

RAILS Board Universal Service Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 7, 2024 | 1:00 pm

MINUTES

1. **Welcome and Call to Order**
Alice Creason, chair, called the meeting to order at 1:13 pm.
2. **Roll Call of Committee Members**
Krempl called roll of the RAILS Universal Service Committee members.
Present:
Alice Creason – Lewis University
Angela Campbell – RAILS Coal Valley
Su Reynders – RAILS Burr Ridge
Michelle Roubal – RAILS Burr Ridge
Brooke Sievers - RAILS Burr Ridge
Lynn Stainbrook – Cherry Valley Public Library
Catherine Yanikoski – ESI
Alissa Williams – RAILS East Peoria
Absent: None
3. **Recognition of Guests and Announcements**
Burr Ridge: Monica Harris, Renya Krempl (the designated note taker)
On Zoom: None
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 September 7, 2023
Sievers moved for the approval of the consent agenda. Roubal seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.
6. **Illinois State Library Advisory Committee (ISLAC) Update**
Harris presented an update from an ISLAC meeting on January 25th on the broadband process and the group had a presentation on correctional facility libraries in light of the grant awarded by the Secretary of State's office for these types of libraries. There's limited consensus on how to meet the extensive needs of this population. A budget update confirmed that the library-related items in the Secretary of State budget were going to remain. There was also a discussion of the License to Read Act. The Secretary of State's office, RAILS, CARLI, and the Illinois Hartland Library System (IHLS) met previously to discuss how to implement the provisions of the Act. Open Educational Resources (OERs) were also discussed. That funding could be allocated by June 30th. ISLAC also discussed the possibility of forming a subcommittee to work on the issue of

unserved and universal service. The Digital Access Repository Program, funded by the State Library, was also discussed. The State Library is working on digitalizing over 500,000 items in its current collection. It is also in discussions with the Secretary of State's office regarding the modernization of the Local Records Act.

7. Unfinished Business

7.1. Broadband project update

Harris also gave an update on the broadband project. She mentioned the open letter regarding the digital equity challenge process signed by RAILS, Heartland, and CARLI. RAILS continues to monitor the situation and is in contact with other groups who are also engaged.

7.2 Statewide databases update

Harris reported that the statewide database process is going forward. The Illinois Secretary of State has published an RFP with a current due date of March 25th. The subjects they are looking for are pre-K through grade 12 educational resources, undergraduate academic resources, health, business, and reference resources, as well as test prep and workforce skills building. The original term is for 3 years with a 7-year option to renew. The RFPs should be evaluated in April, and the program should be launched this fiscal year, by the end of June 2024.

8. New Business

8.1 Review of the 2019 Revised Unserved Plan

Harris briefly discussed the Unserved Plan, revised in 2019, and pointed out that many items from it became the basis of the RAILS Universal Service Plan of 2020. She proposed that the Committee select specific actions they would want to concentrate on working. The first step will be clarifying what items from the 2019 plan have already been accomplished. Next, the committee would identify priorities and assign target dates to items that have not yet been completed. The committee members also discussed options for teaming up with the Secretary of State office to educate the public about the statewide database use.

8.2 Review the RAILS Universal Service Plan (last updated February 2020)

In response to a question about the Unserved, Harris presented maps developed by the Illinois State Library of the unserved areas linked on the RAILS website. RAILS is working on producing a new version of the RAILS area resource-sharing map with more functionalities incorporating more data layers. She also reviewed the status of the goals stated in the plan.

9. Meeting recap and agenda building for the next RAILS Board Universal Service Committee Meeting on June 6, 2024

The Committee will hear the ISLAC updates and the Statewide database updates. RAILS will provide an update on both plan documents a couple of weeks before the June meeting to give members time to review them. The Committee will work on identifying goals to focus on going forward. The Committee Members will submit their suggestions in advance of the next meeting.

The group will also discuss the new IGA between the Des Plaines Library and the Village of Rosemont.

10. Adjournment

Creason adjourned the meeting at 2:24 p.m.