

Walworth County Library Planning Committee  
County Board Room 114  
Walworth County Government Center  
100 W. Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin  
August 24, 2021

Facilitator Steve Ohs called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

Committee Members Present: Brian Broga, Nancy Russell, Emily Kornak, Walter Burkhalter, Edgar “Skip” Mosshamer, Jill Rodriguez

Excused: Susan Pruessing, Peter Wautlet, Catherine “Katie” James

Walworth County Administrator Ex-Officio Member: Mark Luberda

Public: None

Agenda: Skip Mosshamer moved and Jill Rodriguez seconded to approve the agenda. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Approval of Previous Minutes: Brian Broga moved and Skip Mosshamer seconded to approve the minutes of July 27, 2021. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Unfinished Business:

A. Review of Draft Plan Document:

Steve Ohs has presented a revised version of the plan based on information from the previous meetings.

Brian Broga asked that there be definition or glossary section included for better understanding for section 7 such as defining a unit cost. He would also like the section 7.b. describing calculations to be written with a leading zero such as 0.30 to make the numbers clearer. Everyone was in agreement.

Concerning the new paragraph at the end of section 5, the paragraph is good, but the paragraph should reference the table showing the “Municipal Support” graph. The graph should be titled “Municipal Support Per Capita” and have introductory information explaining the data it contains.

For section 6, the words “three-year” should be taken out.

Section 7 contains information about the calculation formula. The committee would like the calculation described better and to show a section with a sample calculation that would be easier to understand. At the beginning of chapter 7, explain there are two pieces. The first section is the total appropriation for Walworth County. Then the next section describes the method of dividing the funds to the libraries. Sections c through e are discussed later in the meeting.

Section 8 addresses the role of the library system in this process. State Statute 43.12(3) defines the role of the system, but there has never been a description included in the county plan. The library system currently serves as a “clearinghouse” for the purposes of calculating, requesting and disbursing county funding for library services. Brian Broga asked that Lakeshores Library System be spelled out rather than just LLS Board. Steve Ohs has tried to maintain generic wording of “regional public library system” because there may be a merge in the near future. Mark Luberda noted that in another year the plan will need to be reviewed because a motion from

the previous meeting requires the funding to be reviewed after one year. He also noted that an entirely new plan will need to be written should a merge take place.

Section 9 is listed as an item on the agenda later.

B. Presentation of distribution based on prior motion:

There are two pages of calculations in county funding and another page with adjacent county funding. These two calculations will be the total amount of the Walworth County request. Brian Broga asked that these calculations be shown completely. There should be columns showing the 70% required amount and the additional 30% and how that is divided. Because this spreadsheet is actually based on an older version, this needs to be updated.

In discussing the previous meeting's motion approving a calculation, Steve noted that the previous spreadsheet was done with 2019 data and needed to be updated to 2020 per statutes. Mark Luberdia agreed and asked that the committee move on with the agenda and bring this back to the next meeting with corrected columns using 2020 data. Correct information has been given to library directors based on 2020 data. A corrected spreadsheet will be sent out to the committee members based on all of the information needed including the 2020 data. The entire section will be reviewed again at the next committee meeting.

New Business:

A. Libraries in Adjacent Counties:

Section 7 has three sections concerning funding to adjacent counties. Walworth County funding also goes to libraries in Racine County, Rock County, and Jefferson County for services provided to residents without a home municipal library. There are also two municipalities (Burlington and Whitewater) that have portions of their community within Walworth County. The committee may want to approve funding for those municipalities separately. Statutes require there be intersystem agreements between counties outside of that regional system. For Racine County there are a number of different ideas on how to fund. In the past, Racine County libraries were funded in the same manner as the Walworth County libraries. The funding followed three-year averages and "normalized" costs per unit. Brian Broga would like the Racine County libraries treated the same as the Walworth County libraries for funding. There was discussion describing how the counties reimburse adjacent county libraries. (Walworth County libraries receive funding from all adjacent counties for usage by Walworth County residents without a library). There was also a discussion about intersystem agreements and whether they should be referenced in this plan. Walter Burkhalter doesn't feel the intersystem agreements should be referenced in this plan because they have separate statutes explaining their requirements. Mark Luberdia would like to go over the statutes. This item will be brought back to the next meeting.

B. Library Standards:

There are currently three standards included in the Walworth County plan: the number of internet access devices for in library usage per 1,000 in service population, the hours open and the material expenditures per capita. Walter Burkhalter explained that in the past the standards put into the Walworth County plan should only have pertained to the funding over the 70% minimum. There should not be any standards considered for the statutory minimum funding. Walter would like Steve Ohs to ask DPI if there needs to be a public hearing if the standards are changed in the county plan.

Skip Mosshamer moved that the standards be eliminated from this document. Emily Kornak seconded this. Brian Broga asked if the standards are required for this plan. Mark Luberdia noted that Walworth County's current ordinance requires standards. However, those standards could be basic minimums as they are currently listed in the newest version of the *Wisconsin Public Library Standards*. Items could be picked from the categories of "Governance", "Administration", "Collections and Resources", and "Programs and Services". Emily Kornak noted that the county appoints trustees to each library board to ensure that the library is serving the

entire population as they should be. The standards that are in the current plan concern matters that should be decided by the individual library board. It was noted that there are no other counties in Wisconsin that require these level of standards be used in order to receive funding. Skip Mosshamer volunteered to go to a County Board meeting to explain why meeting these standards can hinder the library. Nancy Russell commented that the pandemic is an example of how standards cannot be met. She also noted that Lake Geneva is now undergoing a construction project which will also make it difficult to meet standards. A suggestion was made to decide on certain standards to use and then list them in an appendix to the county plan. Steve Ohs will ask the libraries for input on the standards to use. At this time a roll call vote was taken on the original motion to eliminate the standards from the document. Voting No: Kornak, Rodriguez, Broga. Voting Yes: Mosshamer, Russell, Burkhalter. The motion failed to pass.

Nancy Russell moved and Brian Broga seconded to bring this discussion back to the next meeting. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Next meeting: Steve Ohs will send out a doodle poll to find a couple of dates for the next meetings. A revised plan including recommended standards and a revised section showing the funding calculations will be discussed at the next meeting.

Adjournment: Skip Mosshamer made a motion to adjourn and Emily Kornak seconded. The committee adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Notes recorded by:  
Janice Martin, Office Manager for Lakeshores Library System