

VIRTUAL MEETING
RAILS CONSORTIA LLSAP SUSTAINABILITY WORKING GROUP
Monday, March 21, 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 10:00 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

RAILS Administrative Assistant Jody Rubel called roll.

Burr Ridge: Paul Mills, Scott Pointon, Alex Vancina

East Peoria: Kendal Orrison, Thomas Stagg

Telephone/Zoom: Dawn Bussey, Carolyn Coulter, Rebecca Malinowski, Jennifer Slaney

3. Introductions of Guests; Announcements

Burr Ridge: Monica Harris, Jody Rubel, Anne Slaughter

Telephone/Zoom: Leslie Bednar, Chris Brown, Grant Halter, Kris Hammerstrand, Monica Harris, Katherine Henc, Greg McCormick, Ellen Popit

4. Public Comment

No public comments.

5. Consent Agenda

Pointon moved, and Malinowski seconded that,

THE RAILS BOARD CONSORTIA LLSAP SUSTAINABILITY WORKING GROUP APPROVE THE MARCH 21, 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. Statewide ILS discussions

Slaughter reported that IHLS representatives Leslie Bednar and Cassie Thompson convened a series of discussions on what a statewide ILS solution might look like. The discussion dovetailed with the RAILS' task of exploring solutions and in selecting a consultant. One of the components

of the investigation would be a survey focused on the big picture to tease out wants, needs, fears, roadblocks, what is working and not working.

6.2. Consulting for investigation of systemwide automation solutions

Three proposals were received in response to a Request for Information. RAILS will assess proposals and select a consultant. Working group shared thoughts on key aspects of the proposals. There is no set timeframe for selecting a consultant and staff will have more to share at the next working group meeting.

7. Unfinished Business

7.1. Criteria and considerations for LLSAP membership

Slaughter opened the discussion on LLSAP affordability and ways for RAILS to best support library assessment of automation options. Slaughter noted key objectives, plans for a guide to RAILS-supported automation options with components including useful data points to evaluate and elements of automation to consider, and revised criteria for the Catalog Membership Grant. Feedback was solicited on draft thoughts outlined in the accompanying memo.

The discussion transitioned to the challenge of identifying useful data points for libraries to use in assessing the affordability of LLSAP membership, yet take into account personal considerations not captured through data collection. Halter reviewed data sets previously presented and proposed the creation of a data collection instrument tentatively named RAILCAR that would capture consortium information not collected through other reports, in order to tell a bigger story and indicate metrics that would help illuminate LLSAP costs, affordability, and value to libraries. This may include information like staffing composition, ticket volume, training, cataloging, and database management. The idea was well-received and the group offered helpful suggestions.

7.2. Find More Illinois update

Slaughter noted that one more library has joined Find More Illinois, with additional quotes pending, since the memo was drafted. The first round of promotions focused on standalone libraries. Broader promotion will occur in the coming months. Search functionality and user experience will improve significantly with the in-progress transition to a union catalog from Z39.50 connections to the ILS for collection information. . A free and optional enhanced borrowing service is now being offered to fill unfilled holds through the RAILS OCLC account. RAILS is in early talks with Auto-Graphics about an ILS scaled for small libraries that need a solution or to upgrade an existing system that is insufficient. Discounted Verso pricing is currently available that was negotiated in the Find More Illinois contract.

7.3. Working group priorities review

Slaughter summarized the evolving document is now organized into two subject areas to demonstrate how the work is progressing. Big picture items that are relevant but beyond the scope of the working group have been captured to be included in eventual recommendations to the RAILS Board Consortia Committee.

8. Next steps and recap action items

Action items:

- RAILS select a consultant from the three proposals received.
- Begin developing RAILCAR

9. Schedule upcoming meetings

It was agreed to meet Monday, May 16, 2022 and determine future meetings dates in May.

10. Adjournment

At 11:15 a.m. Mills adjourned the meeting.