
Minutes

RAILS Board Consortia Committee Meeting

Monday, February 26, 2024 | 10:00 am

RAILS Burr Ridge and Videoconference Sites

125 Tower Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527 | 630.734.5000

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Stagg called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

2. Roll Call of Members

Murray called roll.

Present at Burr Ridge: Matt Hammermeister, Martin Kong, Rene Leyva (arrived at 10:01am),
Rebecca Malinowski, Aaron Skog

Present at Coal Valley: Carolyn Coulter

Present at East Peoria: Kendal Orrison, Tom Stagg

Absent: Jennifer Slaney

A quorum was present.

3. Recognition of Guests and Announcements

Guests at Burr Ridge: Monica Harris, Mary Kate Murray (designated note-taker), Kate Niehoff, Anne Slaughter

Guests at East Peoria: Alissa Williams

Guests on Zoom: Eric Bain, Emily Faulkner, Joe Filapek, Kate Hall, Grant Halter, Mark Hatch, Leila Heath, Barb Miller, Stacy Palmisano

4. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

5. Adoption of the Consent Agenda – Tom Stagg (action requested)

5.1. Adoption of the Agenda

5.2. Approval of the RAILS Board Consortia Committee Minutes of October 16, 2023

Orrison moved, and Malinowski seconded the adoption of the consent agenda as presented.
The motion was unanimously approved.

Ayes: Coulter, Hammermeister, Kong, Leyva, Malinowski, Orrison, Skog, Stagg

Nays: None

6. Reports

6.1. Chair Report

The committee chair had nothing to report.

6.2. Consortial Reports

Malinowski reported that CCS is expecting to hire a Member Services Associate to start on March 4, 2024. CCS is still recruiting for a Member Experience Specialist. Staggs noted that he has received several positive comments about the new library card value calculations on CCS receipts.

6.3. RAILS Report

Slaughter reported that the RAILS Burr Ridge office reopened after a major re-cabling project in February. Slaughter also reminded members to be safe and communicative in the event of inclement weather on meeting days. Harris advised the committee to let RAILS staff know as soon as possible of expected absence at committee meetings so the rest of the committee can be alerted of a change or cancellation due to lack of quorum.

6.4. RAILS Report to Resource Sharing Committee

Filapek announced the hiring of Kate Niehoff, the new Director of Consulting and Continuing Education, who started on January 8, 2024. Filapek highlighted that RAILS acquired seven new transit vans that have replaced vehicles at the Rockford, Bolingbrook, East Peoria, and Coal Valley service centers. At the February meeting, the RAILS Board Resource Sharing Committee began an initial review of the RAILS Resource Sharing Plan, which was last updated in 2018.

7. New Business

7.1. Presentation of RAILCAR Preliminary Data Analysis

Halter shared progress on the RAILCAR project, and how data about public libraries, submitted from various sources including IPLAR and zILLANE, is translating to Tableau. Halter provided examples of what kind of data sets can be visualized with specific emphasis on data aggregated by LLSAP. Halter shared two prospective dashboards: a library comparison dashboard and an LLSAP comparison dashboard. Hall suggested adding resource sharing expenditures to the current collection expenditures provided through the IPLAR data. Malinowski asked that library staff FTE be added to the ILS Expenditures tab in the LLSAP comparison dashboard. Halter hopes to clean up the dashboards and make an early-access version available to the Consortia Committee before releasing it to member libraries. Plans for the RAILS data team include integrating data from school, academic, and specialized libraries into the RAILCAR Tableau dashboards and updating the Resource Sharing Map to include more expansive information.

7.2. Update on Statewide Database Access

The Illinois State Library recently released the Request for Proposal for the statewide e-resources project. The bid date has been extended to March 25, 2024, at 2:00pm. The Secretary of State is proposing a 3-year contract with a 7-year renewal, requiring a 10-year commitment within the first contract. All libraries are eligible for online education resources, which are expected to include topics such as general interest, Pre-K to 12th grade educational resources, academic resources, and reference e-books. Training materials will be created and dispersed to the library community. This initiative will allow all state residents to obtain an

electronic resources library card, including the unserved. Guidelines for non-resident cards may be based on administrative rules filed in 2021 regarding access to e-resources to non-residents during pandemic closures. ISL is hoping to make this package available within the current fiscal year. No changes have been made to any RAILS vendor deals and discounts, and member libraries are encouraged to continue with the normal budgeting process until the package is solidly in place. RAILS is compiling information on this process in a [Pulse Page on the RAILS website](#).

7.3. Update on broadband expansion in Illinois

Slaughter explained the two programs administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) that are part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program (BEAD) has allocated just over \$1 billion to Illinois to build out broadband networks to the unserved and underserved. The Digital Equity Act has \$1.4 billion that will be allocated out to the 50 states; the announcement of those allocations is forthcoming. An additional \$1.2 billion in competitive grants will be going directly to qualifying grant projects. Both the BEAD mapping challenge for accurately identifying the unserved and underserved and plans for how Illinois will respond to technology and affordability requirements can be found on the [Illinois Office of Broadband website](#). Consortia in Illinois help promote digital equity by making software accessible to more libraries, interacting one-on-one with libraries with inadequate connectivity, and providing a multi-agency perspective on what libraries are dealing with day-to-day. Slaughter, Troy Brown of Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS), and Anne Craig of the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI) are working together with the support of ISL and the Illinois Library Association (ILA) to help raise awareness among libraries and to engage in the planning process as much as possible. Open letters and information about this collaboration can be found at [broadbandforlibraries.com](#). Slaughter encourages looking at the RAILS website, signing up for the Illinois Office of Broadband newsletter, and exploring the Illinois Broadband Lab and Census.gov; comments and questions from Consortia or member libraries are always welcome.

8. Unfinished Business

8.1. Discussion of efficiencies in delivery count

Hatch hopes to eliminate the quarterly delivery count that libraries are required to complete by hand. After each count period, RAILS audits 25% of all the data submitted by libraries, equating to each member library being audited once a year. Hatch inquired about the possibility of creating system in which libraries can report transit information directly from their ILS, which can then be imported for analysis by RAILS. Malinowski stated that any automated library should be able to use ILS data to help track a delivery count, but that how that data is tracked will vary by software. Skog noted that a previous data capture project resulted in some inaccuracies attributed to everyday work at individual libraries, and that items marked “in transit” within an ILS don’t necessarily equal everything going into RAILS’ delivery. Orrison mentioned that, ideally, consortia could try to standardize how to calculate the percentage of items in delivery that are not tracked by ILS software. Hatch noted that the timing of the delivery can sometimes skew the delivery counts. Malinowski said that CCS would look at their logs and send Hatch a report of what they find. A working group for efficiencies in delivery count may be developed.

9. Meeting Recap and Agenda Building

The next RAILS Board Consortia Committee Meeting will be held on Monday, April 15 at 10:00 am. Agenda items should include Information about RAILCAR's progress, updates on the statewide database project and broadband in Illinois, and the development of a working group on efficiencies in the delivery count.

10. Adjournment – Tom Stagg

Stagg adjourned the meeting at 11:32am.