

Northland Library Cooperative  
Advisory Council Meeting  
Tuesday, May 29  
Curtis Township Library, Glennie

Present: Jan Stevenson, Presque Isle District Library; Patti Webb, Gerrish-Higgins School District Library; Judi Stillion, Alpena County Library; Maureen Derenzy, Otsego County Library; Susan Conklin, Crooked Tree District Library; Sarah Allaire, Mackinaw Area Public Library; Lori Haas Weaver, Montmorency County Public Libraries; Moira Maus, Curtis Township Library; Roger Mendel, Northland Interim Director; Susan Warner, Wolverine District Library; Amy Knepp, Oscoda County Library; Bambi Mansfield, Crawford County Library; Carol Luck, Alcona County Library.

Maureen Derenzy volunteered to take minutes.

The agenda was reviewed and approved.

The minutes from April 24, 2007 were reviewed. The list of members present at that meeting was corrected. **Motion by Amy Knepp to approve the minutes as corrected; second by Susan Conklin. Motion carried.**

Interim Director Roger Mendel distributed a written report. He spent time last week at the NLC office and attended the May 22<sup>nd</sup> NLC board meeting.

- Noted that the Northland Board received a letter of resignation from the Crawford County Library representative.
- He discussed the moratorium on state aid. Some libraries received the first 50% of state aid, many did not. If state aid is not totally eliminated in this budget year, the likely scenario is that checks would be received after September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- There was a proposal put forward by a legislator on the HAL Board to give cooperatives a larger percentage of the remaining state aid (after cuts). Roger believes this will not stand.
- Other cooperative news: Mid-Michigan Library League members voted to send additional dollars to their cooperative to restore lost services; Southwest Library Cooperative no longer has a director - the director of a member library is serving as interim; Capitol Library Cooperative will be out of business as of September 30; Suburban Library Cooperative does not have a director and is looking to fill that position; The Library Network does not have a large fund balance and will not be able to continue operating if state aid is not restored.

Northland received letters from the Crawford County Library and Gerrish-Higgins School District Library stating their intentions to withdraw from Northland in

order to join the Superiorland Library Cooperative. Roger pointed out that the Northland Board had passed a motion to change the notice for withdrawal from 6 months to 5 months at a previous meeting. However, since the 6 month requirement is a part of the plan of service, the boards of the member libraries would have to vote to allow this change. Those members in attendance when this change was discussed believe it was the intent of both the NLC Board and Advisory Council to provide additional time for members to make a decision. It was also noted that the State Librarian has no legal authority to prevent libraries from changing membership during her proposed moratorium. Roger will contact each member library to request a vote on the change in the notice for withdrawal.

All others present at the meeting expressed no interest in withdrawing from Northland at this time and were concerned that NLC might be forced to dissolve. The Northland Board does not have the authority to dissolve; rather, Northland would cease to exist if it did not meet minimum requirements under PA89. These two withdrawals do not put Northland at risk.

Roger reported that at the May 22<sup>nd</sup> NLC Board meeting there was discussion about keeping all current board members in office. This is not possible without a change in the plan of service, and those present indicated they would not recommend such a change to their library boards. **Motion by Maureen Derenzy to proceed with the change in Northland board members according to the schedule of rotation in the plan of service; second by Susan Conklin. Motion carried.**

The NCL Board accepted an offer for the NLC building of \$125,000, with \$50,000 in earnest money to be paid soon. Roger believes NLC can lease space in Alpena for a reasonable price, so that the remaining employees can work from Alpena until the future direction of NLC is determined. The Northland van will be sold to the highest bidder; Judi Stillion volunteered to join the Northland treasurer to be present at the bid opening.

LBPH will not go to Superiorland as planned, but will still be dismantled. If it does not find a home, our 300 patrons will be served from Lansing. We discussed the large print collection. **Motion by Sue Warner that libraries keep the large print books they have now and to contact Northland if they have interest in additional books, and that any books remaining after distribution to members be offered to other organizations serving blind and or physically handicapped persons; second by Bambi Mansfield. Motion carried.**

Roger will compile a list of equipment owned by LBPH and send it to member libraries. If more than one library is interested, he'll draw from a hat.

Roger will also compile lists of materials in the professional and language collections to gauge interest from member libraries.

Roger distributed a financial report with a current cash balance. It does not yet show the revenues from the sale of the building or van. Even without state aid, Northland has funds available to complete this fiscal year and provide services in the 2007/2008 fiscal year.

During public comment Patti Webb outlined her reasons for withdrawing from the cooperative.

The next Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for August at the Lewiston Public Library. The next NCL Board meeting is scheduled for August 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Sue Warner moved to adjourn; support by Amy Knepp. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Derenzy, Advisory Council member  
Otsego County Library