

**WHITE PINE LIBRARY COOPERATIVE  
BOARD MEETING  
Minutes, March 1, 2023**

Approved April 26, 2023

A meeting of the White Pine Library Cooperative Board was held on March 1, 2023, at the Mayville District Public Library in Mayville, MI.

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

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 12:16 pm.

**Audit Review:** Samantha Cain (Weinlander Fitzhugh) discussed the results of White Pine's 2022-2023 audit. White Pine received the best scores possible and saw a nearly \$99,000 increase in fund balance compared to the fiscal year prior. Kate also mentioned during the audit process that White Pine's designated "County" is still listed as Saginaw despite our office now being located in Tuscola. After speaking to Samantha and getting in touch with the Michigan Department of Treasury, it was explained that the Treasury's system is not set up in such a way that switching the County designation is easy. Since White Pine still needs a 'Home' county designated in the system and continues to service libraries in Saginaw county, the Treasury stated it would be best to not make changes.

**Approval of Agenda:** Jessica Little moved, and Nicole Markel seconded to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion was carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Christian Dunham moved, and Jessica Little seconded to approve the December 7, 2023, Board Minutes. The motion was carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Board reviewed the financial reports and checklists for December 2022 and January 2023.

Christian noted that White Pine's monthly internet bill may be slightly higher than it should be. A prior agreement guaranteed that all libraries would get the same rate from the provider, but White Pine may be excluded due to its status as a cooperative. Kate said she would follow up with the provider and inquire about this.

Christian Dunham moved, and Nicole Markel seconded to approve the financial reports and ratify the bills for both December 2022 and January 2023. The motion was carried.

**Directors Report:** Kate discussed the start of White Pine's HealthiestYou benefits. The start of service was slightly delayed and began in mid-February. She and Alison sat down for an orientation with their rep about the service, and they are looking forward to utilizing the service as needed. More can be found at: [https://wpplc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/director\\_reports/director-report-mar2023.pdf](https://wpplc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/director_reports/director-report-mar2023.pdf)

### **Old Business**

There was no old business.

### **New Business**

#### **Investment Policy Update**

Kate has been looking into alternative investment options for White Pine's CD and additional fund balance from the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Her suggestion of moving funds into the MI Class investment pool would require Board approval of an update to White Pine's Investment Policy to allow for such entities to be a viable option for the

cooperative. A discussion was had about the security of assets held by the fund, its liquidity, and access to funds. Jessica Little suggested testing the speed of the ACH withdrawal period once a month to discern how fast the turnaround time is should White Pine encounter an emergency.

Jessica Little motioned, and TJ Smith seconded to amend White Pine's Investment Policy to include the updates presented. The motion was carried.

### **MI Class Investment Resolution**

Following the discussion of the new Investment Policy, Kate presented the Board with the proposed MI Class Investment Resolution. It was noted by Jeanette that the verbiage on the Board's documents differed slightly from the version Kate read from. Christian Dunham moved and Nicole Markel seconded the resolution as amended. The motion was carried. The full text of this resolution can be read on the WPLC website: <https://wplc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/board/MI-CLASS-resolution.pdf>

### **Board member mileage reimbursement for meetings**

The question was raised as to whether White Pine could compensate Board members for mileage to and from Board meetings. Some other cooperatives reimburse for mileage and others provide a stipend. Kate reached out to Anne Seurnynck, from Foster Swift, for consultation on the matter. Anne's opinion was that since the relevant legislation does not specifically mention that cooperatives are allowed to do so, it was not in their right to do so. However, another cooperative's lawyer, Mark McInerney, from Clark Hill, authored an opinion that since cooperatives are not explicitly prohibited from doing so, they retain the right to reimburse for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of their official duties. A discussion was had as to the merits of both arguments, and Kate ultimately decided to reach out to Mark.

### **Public comments and announcements:**

Alison Blattner shared excitement that the Michigan Senate had passed its bill expanding the Elliot Larson Act and that the language updates used in it are the same that were included in White Pine's recent employee manual overhaul.

**Adjournment:** Jessica Little moved, and Jeanette Morrish seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:41 p.m. The motion was carried.

**Next Meeting:** April 26, 2023, at Beaverton Branch Library in Beaverton, MI.