

**Virtual Meeting**  
**RAILS Board Universal Service Committee Meeting**

March 7, 2023 | 1:00 pm

**MINUTES**

1. Welcome and Call to Order  
Alice Creason, Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.
2. Roll Call of Committee Members  
Palmisano called roll of the RAILS Universal Service Committee members. Present: Alice Creason, Jennifer McIntosh, Carol Medal, Becky Spratford, Catherine Yanikoski. Absent: Lynn Stainbrook, Beth Tepen
3. Recognition of Guests and Announcements  
Creason read the following: In accordance with the Governor's Emergency Proclamation, 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.  
  
Guests in Burr Ridge: Monica Harris, Stacy Palmisano (designated minute taker)  
Guests via Zoom: Gwen Harrison, Joe Filapek  
  
Creason announced that Monica Harris was appointed as the RAILS Executive Director and congratulated her for the promotion. The second announcement was that the Governor's disaster declaration is not being extended beyond May 11, 2023, which means that going forward all RAILS' Committee meetings will be in-person meetings. Each committee member will have to attend the meetings from either the RAILS Burr Ridge or East Peoria location or at a public building to be counted toward the quorum.
4. Public Comments  
There were no public comments.
5. Consent Agenda  
5.1. Adoption of the Agenda  
5.2. Approval of the RAILS Board Universal Service Committee Minutes of December 8, 2022  
Spratford moved for the approval of the consent agenda. Yanikoski seconded and the motion was unanimously approved on a roll call vote. Ayes: Alice Creason, Jennifer McIntosh, Carol Medal, Becky Spratford, Catherine Yanikoski. Nays: none
6. Illinois State Library Advisory Committee (ISLAC) Update  
ISLAC met on January 26, 2023. The meeting focused on school libraries which included a presentation from RAILS on the school data project. Janette Derucki, RAILS Data Research Specialist is working with many statewide agencies to gather the data on what is the reality of school libraries in Illinois. Noted at the meeting was that not all school libraries are part of the Association of Illinois School Library Educators, (AISLE) which means they are not getting support and information. The next ISLAC meeting will be on March 23, 2023.

7. New Business

7.1. Secretary of State Transition Report Library Enhancements Committee Findings

Harris talked about the library Enhancements Committee findings from the Secretary of State Transition Report. Within the report there were two challenges/opportunities specific to this committee's work. The first is the "*opportunity to improve equity of access to libraries and library resources*" and the second is the "*desire to provide a statewide resource package (e.g., databases and online educational resources)*". The report stated that collaboration with partner organizations, such as RAILS, as a strategy to understand the demographic characteristics of unserved areas. The committee discussion included the need for the statewide library resources budget to include an annual increase due to inflation to remain sustainable. Training and marketing materials will be important for library staff to learn the program. Medal brought up the topic of offering a suite of e-books would have an impact on the unserved in Illinois due to the public being able to access outside of a library. Yanikoski warned of the possibilities of offering a suite of e-books to schools that library personnel will be eliminated. The Library Enhancement Committee addresses the topic of e-books within the report multiple times.

Harris reported that member libraries commented about the importance of supporting underfunded libraries at the February 28 RAILS Member Update. The question about adding the topic of underfunded libraries to this committee's charge was discussed. Several members agreed that this topic is a natural progression of this committee's work.

8. Unfinished Business

8.1. Multiple Listing Services Update

Harris reported that there is no update on the multiple listing services proposal at this time, but will keep this topic on the agenda for future meetings.

8.2. Statewide Online Educational Resource Program Update

This topic was discussed by the committee in agenda item number 7.1. In addition, Harris reported that the Statewide Online Educational Resources Program is the Illinois Library Association's (ILA) number one legislative priority. The details on this program will come from the Secretary of State's office and will be shared with the committee at the June meeting, if any information is released.

8.3. Cards for Kids Act and Expansion Update

Harris discussed that from the robust conversation at the committee's last meeting on the topic of the Cards for Kids Act and the expansion of the act, an FAQ and talking points document was created by RAILS staff. At the one-year mark of the expansion (Public Act 102-8043 was adopted on 5/13/2022), RAILS plans to revisit this with the RAILS membership regarding how a library board needs to annually adopt the expansion. Filapek reported that questions he has received from libraries regarding the expansion have focused on adding a policy or a statement to a current policy. A suggestion was made to add this as a discussion topic to the ILA Trustee Forum.

9. Meeting recap and agenda building for the next RAILS Board Universal Service Committee Meeting on June 8, 2023

The topic of the statewide databases and online educational resources will be included on the next meeting's agenda, as well as the topic of broadband access.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:54 pm

Final vote or action may be taken at the meeting on any agenda item subject matter listed above unless the agenda item specifically states otherwise.