
RAILS Board Universal Service Committee Meeting

Friday, December 13, 2024 | 1:00 pm

Draft Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Yanikoski called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm and welcomed the committee members present.

2. Roll Call of Committee Members

Krempl called roll of the members.

Present:

Angela Campbell – RAILS Coal Valley
Anupam Goel – RAILS Burr Ridge
Emily Porter – Rockford University
Su Reynders – Mount Prospect Public Library
Michelle Roubal – RAILS Burr Ridge
Brooke Sievers – RAILS Burr Ridge
Alissa Williams – RAILS East Peoria

Absent:

Jennifer Cutshall

3. Recognition of Guests and Announcements

Guests in Burr Ridge: Monica Harris, Joe Filapek, Kate Niehoff, Renya Krempl (designated note taker) – RAILS. On Zoom: Ryan Franklin, Illinois State Library

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 6, 2024
Sievers moved, and Roubal seconded the approval of the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Introduction of New Committee Members

A new member of the Committee, Emily Porter, introduced herself and was welcomed.

7. Illinois State Library Advisory Committee (ISLAC) Update

Harris gave an update from the ISLAC meeting. She let the members know that there is a possibility of ISLAC forming a subcommittee to work on the issue of universal service. The State Library announced it will have some grant funds available for multi-language collections, which will need to be spent within the current fiscal year. Applications will be available soon and due

by March 1st. ISLAC also discussed budget priorities for the next fiscal year, in consideration of possible cuts in federal funding. There will be more information coming soon.

8. Statewide databases and online educational resources update

Harris introduced Franklin, who gave an update on the status of the project. She let the committee know that the project is progressing full speed ahead and is now in phase 1B, involving getting the public site operational. The unserved patrons will be able to access it. The users will be filtered based on their location being in Illinois. Next, ISL will be contacting all the libraries that haven't yet signed up to encourage them to do so.

9. Unfinished Business

9.1 Review the Revised 2024 Universal Service Plan

Harris stated that the changes recommended in the previous committee meeting had been incorporated into the new version of the document, and the data related to the numbers of unserved Illinois residents were updated to correlate with the 2020 census results. Sievers motioned, and Roubal seconded the motion for the committee to adopt the 2024 Universal Service Plan as presented. The plan was adopted by unanimous acclamation.

10. New Business

10.1 Discussion of strategy and committee priorities for the 2024 Universal Service Plan

Harris suggested that committee members select action items from the plan they would like to work on either by themselves or in partnership with another committee member.

Harris volunteered to re-attempt to gain the cooperation of realtors and Midwest Real Estate Data LLC (MRED) in making library information part of property listings. Next, she encouraged the group members to consider serving on the Illinois Library Association's (ILA) Public Policy Committee. It would be a good way to support the public policy-level actions from the Plan.

As a result of the extended discussion of the action items proposed in the plan, priorities and actionable items were identified. One priority was understanding what it looks like to be unserved in Illinois in terms of demographics, definitions, and questions for ISL.

As for identified actions, Campbell is interested in working towards proposed legislation to remove barriers to libraries merging an annexation. Williams will work towards obtaining samples of Inter-Governmental Agreements (IGAs) that RAILS could compile for interested libraries to use. Roubal will work on supporting community colleges to expand their services to unserved members of their communities, beginning with an updated survey for libraries regarding the needs relating to the unserved population and including an informational poster session for college libraries. Yanikoski and Williams were both interested in ways for libraries to reach out to unserved populations and provide information on the value of library programs, applicable taxation, etc. Reynders was interested in action to promote the value of extending library service to the unserved and encouraging libraries to undertake public awareness campaigns promoting non-resident services.

The group will discuss these issues further as a whole, and the individual committee members will also do their own research on the issues and report on their progress.

10.2 Administrative Code Definitions

Filapek went over the definitions of key terms of the administrative code relating to libraries that may require further clarification and answered related questions.

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

Yanikoski summarized the work done during the meeting and announced the next meeting of the Committee on March 21st, 2025.

12. Adjournment

Yanikoski adjourned the meeting at 2:28 pm.