

Minutes

RAILS Board Consortia Committee Meeting

Monday, April 21, 2025 | 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
Vancina called the meeting to order at 10:00am.
2. Roll Call of Members
Present at Burr Ridge: Elizabeth Clarage (CARLI), Rebecca Malinowski (CCS), Matt Hammermeister (Pinnacle), Julie Milavec (RAILS Board), Alex Vancina (RAILS Board)
Present at Coal Valley: Carolyn Coulter (PrairieCat)
Present at East Peoria: Kendal Orrison (RSA)
Present at Sterling Public Library: Jennifer Slaney (RRLC)
Present via Zoom: Aaron Skog (SWAN)

A quorum was present.
3. Recognition of Guests and Announcements
Present at Burr Ridge: Monica Harris, Leila Heath, Mary Kate Murray (Designated note-taker), Jody Rubel, Anne Slaughter, Maggie Thomann
Present at Coal Valley: None
Present at East Peoria: Antony Deter
Present at Sterling Public Library: None
Present via Zoom: Eric Bain, Janette Derucki, Emily Faulkner, Mark Hatch, Ryan Hebel, Anna Wassenaar
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 Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2025
Orrison moved, and Hammermeister seconded the approval of the consent agenda as presented. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.
Ayes: Clarage, Coulter, Hammermeister, Malinowski, Milavec, Orrison, Slaney, Vancina
Nays: None
6. Reports
 - 6.1. Chair Report

6.2. Consortia Reports

Orrison provided information on how RSA is collecting data about resource sharing in response to recent inquiries regarding Delivery funding.

6.3. RAILS Report

Malinowski stated that she appreciated the inclusion of Policy updates at RAILS.

6.4. Resource Sharing Committee Report

The Resource Sharing Committee meeting on April 28, 2025, will include a report on Find More Illinois and an overview of RAILS' e-content. Harris reported that the transfer of sorting responsibilities from CTL to the RAILS Bolingbrook hub was completed in March. In this transition, RAILS continues to evaluate and modify workflows as the workload on Bolingbrook staff increases.

7. Unfinished Business

7.1. Update on broadband expansion in Illinois

Slaughter announced that RAILS has applied for the Illinois Digital Equity Capacity Grant in partnership with IHLS and CARLI. The project aims to build capacity for rural and under-resourced libraries to provide digital services to their patrons. Funding for the grant will be sub-granted out from the federal Digital Equity Act funding. Slaughter noted that even if federal funding is delayed or reallocated, elements of the grant application can be applied to many other areas. Slaughter noted that, in early summer, the Illinois Office of Broadband plans to release a NOFO for lead organizations to work with regional teams and help establish centralized points for regional broadband expansion and technology adoption.

7.2. Update on Illinois State Library Advisory Committee and FY2026 budgeting

Harris attended the Illinois State Library Advisory Committee (ISLAC) meeting in March where Anne Slaughter and Troy Brown (IHLS) gave a presentation about broadband equity access and deployment; the Illinois State Library provided an overview of the OCLC WorldCat Discovery Subscription as it relates to IMLS funding; and the committee discussed a breakdown of per capita grant funding. Any changes in IMLS funding should not affect per capita grants to public or school libraries. Harris reported that the Illinois State Library has recommended that RAILS submit a level budget for FY2026. The IMLS Advocacy Pulse Page on the RAILS website provides a timeline of events related to federal actions and a variety of advocacy resources for libraries and trustees.

8. New Business

8.1. Approval of the RAILS Board Consortia Committee Meeting Schedule for FY2026

Malinowski moved, and Coulter seconded the approval of the RAILS Board Consortia Committee Meeting Schedule for FY2026 as presented. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Ayes: Clarage, Coulter, Hammermeister, Malinowski, Milavec, Orrison, Slaney, Vancina

Nays: None

9. Meeting Recap and Agenda Building

The next RAILS Board Consortia Committee Meeting will be Monday, July 21, 2025, at 10:00am. Agenda topics will include continued discussion of Delivery data and updates on federal funding.

10. Adjournment

Vancina adjourned the meeting at 10:52am.