

RAILS Board Universal Service Committee Meeting

Thursday, September 6, 2024

Minutes

1. Welcome and Call to Order
Yanikoski called the meeting to order at 1 pm and welcomed the committee members present.
2. Roll Call of Committee Members
Krempf called roll.
Present: Angela Campbell – RAILS Coal Valley
Anupam Goel – RAILS Burr Ridge
Su Reynders – RAILS Burr Ridge
Michelle Roubal – RAILS Burr Ridge
Brooke Sievers – RAILS Burr Ridge
Alyssa Williams – RAILS East Peoria
Absent: Jenny Cutshall, Emily Porter
3. Recognition of Guests and Announcements
Guests in Burr Ridge: Monica Harris, Joe Filapek, Renya Krempf (designated note taker) – RAILS.
On Zoom: Kate Niehoff - RAILS.
4. Public Comments
There were no public comments.
5. Consent Agenda – (action requested) Catherine Yanikoski
 - 5.1. Adoption of the Agenda
 - 5.2. Approval of the RAILS Board Universal Service Committee Minutes of June 6, 2024
Roubal moved, and Sievers seconded the approval of the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.
6. Introduction of New Committee Members
Yanikoski welcomed the new committee members. Anupam Goel was present and introduced himself to the committee members.
7. Discussion of Committee Charge
Harris explained the purpose of the Charge. There were no questions
8. Illinois State Library Advisory Committee (ISLAC) Update
Harris had no update due to the July-Augus ISLAC meeting having been canceled.
9. Unfinished Business
 - 9.1 Statewide databases and online educational resources update

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.

Harris gave an update on the progress of the implementation of statewide databases. She mentioned multiple trainings are being offered. She asked committee members to share their experiences with the databases so far. She clarified the time scope of the contract for databases and addressed the plans of the Illinois State Library (ISL) for a promotional campaign, which will happen when the implementation is completed. There is no timeline for it yet.

9.2 Review the 2024 revisions to the 2020 Universal Service Plan

Harris discussed the previously proposed changes to the 2020 document and reviewed the comments submitted by the committee members. There was a discussion about whether much more detailed mapping might be feasible for the unserved areas, which would facilitate decision-making on the strategies to eliminate unserved areas, where that demographic data might be obtained from, and whether the Cards for Kids program should still be a priority for the committee and its pros and cons. There was an idea to create a library of IGAs for libraries to use to extend their service. Members also discussed ways to provide information about library access to potential home buyers and renters. A new avenue to pursue would be to possibly utilize rental brokerage websites like Domu.com. Yanikoski suggested that school and academic libraries might be included in the category of reciprocal borrowers. Filapek pointed out that there is legal language which allows for that possibility. Another idea was for Community Colleges to offer library cards to everyone since they cover the entire territory without exceptions.

The committee also brainstormed ways to pay for the library cards that might be issued to the unserved population so as not to place undue burden on the existing libraries and the taxpayers funding them. It would be helpful to know what percentage of the population in served areas actually hold library cards as a way to estimate the potential cost of offering library cards to the Unserved. Another suggestion was to explore removing the option for communities to choose whether to fund a local library via taxes or not. The committee members also suggested clarifications to some terms used in the document.

10. New Business

10.1 Discussion of committee priorities for FY2025

Harris suggested that committee members reflect on what should be the committee priorities and what they would personally like to work on from the list, based on personal interests.

10.2 FY2025 Meeting Schedule

Sievers moved, and Roubal seconded the approval of the proposed meeting schedule. It was approved unanimously.

11. Meeting recap and agenda building for the next RAILS Board Universal Service Committee Meeting – Catherine Yanikoski

12. Adjournment

Yanikoski adjourned the meeting at 2:19 pm.