

WHITE PINE LIBRARY COOPERATIVE
BOARD MEETING
Minutes, April 26, 2023
Approved June 28, 2023

A meeting of the White Pine Library Cooperative Board was held on April 26, 2023, at the Beaverton Branch Library in Beaverton, MI.

Present: Jeanette Morrish, Jessica Little, Christian Dunham, Amy Beckman, Ann Trierweiler, and Corey Goethe. Also present were Kate Van Auken, Alison Blattner, John Clextion, and TJ Smith (Zoom). **Absent:** Lorrie Taylor, Nicole Markel, and Barbara Butch.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:30 pm.

Public comments and announcements

Jeanette Morrish, Fleschner Memorial Library, shared that they would be hosting one of Michigan's notable book authors on Friday, April 28th, 2023. After traveling to Lansing for the Notable Book Event it is all the more exciting to be hosting one of the authors at their location.

Amy Beckman (Millington Arbela District Library) shared that she'd attended a recent Rural Library Network Summit and found it to be very relatable. Their library had also been entered into and won a \$5K Scholastic raffle by attending the summit. They also received craft and STEM kits. The location will also be hosting one of Michigan's notable authors on May 2nd, 2023.

T.J. Smith (Sherman Township Library) also shared that their library won a Vroom kit from attending the same rural library summit.

Approval of Agenda: Christian Dunham moved, and Ann Trierweiler seconded to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion was carried.

Approval of Minutes: Christian Dunham moved, and Jessica Little seconded to approve the March 1, 2023, Board Minutes. The motion was carried.

Treasurer's Report: The Board reviewed the financial reports and checklists for February and March 2023. Updates were given on the interest generated by the MI CLASS investment pool; WPLC's investments were generating a 5% interest at that time. Additional discussion was had regarding charges for a new work laptop and an upcoming charge for a video doorbell to be installed at WPLC's office. Kate also detailed her quarterly director expense report and shared that she would be sending that out to Board members each quarter with that month's financial reports.

Ann Trierweiler moved, and Jessica Little seconded to approve the financial reports and ratify the bills for both February and March 2023. The motion was carried.

Directors Report: Kate discussed some takeaways from Advocacy Day held in Lansing on April 26th, 2023. All legislators that she and Alison met with held positive views of their local libraries and considered them to be good stewards of public funds. More can be found at:

https://wplc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/director_reports/director-report-apr2023.pdf

Old Business

Compensation Policy Draft

The WPLC Board revisited the option of compensating Board members for their attendance at meetings to decrease the barriers that prevent smaller libraries from attending in-person meetings (lack of staff, out-of-pocket costs, etc.).

Kate put forward the option of compensating members \$50 per meeting to be paid out quarterly, totaling a cost of \$3,000 per year. A discussion was had over whether checks should be made out to the Board member or the library itself with the decision ultimately being to list the library as the check recipient. An option could also be made available for board members to decline the reimbursement in writing (via email) otherwise reimbursement would be automatically paid each quarter.

Ann Trierweiler moved and Christian Dunham seconded to adopt the Board Member Compensation Policy. The motion was carried. The full policy can be reviewed on the WPLC website: <https://wplc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/board/compensation-policy-2023.pdf>

MI Class Update

Following the passage of the amendment to WPLC's investment policy, updates were shared with the Board about how the experience has been working with MI CLASS. Kate shared that the online portal works well, has great reporting tools, and fund transfers into the pool are typically settled within a couple of days. About \$100,000 in funds are being kept in WPLC's checking account to pay for recurring expenses/bills. A portion of MI CLASS funds would soon be moved back into WPLC's checking account, and Kate would then know how long it takes to process a transfer out of MI CLASS.

Air Advantage Bill

Following Christian Dunham's advice to contact Air Advantage about their pricing for libraries in Michigan, Kate reached out to the company to see if WPLC qualified. Air Advantage reduced the cost of internet to the same \$125 fee that other libraries working with them pay.

New Business

Library Association Reimbursement 2023-2024

Last year's reimbursement for member libraries to join any library professional organization was revisited for 2023-2024. Interest expressed by members indicated that the reimbursement has helped reduce the financial barriers that prevent them from joining library professional organizations. Kate informed the board that if all White Pine member libraries were to apply for reimbursement, the cost would be \$18,772. Last year, about half of White Pine members applied for this reimbursement. The option was put forward to continue the program this year.

Ann Trierweiler moved, and Jessica Little seconded to reimburse White Pine libraries for any library professional organization membership up to the cost of that library's institutional membership cost if they were to join MLA. The motion was carried.

Mini-Grants for members

Mini-grants that have been sent out to members over the past several years once again were up for renewal by the Board. Kate noted that she has had trouble getting members to respond to her questionnaires regarding what the funds will be used for. Responses are needed for WPLC's reporting. Her suggestion was to delay sending reimbursement checks until after the form is returned to WPLC. A deadline of August 1st, 2023 would be set so that funds could be settled before the end of White Pine's fiscal year.

Ann Trierweiler moved, and Christian Dunham seconded to approve \$300 mini-grants for White Pine members after the forms are returned with a deadline of August 1st, 2023. The motion was carried.

Hoopla Stipend

Info sessions with WPLC's Hoopla rep were held over the past month, and between 8-11, White Pine members were interested in using Hoopla at their locations and receiving a content credit from White Pine. Notification can be sent to participants by WPLC whenever a payment is sent to Hoopla so that participating members can check their accounts for credit. Freegle and Kanopy were discussed as alternatives, but they ultimately provide a different service from Hoopla.

Christian Dunham moved and Amy Beckman seconded to provide WPLC members who use Hoopla with a \$300 credit to their accounts. The motion passed with Jessica Little abstaining.

Director's Review and Membership Input form

The annual WPLC membership input form and Director's Review would be sent out before the June 2023 meeting by Jeanette Morrish, President.

Adjournment: Ann Trierweiler moved, and Jeanette Morrish seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:33 p.m. The motion was carried.

Next Meeting: June 28, 2023, location TBD.