPROVE THE JANUARY 10, 2022, CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

Roll call vote:

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

The motion carried.

6. New Business

6.1. Criteria for libraries joining LLSAPs

Brennan summarized previous working group meeting discussion and recapped the Consortia Committee conversation. Consensus was there needs to be a balance between encouraging

libraries to join a LLSAP yet not have unintended effects detrimental to the LLSAP's sustainability, place a burden on existing LLSAP members, and impact long-term library affordability. From Slaughter's perspective addressing sustainability could be best approached in facets. In the short-term strengthening the language in the grant application. Mid-term, finding the right balance. Longer-term goal understanding how specific forms of LLSAP support interact and contribute to the big picture of LLSAPs value. Slaughter shared some common responses in the grant application's sustainability plan section for a better understanding of what type of information is submitted. RAILS staff are interested in identifying common characteristics where LLSAP membership is not best suited and will continue to work on this issue.

Brennan shared her thoughts on what needs to occur to address sustainability and feasibility. First an alternate solution for libraries that cannot afford to join a LLSAP or for whom long-term sustainability of membership is not possible. Find More Illinois is a viable option with its capability to share bibliographic records. RAILS' staff are investigating the sharing of bibliographic records. One barrier to Find More Illinois is that there is no patron circulation management system for nonautomated libraries, and RAILS staff will research and present options. Brennan then invited opinions on whether LLSAP budgets and membership fees are adequate to employ staff, expand services, and can continue in the future without too much worry. Responses ranged from it was a fair assumption that budgets and membership fees are adequate, to not possible without assistance from regional library systems due to historical ties. Mills emphasized the importance of planning for LLSAP sustainability and having an alternate solution for libraries not best served by joining a LLSAP due to a long history of uncertain state funding. As a next step it was agreed that publishing a Request for Information (RFI) to explore the possibility of a statewide consortium would help provide information for decision making. The scope of the RFI would provide insight on ILS cost and savings for one shared catalog or possible smaller LLSAP mergers. The working group would likely be tasked to help with the RFI process and review responses, and RAILS staff will begin the effort by identifying a consultant to work with.

7. Unfinished Business

7.1. Funding data for LLSAP member libraries

Brennan stressed that is important to understand the diversity in LLSAP and library funding. The data Halter compiled demonstrated many libraries are underfunded based on the population served. Funding data link: https://datastudio.google.com/reporting/80246fbf-f41b-41e2-aead-88bb5a82e3ab/page/p_Orutoi16oc There were no further questions on LLSAP operational costs or services offered. This data will be a useful tool as the working group's efforts continue.

7.2. Delivery statistics

Brennan clarified that delivery statistics currently collected are minimal because of the manual process and does not capture data on how items move from one library to the next without returning to the owning library. An automatic material handling system would be able to provide more in-depth statistics but is a huge capital investment. Mills encouraged RAILS to consider it for the future. The working group does not require additional delivery-related data at this time.

7.3. Working group priorities

The working group priorities document will be updated continuously to reflect the Request for Information and what the working group has agreed is important in fulfilling the charge. It was

suggested to add a patron circulation management system and cataloging options to the Find More Illinois priority list.

8. Meeting recap and working group meeting schedule and frequency

Mills recapped priorities and timeframe for completing in the coming months.

- Develop criteria for LLSAP membership
- Request for Information, including discussions and collaborations between multiple consortia and the concept of LLSAP mergers
- Investigate Find More Illinois and secondary catalog options

It was agreed to cancel the February meeting and next meet on March 21, 2022.

9. Adjournment

At 2:23 p.m., Mills adjourned the meeting.