

**Minutes, Northland Library Cooperative Board of Trustees.  
March 20, 2008, Alcona County Library Harrisville, MI.**

**Attending:** Rita James, Phil Curtiss, Karen Heide, H.Grace Micketti, Mayford Meixell.

**Absent:** Marcia Armstrong (excused), Marcia Monette (excused), LaVerne Greenwood (excused) and Hugh Conklin (excused).

**Staff:** Roger Mendel, Interim Director.

**Visitors:** Carol Luck, Janis Stevenson.

**Call to Order:** Chair Rita James called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Roll Call:** By sign-in.

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Mendel indicated that an item on the revised budget for 2007/08 be added. **Moved by Mayford Meixell, seconded by Phil Curtiss that the agenda as amended be accepted. Motion carried.**

**Approval of minutes:** **Moved by Mayford Meixell, seconded by Grace Micketti that the minutes be approved as printed. Motion carried.**

**Financial Reports for January and February 2008:** Mayford reviewed the financial statements. Roger indicated that our bookkeeping firm did the statements on a monthly accrual basis. Roger distributed revised copies showing a comparison based on the annual budget for each item. The board members discussed the budget and it was **moved by Phil Curtiss, seconded by Karen Heide that the financial statements be accepted subject to the audit. Motion carried.**

**Advisory Council Report:** Carol Luck gave the report of the last Advisory Council meeting. She indicated that the members reviewed the State Librarian's Plan for State Aid and that they had serious objections to the plan as presented. Carol also read a copy of the letter sent by the Advisory Council to the State Librarian citing the objections to the proposed plan. Basically, the Advisory Council indicated that there should be some funding for cooperatives in any new plan and broaden the services to include professional advice.

**Update on the Reorganization of Cooperatives:** Mendel reported on the comments posted to the state librarian's blog. He also indicated that the state librarian has made statements in February and March that contradict some of the segments of her plan that was posted on the blog December 2007. Mendel also discussed the funding formulas proposed by the state librarian in recent weeks and indicated how the formulas might affect Northland member libraries. After further discussion and questions from board members the board it was **moved by Mayford Meixell, seconded by Grace Micketti that the NLC board adopt a resolution opposing the state librarians plan. Resolution adopted. (Copy attached to the minutes).**

**Fund Balance Committee:** Rita James brought to the board the idea of appointing a committee to develop a plan to distribute a portion of the NLC fund balance back to

member libraries. In light of the changes that may be coming in the future she indicated that the libraries that have been in the cooperative for all these many years should share in some of the funds held by NLC. Rita asked Roger to get four volunteers from the librarians to serve on the committee. Mendel presented the board with a list of six individuals. Rita asked for two board members to volunteer and in the end the following were selected: Janis Stevenson, Cindy Lou Poquette, Nannette Miller, Susan Conklin, Mayford Meixell, Phil Curtiss and Rita Miller.

To determine the amount of money to make available Rita asked Roger to prepare a cost for setting up a new office for NLC in the event that the cooperative continued to exist under a new plan. The Board reviewed the estimated costs and after some discussion it was **moved by Phil Curtiss, seconded by Mayford Meixell that the board set aside \$250,000 for this distribution which should occur within six months Motion carried.**

For the Fund Balance Committee meeting Mendel will provide a spread sheet showing populations and length of time as members for the present membership as well as including the members that left last year. Mendel also reported that he discussed fund balance distribution with Lance Werner and Kim Lindsay (partner at Lewis and Knopf Auditing) as to what restrictions there were in the law regarding the distribution of fund balances. No restrictions exist except if the fund balance includes any restricted funds. The NLC board has the authority to distribute funds under any criteria they choose. The Fund Balance Committee's job will be to develop a plan for distribution and present it to the NLC board at its May 21 meeting.

**Budget revision:** Mendel presented the board with a revised budget for the cooperative based on the final figures related to the building and staff as well as the 17% cut in state-aid. (Copy attached). After some discussion it was **moved by Karen Heide, seconded by Grace Micketti that the revised budget for 07/08 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.**

**New Business: Member withdrawal:** Mendel read a letter from the Curtis Township Board indicating that they wish to withdraw from NLC by the end of the fiscal year. Mendel presented the board with a resolution, similar to the resolutions passed last year when libraries withdrew from NLC. **It was moved by Mayford Meixell, seconded by Grace Micketti that the NLC board adopts a resolution dropping Curtis Township from NLC membership effective September 30, 2008. Resolution adopted. (Copy attached).**

**Interim Director's Report:** Mendel reviewed the report and answered questions.

**Board Comments:** none

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Roger Mendel, Interim Director**