
Minutes

RAILS Board Consortia Committee Meeting

Monday, October 20, 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 10:00 am.

2. Roll Call of Members

Burr Ridge: Elizabeth Clarage (CARLI), Kate Hall (CCS), Jennie Mills (Pinnacle), Michelle Krooswyk (PrairieCat), Alex Vancina (RAILS)
East Peoria: Kendal Orrison (RSA)
Sterling Public Library: Jennifer Slaney (RRLC)

A quorum was present.

3. Recognition of Guests and Announcements

Guests at Burr Ridge: Alice Grabowski, Leila Heath, Monica Harris, Matt Hammermeister, Mary Kate Murray, Anne Slaughter, Kortni Springer, Maggie Thomann
Guests at Coal Valley: Carolyn Coulter
Guests on Zoom: Eric Bain, Anna Behm, Janette Derucki, Antony Deter, Gwen Gemmell, Larisa Good, Megan Gove, Grant Halter, Mark Hatch, Ryan Hebel, Rebecca Malinowski, Barb Miller, Aaron Skog

4. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

5. Adoption of the Consent Agenda – Alex Vancina (Action Requested)

5.1. Adoption of the Agenda

5.2. Approval of the RAILS Board Consortia Committee Meeting Minutes of July 21, 2025

Hall moved and Clarage seconded the approval of the consent agenda as presented. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Ayes: Clarage, Hall, Krooswyk, Mills, Orrison, Slaney, Vancina

Nays: None

6. Committee Charge and Member Introductions

Slaughter presented the RAILS Board Consortia Committee charge and committee members introduced themselves.

7. Reports

7.1. Chair Report

7.2. Consortia Reports

Orrison expressed appreciation for the information on succession planning shared in PrairieCat's consortial report.

7.3. RAILS Report

There were no comments on the RAILS report as presented in the meeting packet.

7.3.1. eRead Illinois Update

Heath and Behm explained RAILS' Response to the announcement of the closure of Baker & Taylor in November 2025. The Resource Sharing department has been reaching out to vendors, with Palace Project, a Lyris product, as a clear frontrunner to replace Boundless for eRead Illinois. Palace Project will support a smooth transfer of eRead content and will include the ability to integrate Libby collection and access to Audible.com content. The interface not being web-based may pose a problem for K-12 customers. RAILS is currently developing talking points and will reach out to LLSAP directors to coordinate conversations between LLSAPs and Palace Project.

7.4. Resource Sharing Committee Report

Filapek reported that RAILS is currently undergoing an assessment with Supply Velocity, a supply chain consultant company, to analyze the increased sorting operations at the Bolingbrook service center. Filapek also noted that the RAILS Board Resource Sharing Committee has new members—Jenn Hovanec (RAILS Board), Beth Ryan (Johnsburg Public Library), and Jesse Henning (Argonne National Laboratory).

8. Legislative Update

Harris presented the Illinois Library Association's legislative priorities for this year, including a proposed increase in library system per capita grants, the public library per capita grants, and school district grants by 20% to reflect inflation. The Public Policy Committee is also advocating for legislation to require public library trustee training, and to make eBooks more equitable and accessible. The PPC is also forming a study group to look at personal property replacement tax disbursements, and another to study FOIA. CARLI's Open Educational Resources Committee is working on a \$3 million grant project to support academic library faculty in creating open educational resources.

9. Unfinished Business

9.1. Update on FY2026 budget and funding

Harris announced that in September, RAILS received notice of full funding for FY2026 in addition to special grants for L2 and the World Cataloging program. Harris recapped federal funding changes from July to October 2025, including that both budget committees in the Senate and Congress proposed that IMLS be funded for FY2026. The 2018 Museum and Library Services Act (MLSA) is up for reauthorization as of October 1, but Congress can choose to continue funding IMLS if MLSA is not reauthorized. Governor Pritzker has requested state budgeters pull back by 4% this year, which will have broad impacts on Illinois as a whole.

9.2. Broadband and digital equity program updates

Slaughter presented the charge for the Guiding Team of the Cook County Digital Navigator Grant that RAILS is offering in collaboration with the Digital Equity Office in the Cook County Office of the President. The Guiding Team of member libraries will help design the grant program, which will build capacity at the library agencies in Cook County around providing digital navigator services. RAILS hopes to possibly use this grant program as a model for other counties in the RAILS service area. While the Digital Equity Act's funding is terminated, Slaughter stated that the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program is still moving forward, in a modified state, through Connect Illinois.

9.3. Delivery and transit data analysis

Halter reported that the Delivery Count project has moved to an open timeline. RAILS is still collecting data and trying to pinpoint which materials are being missed by ILS reports. Halter noted that the project is more complex than initially hoped, and the Data department is working on aligning the hand counted reports to ILS data.

9.4. Consortia Committee Priorities Summary

Slaughter presented the packet memo synthesizing priorities for the Consortia Committee going forward. The committee briefly discussed a multi-year timeline needed to meet their goals.

10. New Business

10.1. PrairieCat Strategic Plan Presentation

Coulter presented the process of developing a Strategic Plan at PrairieCat for FY27-28 with a focus on Member Staff User Experience and Patron User Experience.

10.2. Universal Service Issues and Efforts

Filapek discussed the RAILS Universal Service Committee's Plan, and the complexity of library service access in Illinois. There are over 1 million residents in Illinois unserved by a library. Current options for increased library access include non-resident cards, the Cards for Kids program, and the EBSCO database statewide service. Filapek noted that legislation for non-resident library access would need to be developed with taxation in mind. Some ideas to research for increasing access include partnerships between public libraries and community colleges and county-wide public library card plans.

11. Meeting Recap and Agenda Building

The next RAILS Board Consortia Committee Meeting will be held on Monday, January 26, 2026 at 10:00am.

12. Adjournment

Vancina adjourned the meeting at 12:03pm.