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November 21, 2025

Agenda item 7.2

RAILS Board Committee Reports

Advocacy Committee Report - Chair Jean Carroll

The committee met on November 13, 2025. The next meeting is January 8, 2026

Due to the short turnaround time and the packet deadline, the November 13 committee report will be included in the January Board meeting packet.

Consortia Committee Report - Chair Alex Vancina

The committee met on October 20, 2025. The next meeting is January 26, 2026

Leila Heath and Anna Behm provided an update and answered questions about the closure of Baker and Taylor and eRead Illinois' transition from Boundless to Palace Project. Monica Harris gave a legislative update and an update on the FY2026 budget, which will be fully funded. Anne Slaughter reported on RAILS' partnership with Cook County on designing the Cook County Library Digital Navigator Network Grant, to be sub-granted out to suburban libraries in Cook County. Halter described the next phase of the Delivery and Transit Data Analysis Project and will continue to gather ILS reports year-round. Carolyn Coulter presented the PrairieCat strategic planning process for FY25-FY27, and Joe Filapek updated RAILS' efforts toward Universal Services in Illinois.

Executive Committee Report – Chair Gwen Gregory

No meeting scheduled at this time.

Nominating Committee Report - Chair Alex Vancina

No meeting scheduled at this time.

Policy Committee Report – Chair Catherine Yanikoski

The committee met on Wednesday, October 22, 2025. The next meeting is Wednesday, January 28, 2026.

The Policy Committee approved the following employee handbook policies: Holidays, Paid Family Leave, and Paid Leave for All Workers Act (PLAW). The Fiscal Accountability, Sick Leave, Vacation, Vacation Payout, and Introductory Period and Benefits Eligibility policies were reviewed, and edits were suggested. The Committee voted to recommend removing the extraneous Employee Travel Policy, which was last revised in 2013, because the Travel Policy approved by the Policy Committee in September 2025 replaces that policy.

Resource Sharing Committee Report – Chair Jennifer Hovanec

The next meeting is December 8, 2025

Universal Service Committee Report - Chair Catherine Yanikoski

The next meeting is December 5, 2025