

Walworth County Library Planning Committee
County Board Room 114
Walworth County Government Center
100 W. Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin
September 30, 2021

Facilitator Steve Ohs called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Committee Members Present: Brian Broga, Nancy Russell, Emily Kornak, Walter Burkhalter, Edgar “Skip” Mosshamer, Jill Rodriguez, Susan Pruessing, Peter Wautlet, Catherine “Katie” James

Walworth County Administrator Ex-Officio Member: Mark Luberda

Public: Joe Davies, Burlington Public Library Director

Agenda: There were no agenda withdrawals. Skip Mosshamer moved and Jill Rodriguez seconded to approve the agenda. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Approval of Previous Minutes: Emily Kornak moved and Skip Mosshamer seconded to approve the minutes of August 24, 2021. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Public Comment: Burlington Library Director Joe Davies spoke concerning the funding of libraries straddling the Walworth County border but located in an adjacent county. Joe Davies is concerned that there is a separate category for border communities and feels the funding should be uniform to all Walworth County residents. Libraries in adjacent county funding will be discussed later on the agenda.

Unfinished Business:

A. Presentation of distribution based on prior motion.

Steve Ohs has distributed two versions of a Walworth County Library Funding Workbook. Appendix A includes one Excel version with the formulas as previously agreed upon by the committee. There is also a formula key describing what each of those values represent. The first page of the workbook shows a summary of the home county funding, the adjacent county (in-system) and all other adjacent county libraries.

Later in the document is a workbook with all of the 2020 data included. That workbook shows what the funding would be for Walworth County libraries as well as adjacent county libraries. The workbook shows Racine County libraries receiving funding as a separate group but using the same formula as the Walworth County libraries.

Currently other adjacent counties have current agreements for funding or they are receiving the minimum 70% funding reimbursement from Walworth County. Adjacent counties should not be in the plan but rather reimbursed at the required 70% level.

New Business:

A. Libraries in Adjacent Counties:

DPI requires the plans to explain how funding for libraries services in the county will occur and funding for libraries in adjacent counties. In some situations, libraries are located in a municipality that has municipal territory in two different counties. DPI wants county plans of service to address those situations as well.

This draft plan breaks out the categories of in-home county, adjacent county within the library system and all other adjacent county libraries. The plan currently shows adjacent libraries within the system to use the same formula as the in-home county libraries. In the past, Racine County libraries were reimbursed at the same rate as the Walworth County libraries, using a three-year average cost per circulation. In the past, intersystem agreements were approved and used different formulas. Laws have changed and funding for adjacent counties should not be in intersystem agreements.

There was a discussion on how to treat the libraries from other counties that also have territory in Walworth County. Municipal library boards are required to decide which system (and which county) they want to belong to. Walter Burkhalter gave some historical perspective as to when and why legislation changed concerning funding for adjacent counties. There is not a problem with treating Whitewater differently than the plan treats Burlington.

Brian Broga would like language that states there is agreement between the counties that share the municipalities rather than in system or out of system. Mark Luberda thinks that there should be language that Walworth County reciprocates with adjacent counties. Walter Burkhalter agreed and noted that the plan shouldn't reimburse based on library system but rather by county. Mark Luberda will work with Steve Ohs on the language for this. Walter Burkhalter suggested the counties should have a way to discuss and come to an agreement for reciprocity of funding.

B. Standards

In the draft language, Steve Ohs selected standards from DPI's voluntary standards document and placed them into this plan framework. Brian Broga would like the standards to refer to the location of the standards in case they are rewritten at some point. Steve Ohs noted that these standards are not straight from Chapter 43.15, but rather from DPI's list of voluntary standards. Steve would not be able to specifically refer to that document because he chose parts from each of the different sections of those standards. Skip Mosshamer feels these standards could stand alone and not have to refer to another document. Brian Broga would also like to identify who reviews a compliance plan if a library is determined to be out of compliance. Mark Luberda stated that the county approves the overall plan, and they could delegate the county finance committee to review the compliance plan. The system administrator and the county administrator can work to provide any documentation needed for the finance committee to review.

Mark Luberda distributed paperwork showing additional requirements based on Chapter 43.15(4)(c). He would like the basic Chapter 43.15 standards included to get the minimum 70% funding and feels the voluntary standards might be included for the additional 30% over and above the minimum 70% funding.

Steve will revise the standards section of the document to reflect the changes discussed.

C. Future planning sessions

Steve Ohs provided three additional follow-ups for the future planning section of the document. The committee may reconvene next spring to evaluate the funding formula, there are ongoing discussions concerning a possible merge between Lakeshores and Arrowhead library systems, and there are three municipalities in the area of East Troy who are considering developing a joint library. A joint library would impact minimum exemption levels for other municipalities.

D. Deep dive into Appendix A was already addressed earlier in the meeting. The committee members were very pleased with the manner in which the funding formula section was developed. Brian Broga wants to check back to whether the committee's intent is to move towards a straight formula. We will check back with previous minutes.

- E. Approval of plan and appendices. The committee will meet again to finalize and approve the plan.

Next meeting: Steve Ohs will send out a doodle poll to find a couple of dates for the next meeting. A revised plan will be brought back for another meeting.

Adjournment: Brian Broga made a motion to adjourn and Skip Mosshamer seconded. All were in favor and the committee adjourned at 7:28 pm.

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