

ATTACHMENT C

Secretary of State's Council on Library Development

Minutes

Kirkpatrick State Information Center
Secretary of State Conference Room
Jefferson City, MO

December 19, 2008

Members present: Baker, Byerly, Carr, Fares, Fridley, Hogerty, Maxwell,
McCampbell

Absent: Bates, Bray, Buthod, Darst, Mayer, Moore, Mullay-Quijas, Perry,
Sanders, Talboy, Wilke

Guests Attending: Bill Mitchell, Executive Director of MOREnet
Beth Fisher, Executive Director of MOBIUS
Jeanne Sullivan, MOREnet

Staff present: Conroy, Reading, Steinman, Wingo

Carr called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Council members and guests were introduced.

Susan Morrisroe, Director of Reference Services introduced two new employees to the Reference Services section. Genevieve Dazet is the new reference librarian and cataloger. She fulfills the vacancy left by Susan Morrisroe's promotion to director. Deanne Jones is a technician I. She fills the position left vacant by the resignation of Kristie Masterson.

Conroy announced some of the Council members terms would be ending with this meeting. She thanked Representative Fares for service to the Council. Her expertise and knowledge will be greatly missed. The Secretary of State will be making her reappointments and new appointments in the near future. Once this has been done, an announcement and updated roster will be sent out to the Council members.

State Library Appropriation Request – Margaret Conroy, State Librarian

The State Library had high hopes to ask for some additional funding to expand the database offerings through MOREnet by transferring the Learning Express database license from E-rate funds which paid for two years of this database. This contract expires this fall and the State Library had hoped to move this onto the database appropriations. However, due to the budget situation, the Secretary of State after reviewing the entire office requests, decided not to ask for an increased appropriations for the State Library for databases.

The State Library has a small cushion in their piece of the MOREnet budget which hopefully will be able to carry on with the basic databases. The amount of state aid for public libraries will remain the same. The Secretary will continue to request the full appropriation of the Athletes and Entertainers tax.

A bill has been filed on behalf of the consolidated library districts to change the dead line of when their audit reports are due. Senator Mayer will be filing a bill on behalf of the Poplar Bluff Library but it is written for all public libraries. This is to allow the option for public libraries to levy a sales tax.

A bill was filed by Senator Jeff Smith which would require DESE to fund a testing database that would provide juniors and seniors in high school with ACT and SAT online test preparation that could be tailored to their needs. Conroy plans to contact the Missouri School Board Association to learn more about why this bill was filed. Then based on that information she would like to talk to the sponsor of the bill to make him aware that the State Library already has the Learning Express database available and determine if what is offered through Learning Express could meet his objectives and whether he would be willing to go for state funding to support Learning Express.

Courier Service Proposal – Carl Wingo, Technology and Digitization Consultant

Wingo said the State Library is actively planning for this service. It is hoped it will roll out in the beginning of FY10 which would be in July.

Wingo gave a PowerPoint presentation on the courier service program. The program fits very well with the LSTA priorities and the Five-Year Plan. It will increase user access to information statewide by making the lending of materials more time efficient and streamlined.

The State Library would like to share with the Council some of the issues involved in the setting up and rolling out this service.

- What business arrangements would best provide this service?

The State Library could contract with existing networks in the state. There are currently two. One is the Kansas City Metropolitan Library Information Network

and the other is MOBIUS. An option that is not being looked into is contracting directly with a courier service.

- How to structure the fees given the diversity of operating revenues of the libraries.

It could be approached in the same manner as the State Library approaches its competitive grant program, such as making a lump sum payment to the libraries and then they would buy the best service they could.

- How should the State Library implement this service and roll it out:

Should the state library take one group of libraries at a time, and structure it based on their current ILL activity or income?

Make an open call for enrollment and see which libraries apply?

Should there be a trial period with some type of threshold the libraries need to reach in order to continue with the service after the trial period? How long should the trial period last?

Should there be any type of accounting for the operating revenue the libraries have? Give more or less funding depending on this factor.

Wingo asked the Council for their input on these objectives.

Byerly said the open enrollment approach would be best for the most motivated libraries and other libraries might become motivated once they would have access to materials.

Conroy said the State Library feels that a tiered type of roll out would be the most logical. Conroy said the State Library is not asking the Council for its advice to help select a vendor or how to pay; this is something the State Library would deal with internally. The State Library would make sure the courier service selected would integrate with MOBIUS and the KCLN network to assure public libraries would have access to academic libraries collections.

MOREnet Update – Bill Mitchell, MOREnet Executive Director

Mitchell gave background on MOREnet. He gave a PowerPoint presentation on what MOREnet does and plans on doing in the future.

MOREnet has a goal to keep up with the exponential increase in bandwidth without spending substantially more dollars. MOREnet will flatten their ongoing costs.

MOREnet has entered into a partnership with the University of Missouri-Columbia. Through this partnership, MOREnet has acquired its own fiber transmission around the

state. This will help to flatten MOREnet's cost, starting out with 10 times the capacity on the basic networks and with the ability to go up to 200 times the capacity.

MOREnet receives its core funding through the funding bill for higher education. MOREnet is part of the budget exercise; it is a separate line item in the state budget. It is vulnerable because of being a line item.

MLNC/MOBIUS Merger Discussion – Shirley Baker, MLNC/MOBIUS Merger Taskforce Co-Chair

Baker said there is a MLNC/MOBIUS merger exploration task force and then at a later date there will be MLNC/MOBIUS merger feasibility task force.

Baker gave background information on both MOBIUS and MLNC. These two organizations have interacted in different ways over the years. They serve overlapping constituencies, overlapping of products, and overlapping of their respective boards. The issue of consolidation of these two organizations has been raised several times in the past.

The MOBIUS Council at their strategic planning asked for closer collaboration between the two organizations for the good of Missouri's library communities. At the MLA conference, the Executive Committees of both organizations met to discuss how the two organizations would collaborate more. It was determined it would be worthwhile to explore a possible merger of the two organizations. They proceeded to appoint a merger exploration task force. The chairs of the task force are Annie Busch and Shirley Baker.

Baker and Busch were charged with the writing of a "White Paper" for the communities to consider on October 1. The paper was produced by October 15. The paper outlined the situations in both organizations, addressed the challenges and strengths, and the opportunities of both organizations.

A state wide Town Hall meeting was held. There were 80 participants for an hour long discussion. At a suggestion from a participant, a vote was taken on the following question: "Do we wish to proceed to the feasibility stage with the assumption that a consultant would be hired with experience with not-for-profit mergers?" The vote was yes to proceed with the feasibility stage with a vote count of 70 in favor. The merger exploration task force passed this responsibility to the Boards of both organizations.

The MLNC Board recommended moving forward on November 14 and the MOBIUS Board voted to move forward also. The officers of both the boards had the responsibility of appointing a feasibility task force. It is semi-appointed at this time. Baker and Busch will also be the Co-Chairs for this task force.

Margaret Conroy, State Librarian has been asked to work with the feasibility task force. She has agreed to do this.

Scholarship Program Report – Brandy Sanchez, Continuing Education Consultant

Sanchez gave a brief history of the program and its requirements. She also gave a video presentation which highlighted five years of the Scholarship program. It also featured three former scholarship recipients.

This has been a very successful program and has a bright future ahead.

Webjunction Demonstration and Discussion – Barbara Reading, Director of Library Development

Reading gave a brief history and background of the program. She presented a demonstration of the program to the Council. This was a program started by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and has been in existence for five years. She showed various states sites in WebJunction.

WebJunction was designed as an online learning community for librarians and staff. It is open to any public library, any staff member can become a member of WebJunction, and they can participate in all of the blogs and discussion groups. A fee is required if someone signs up for a training course.

The cost of membership for a medium size state is \$45,000 annually. This includes a branded portal the state would be able to customize, the use of online tools, and a package of 400 course units. This is an excellent tool for state libraries to use.

State Library Report – Margaret Conroy, State Librarian

The Secretary of State's Office has not been given a directive to reduce expenditures for FY09 by any specific percentage. The office has not yet been made aware of any withholds over what is already in place.

The U.S. Census Bureau has released the American Community Survey results. This survey is mailed out every three years and is voluntary.

Reading gave a brief report on the new Gates Opportunity Online Hardware Grant program. Libraries had to complete an inventory report of how many public access computers in each of their locations and how old the computers were. There has been a very good response from Missouri's public libraries.

The Gates Foundation will review the inventory reports and based on their formula a report will be sent out to the State Library in the spring. They are requiring a sizeable amount of matching funds for the equipment.

Reading and Morrison will be attending two-day training on how this new program will work and the requirements to participate.

Approval of Minutes from September 19, 2008 Meeting Council Meeting

Approval of the minutes was postponed until the March 20, 2009 meeting. A quorum was not present to vote on acceptance of the minutes.

Announcements

Margaret Conroy announced that Kia Moore had decided not to be re-appointed to the Council. The other members whose terms are expiring would be willing to serve again at the Secretary's pleasure. The Secretary has not yet made appointments.

Beth Fisher, Executive Director of MOBIUS announced the hiring of Donna Bacon as the Assistant Director of Information Technology. She will start in this position on February 1st.

Next Meeting Date:

March 20, 2009 – Jefferson City

Adjournment:

Carr adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

Meeting Dates for the 2009:

March 20, 2009
June 19, 2009
September 18, 2009
December 18, 2009