

## **RAILS Board Consortia Committee Meeting**

### Minutes

Monday, July 15, 2024, at 10:00 am

RAILS Burr Ridge and Videoconference Sites

125 Tower Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527 | Phone: 630.734.5000

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Vancina called the RAILS Board Consortia Committee Meeting to order at 10:00 am.

2. Roll Call of Members

Murray called roll.

Present in Burr Ridge: Elizabeth Clarage (CARLI), Kate Hall (CCS), Matt Hammermeister (Pinnacle), Aaron Skog (SWAN), Alex Vancina (RAILS)

Present in Coal Valley: Carolyn Coulter (PrairieCat)

Present in East Peoria: Kendal Orrison (RSA)

Present via Zoom: Rebecca Malinowski (CCS, arrived at 10:02 am), Jennie Mills (Pinnacle), Emily Faulkner (PrairieCat, arrived at 10:02 am)

Absent: Martin Kong (CARLI), Rene Leyva (RAILS), Jennifer Slaney (RRLC)

A quorum was present.

3. Recognition of Guests and Announcements

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

Guests in Coal Valley: None

Guests in East Peoria: Antony Deter

Guests via Zoom: Eric Bain, Janette Derucki, Joe Filapek, Grant Halter, Ryan Hebel, 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 April 15, 2024

Orrison moved and Faulkner seconded the approval of the consent agenda and RAILS Board Consortia Committee Minutes for April 15, 2024, as presented. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Ayes: Clarage, Coulter, Hall, Hammermeister, Orrison, Skog, Vancina

Nays: None

6. Reports

- 6.1. Chair Report  
No report available.
- 6.2. Consortial Reports  
No questions or comments.
- 6.3. RAILS Report  
No questions or comments.
- 6.4. Resource Sharing Committee Report  
Filapek reported that at the last RAILS Board Resource Sharing Committee Meeting, held on May 6, 2024, the RAILS Resource Sharing Plan was approved by the committee. The Resource Sharing Plan then went to the RAILS Policy Committee on May 17, and was approved by the RAILS Board on June 28, to be sent to the Illinois State Library for final review and approval. Changes made to the Resource Sharing Plan include updating links, adding language around the Cards for Kids Act (Public Act 102-0843), and adding a section stating that the RAILS Resource Sharing plan should be reviewed every three years.
7. New Business
  - 7.1. FY2025 RAILS Board Consortia Committee Schedule  
Skog moved and Faulkner seconded the approval of the FY2025 RAILS Board Consortia Committee Schedule as presented. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.  
Ayes: Clarage, Coulter, Hall, Hammermeister, Orrison, Skog, Vancina  
Nays: None
8. Unfinished Business
  - 8.1. Update on Statewide Database Access  
Harris reported that the Illinois State Library has been in contact with libraries regarding the eResource Package, and the contract with EBSCO has been finalized. The package will be available to all Illinois residents, including those currently unserved by a library. ISL has asked libraries to refrain from marketing the package to the public until the program is publicly launched on their end. ISL Library Program Specialist, Suzanna Jones ([sjones@ilsos.gov](mailto:sjones@ilsos.gov)), is available to contact with any questions or concerns regarding the program. Skog noted that EBSCO reached out to SWAN; EBSCO worked with SWAN on honoring their current database package through RAILS and offering further discounts. Faulkner and Hall both communicated their enthusiasm for the program and their gratitude toward RAILS for advocating for a Statewide eResource Program. Harris expressed the importance of libraries answering surveys released by the Illinois State Library to help guide the rollout of the program.
  - 8.2. Update on Broadband Expansion in Illinois  
Slaughter announced the new RAILS Digital Equity Networking Group, that held their kickoff meeting on July 15. Slaughter reported that the NOFO for the federal competitive grants of the Digital Equity Act is available. Illinois will also officially know soon the amount of its formula allocation from the Digital Equity Act state capacity grant. After that information is received, the state will release a NOFO for Digital Equity Act funds. The state sub-granting of the Digital Equity Act funds will be an accessible funding opportunity for libraries as community anchor institutions. Funding will be targeted at digital inclusion programming aimed at helping covered populations develop tech literacy skills and access needed devices. Some information on grant

requirements can be found on the NTIA Website. The [Illinois State Office of Broadband](#) has held co-design workshops with various stakeholder groups across the state to receive input on their anticipated funding categories and the requirements of the grant and reporting metrics. Slaughter reported on the status of broadband access in Illinois. The federal funding for broadband expansion has not yet reached the state. The tracker on the Office of Broadband website indicates that they are in the review process for the third round of grants. The Secretary of State's office is tracking affordability, access issues, and broadband speeds that libraries are currently experiencing and is working to accurately map that data in the Illinois Broadband Map. Connect Illinois funding is providing free internet connections through ICN (Illinois Century Network) to K-12 schools, which is posing a problem for some public libraries who belong to internet consortia linked to the schools. Slaughter recommends reporting any issues around school connections, affordability and access issues, to her directly ([anne.slaughter@railslibraries.org](mailto:anne.slaughter@railslibraries.org)) and to the Illinois Office of Broadband.

### 8.3. RAILCAR Update

Halter presented an updated webform for RAILCAR FY26 on the RAILS website. Spreadsheet submissions have been streamlined to allow for easy data transfer. The LLSAP Support Grant data has been pre-populated with libraries and branches. Next steps for RAILCAR are pulling IPLAR data to make a trends dashboard with more dynamic values, and adding school, academic, and special libraries. RAILS is in the process of making the dashboards more accessible. Halter is working with Brian Smith to build a RAILS data website where all the dashboards can be hosted.

### 8.4. Discussion of Delivery Data

Filapek updated the committee on the exploration of delivery data and whether ILS software could be used to supplement or replace the quarterly delivery count. Delivery Service Managers worked to identify 15 libraries, representing all LLSAPs in a variety of geographic locations, to survey. The goal is to learn about the volume of materials and the variety of different scenarios in which materials in delivery would not be tracked by ILS software. Survey responses have not been received in full, but Filapek shared sample data received from Woodstock Public Library and St. Charles Public Library, both of which showed an approximately 12% of items were not tracked by their respective ILS programs. RAILS will continue to gather survey data from member libraries. The committee discussed the pros and cons of using ILS data for reporting, and issues with data retention on different software.

## 9. Agenda Building

The next RAILS Board Consortia Committee meeting will be held on Monday, October 21, 2024, at 10:00 am. Topics will include updates on the statewide database project, broadband expansion, RAILCAR, and more information on the Delivery survey.

## 10. Adjournment

Vancina adjourned the meeting at 11:07 am.