

**VIRTUAL MEETING  
RAILS CONSORTIA COMMITTEE**

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 10:01 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 Committee Members**

RAILS Administrative Assistant Jody Rubel called roll.

Telephone/Zoom: Dawn Bussey, Carolyn Coulter, Emily Faulkner (joined 10:24 a.m.), Kate Hall, Kristine Hammerstrand, Paul Mills, Kendal Orrison, Scott Pointon, Jennifer Slaney, Alex Vancina, Karen Voitik

Absent: Rebecca Malinowski

**3. Introductions of Guests; Announcements**

Burr Ridge: Deirdre Brennan

Telephone/Zoom: Leslie Bednar, Tracy Ducksworth, Karen Goyer, Matt Hammermeister, Monica Harris, Gwen Harrison, Leila Heath, Jody Rubel, Aaron Skog, Anne Slaughter, Thomas Stagg, Cassandra Thompson

**4. Public Comment**

No public comments.

**5. Consent Agenda**

Pointon moved, and Hall seconded that,

THE RAILS BOARD CONSORTIA COMMITTEE APPROVE THE JANUARY 10, 2022, CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Dawn Bussey, Carolyn Coulter, Kate Hall, Kristine Hammerstrand, Paul Mills, Kendal Orrison, Scott Pointon, Jennifer Slaney, Alex Vancina, Karen Voitik

The motion carried.

**6. Reports**

**6.1. Consortia Committee Chair**

No report.

**6.2. LLSAP Sustainability Working Group**

Mills recapped the October and November working group meeting discussions. At the October meeting, changes in the FY2023 LLSAP Support Grant were announced. Staff from Auto-Graphics presented on SHAREit's MARCIt cataloging utility that could connect to out of state resources for cataloging records.

In November, Grant Halter, RAILS Data Analysis Manager presented a report of a great deal of data on LLSAP public member libraries statewide. The analysis compared public library operating expenditures per capita, LLSAP fees per capita, and LLSAP fees and operating expenditures per LLSAP. The data also compared LLSAP service population, operating expenditures, LLSAP fees in contrast to the other LLSAPs. The data also revealed details about library budgets and percentage of funding allocated for LLSAP membership fees. The data also revealed that different consortia include significantly different services and products in their billing formulas. This can mean that any cost comparisons across consortia require a deep dive into what is being provided and charged for. The LLSAPs shared operational costs and services offered.

The group agreed to extend the timeline and meet through December 2022 as the work is complex and necessitates a clear and shared understanding to develop a plan.

**6.3. Consortium reports**

No verbal reports.

**6.4. RAILS report**

No verbal report.

**7. New Business**

**7.1. Criteria for libraries joining LLSAPs**

Brennan opened the topic by explaining that it originated from working group discussion about sustainability and feasibility. There was consensus that 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. Slaughter invited ideas on ways to support LLSAP managers in the new LLSAP member evaluation process as a part of the Catalog Membership Grant application and review process. It was suggested to add clarifying language to the grant application.

**7.2. The state of discovery platforms**

Skog shared SWAN's project to implement Aspen Discovery, promoted it as a good option for consortia, suggested that all LLSAPs consider it in their own investigations of discovery layers, and encouraged LLSAPs to implement it as one way to have a common discovery interface across consortia. Other LLSAPs reported they are at various phases in researching or testing new discovery platforms, with several consortia looking at the upcoming Vega product for their Innovative Interfaces platforms.

**8. Unfinished Business**

**8.1. Update on ICOLC OCLC Task Force and next steps**

Brennan shared the task force has expanded their charge and now referred to as the Strategies for Open Collaboration in Library Consortia Task Force. Skog has joined the task force.

**8.2. Consortia Committee representation**

Slaughter reminded the committee that the topic arose from discussion at the October meeting and was put on this meeting's agenda to formally discuss any concerns. Members had an opportunity to review the committee charge for any needed modifications and agreed that there are none needed at this time.

**8.3. Consortia and COVID-19**

It was reported some libraries have returned to curbside services, temporarily closed, or scaled back services. Brennan updated the committee on delivery services and how RAILS was affected by the surge in cases. Members asked for RAILS to promote libraries updating the COVID-19 Pulse Page about current services offered and hours open changes. Committee members shared the different ways they are connecting with library directors and library staff online.

**9. Meeting Recap and Agenda Building**

Mills summarized the meeting discussion and noted the committee would next meet on April 18, 2022. At the April meeting, Mills will report on the working group progress.

**10. Adjournment**

At 11:51 a.m., Mills adjourned the meeting by acclamation.