
Minutes

RAILS Board Consortia Committee Meeting

Monday, April 15, 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 10:02am.
2. Roll Call of Members
Present at Burr Ridge: Emily Faulkner, Matt Hammermeister, Martin Kong, Aaron Skog (arrived at 10:11am)
Present at East Peoria: Kendal Orrison, Tom Stagg
Present at Sterling Public Library: Jennifer Slaney
Absent: Rene Leyva

A quorum was present.
3. Recognition of Guests and Announcements
Guests at Burr Ridge: Monica Harris, Mary Kate Murray (Designated Note-Taker), Anne Slaughter, Alex Vancina
Guests at Coal Valley: Carolyn Coulter
Guests on Zoom: Eric Bain, Scott Brandwein, Janette Derucki Joe Filapek, Kate Hall, Grant Halter, Mark Hatch, Rebecca Malinowski, Barb Miller, Stacy Palmisano
4. Public Comments
There were no public comments.
5. Adoption of the Consent Agenda
 - 5.1. Adoption of the Agenda
 - 5.2. Approval of the RAILS Board Consortia Committee Minutes of February 26, 2024
Hammermeister moved and Slaney seconded the adoption of the agenda and the approval of the minutes as presented. The motion was approved through a unanimous vote.
Ayes: Faulkner, Hammermeister, Kong, Orrison, Slaney, Stagg
Nays: None
6. Reports
 - 6.1. Chair Report
 - 6.2. Consortial Reports
Malinowski commended Orrison on the work RSA has completed in making all their governance documents available on the RSA website. Orrison gave a short update on challenges RSA has faced with fee increases.

6.3. RAILS Report

Hall expressed appreciation for the [Creating Your L2 Account video](#) made by the RAILS communications department. Northbrook Public Library will be using the video in their onboarding process. Stagg noted that the video will be very helpful for trustees.

7. New Business

7.1. Discussion of using GIS data and maps with ILS data

Malinowski briefly discussed the increasing interest among consortia and library governance in maps and spatial data. She proposed an informal collaboration among consortia and RAILS to gather usage data via different mapping platforms.

8. Unfinished Business

8.1. Update on Statewide Database Access

Harris reported that the RFP for the statewide database program was published in February, requesting resources in a range of general-interest categories with a three-year term and seven one-year renewals. All bids should have been received by March 29 with the review process expected to start in April. Members are encouraged to move forward with budgeting and database renewals as-is until the statewide online educational resources package is firmly in place. The Illinois State Library is seeking a policy change that would allow individuals who are unserved by a public library to receive an e-resources card through the Illinois State Library.

8.2. Update on Broadband Expansion in Illinois – Anne Slaughter

Slaughter reported that the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) recently released the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Digital Equity Act grants, open to all fifty states. The applications are due in late May, with announcements expected in August. Illinois is expected to subgrant any received funds to eligible entities, including municipalities, counties, collaboratives, libraries, and library systems, for implementing the [Digital Equity Plan](#).

RAILS has partnered with Western Illinois University through the Broadband Ready program. The 2024 recipients of the Western Illinois Digital Access Mini Grants and Chromebook Lending Grants have been announced, with eight RAILS libraries receiving \$650 each for projects addressing digital access. Six additional libraries received up to four LTE-enabled Chromebooks. The Western Illinois Digital Access Conference, organized by Dan Bostrom, on April 12 showed great support for rural libraries, highlighting their internet access challenges.

Slaughter mentioned an upcoming meeting between RAILS and Lake County to discuss their county-wide digital equity plan, along with an ongoing collaboration with Cook County. Both counties expressed interest in working with libraries for digital inclusion and equity. A [Broadband Pulse Page](#) has been created on the RAILS website for aggregating information on broadband and libraries. Slaughter shared that she will be speaking on broadband funding and expansion in Illinois on a breakout panel at the Illinois Connected Summit on May 9, during a presentation at Reaching Forward North on May 10, and on a panel at ALA in June.

Harris reported on the ISLAC meeting, presenting [an interactive map on Library Internet Cost and Speed in Illinois](#) based on self-reported data from the Illinois Public Library Internet Survey. Harris also shared the [BEAD Map Challenge Process](#) and the [Five Year Plan for Connect Illinois](#).

8.3. RAILCAR Update

Halter shared that the RAILCAR Public Libraries and LLSAPs dashboards are available on the [RAILS Data in Libraries page](#).

Discussion of Delivery Data

Hatch thanked Malinowski and Hammermeister for providing and analyzing delivery data for CCS and Pinnacle. RAILS is developing a survey to submit to a small group of libraries to help determine the volume of materials not tracked by an ILS that are placed into the bins for delivery. RAILS Delivery Service Managers and staff worked to identify 15 libraries representing all LLSAPs and a variety of geographical scenarios. The survey will also help RAILS better understand the terminology libraries use to describe untracked materials and the ways in which those materials are tracked locally.

9. Meeting Recap and Agenda Building

The next RAILS Board Consortia Committee Meeting will be held on July 15, 2024, at 10:00am with agenda items addressing RAILCAR progress and the results of the Delivery survey. Murray will reach out to committee members to determine committee membership and roles for the next fiscal year.

Stagg announced with his RAILS board term coming to an end in June, this is his last Consortia Committee meeting. He thanked the committee for the learning experience it has provided and announced that he has begun pursuing his master's degree in library science. Slaughter and Harris thanked Stagg for his many years of service on the RAILS Board Consortia Committee.

10. Adjournment

Stagg adjourned the meeting at 10:59am.