

MINUTES

DODGE COUNTY LIBRARY PLANNING COMMITTEE

December 8, 2015

1. Call to order & Roll Call: The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Alex Harvancik at 1:03 p.m. Present were, MaryAnn Miller, Sue Cantrell, Tracy Scheffler, Alixe Bielot Absent: None. Others: County Administrator Jim Mielke, May Alice Bodden (Theresa Public Library); Mike Gelhausen
2. Consideration of Minutes: September 8, 2015: Motion by Miller, 2nd by Bielot to approve the September 8, 2015 minutes as presented. Motion carried.
3. Status Update: Mid Wisconsin Federated Library System: Sue Cantrell provided an oral report summarizing the November 19th meeting of the MWFLS Merger Study Committee. She updated the Committee regarding a letter dated November 24, 2015 (attached to the minutes) sent by the MWFLS Board to representatives of the Eastern Shores and Arrowhead Library Systems seeking their interest of a potential system merger.

Sue also outlined the MWFLS Board composition in 2016. A transition to a two county system will result in an 11 member Board consisting of 7 Washington County members, and 4 members from Dodge County. The Board composition is based upon population data.
4. Review of Plan for Library Service: No Action taken
5. Set Next Meeting Date: Consensus of the Committee to call a meeting as necessary based on the status of system merger discussions/issues. Consensus of the Committee to schedule the annual Library Planning Committee Meeting for 1:00 p.m. Tuesday August 30, 2016.
6. Adjourn: Motion by Miller, second by Scheffler to adjourn. Motion carried. Time: 1:48 p.m.

James Mielke
County Administrator



MID-WISCONSIN FEDERATED LIBRARY SYSTEM

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Dodge * Jefferson * Washington Counties

November 24, 2015

Dear Arrowhead Library System,

Thank you for sharing information and meeting with the Mid-Wisconsin Federated Library System as we explored potential system merger partners. One of the things the MWFLS Merger Study Committee heard in their visits to your headquarters and that of Eastern Shores Library System is that the system member libraries haven't had the opportunity to fully discuss what they think about a potential merger with MWFLS. Before making a final determination of which system MWFLS would like to talk formally with regarding a potential merger, we would like to provide ALS with the opportunity to discuss this possibility further internally and determine if your system and member libraries see MWFLS as a viable and compatible potential merger partner.

The MWFLS Merger Study Committee and member libraries in Dodge and Washington counties discussed some starting points they would like to be considered as possible negotiation parameters during a merger discussion with either ALS or ESLS. The MWFLS libraries feel they've identified a set of negotiating parameters that would make a merger with another system feasible for each MWFLS library. The MWFLS board requests a written response from ALS by January 22, 2016 informing the MWFLS board that both the ALS board and all of the member libraries have had an opportunity to discuss a potential merger with MWFLS and, if agreed, that they are acceptable to negotiating with MWFLS within the following parameters.

1. Discussion and negotiation regarding system service costs shared by libraries for ILS, delivery and other services will be handled so any fee changes do not result in any increases that would prohibit MWFLS libraries participation in the service. Specifically for the smaller libraries in MWFLS this means keeping overall fees near what they currently are in MWFLS.
2. The governance model developed for the merged system would be one that first seeks finding consensus among libraries. The model would include some level of weighted voting for budget related decisions, but would include one vote per library for not-budget decision items.
3. The creation of a merged system would include a plan for developing a migration plan to a new generation ILS.
4. Members of the merged system participating in the shared ILS would be open to discussing circulation standards.
5. A system plan will be developed for the system to be a leader for libraries in non-ILS technology and innovation along with providing the technology support the libraries need to provide cutting edge service to their patrons.
6. A delivery service model could be discussed that would allow for some members to receive less than 5-day per week delivery service if desired, but allow those that want 5-day delivery to maintain that level of service.
7. The merged system would seek the best qualified candidates to fill the staff positions as identified and needed to fulfill the service priorities of the merged system.

Upon hearing from both ALS and ESLS, the MWFLS board will make a final determination of which system it will request to engage in formal merger negotiation discussions.

Again, please respond by January 22, 2016 to Mike Gelhausen at mikeg@mwfls.org regarding whether your system board and member libraries would like to further discuss a potential merger and agree to do so within the starting parameters as identified by the MWFLS member libraries in Dodge and Washington counties. You may also direct any questions or any requests to Mike Gelhausen.

Sincerely,
MWFLS Board of Trustees