

Director's Report



Northern Lights Library Network October 20, 2018

Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) is a cooperative system of two hundred eighty academic, public, school, and special libraries in twenty-three counties in North-central, North-west, and West-central Minnesota, that works at the grassroots level to bring together all types of libraries and collections in the region to discover, enhance, and share resources through administrative, technological, and educational support. Northern Lights Library Network is funded by the Minnesota Legislature through the Department of Education.

Northern Lights Library Network is one of seven multi-county, multi-type library systems in Minnesota mandated by Minnesota Statute 134.351 to develop and maintain services including, but not limited to, “referral of users, intra-system reciprocal borrowing, cooperative collection development, cooperative reference services, staff development, research and development, cooperative storage facilities, and publicity and community relations”. There are twelve regional public library systems in Minnesota that serve public libraries, while the seven multi-type systems serve all types of libraries. The five goals outlined in Minnesota Statute 134.351 for multi-county, multi-type systems include:

- Share Resources Among all Participating Libraries
- Provide Long-range Planning for Cooperative Programs
- Develop a Delivery System for Services and Programs
- Development of a Bibliographic Database
- Maintain a Communications System Among all Cooperating Libraries

The seven multi-county, multi-type systems perform the following functions: Develop library staff professionally; improve local library collections; sponsor and support funding for libraries; champion for libraries; create, develop, and maintain library programs that enrich the lives of Minnesotans; move the discipline of Library and Information Science forward; and lead and administer their own nonprofit agencies. The seven systems are governed by regional boards.

Northern Lights Library Network covers a geographic region of 26,950 square miles (the State of Minnesota covers a total of 86,939 miles) that includes the following twenty-three counties: Becker, Beltrami, Cass, Clay, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Douglas, Grant, Hubbard, Kittson, Mahnommen, Marshall, Norman, Otter Tail, Pennington, Polk, Pope, Red Lake, Roseau, Stevens, Traverse, Wadena, and Wilkin.

The Northern Lights Library Network system consists of four regional public library systems; academic libraries on two campuses of the University of Minnesota at Crookston and Morris; Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System institutions including Minnesota State University Moorhead, Bemidji State University, Northland Community College, Minnesota State Community and Technical College on four campuses (Moorhead, Thief River Falls, Wadena, and Fergus Falls); three tribal colleges, including Leech Lake, Red Lake, and White Earth; numerous private colleges; one hundred eighty five school libraries (including public and charter schools, Bureau of Indian Affairs schools, and private schools) in seventy-nine school districts; and a rich variety of special libraries in museums, county law libraries, hospitals, and early childhood programs.

Northern Lights Library Network exists to determine the kinds of library services people need at the local level and to determine what supporting structures are required for local library systems to function successfully, taking into account the unique needs of people at the local level and the different types of libraries served.

Northern Lights Library Network reduces duplication of services by enhancing coordination among libraries. As resources are shared among libraries, services are expanded, and efficiency is improved. As a result, libraries can offer services or programs they may not otherwise be able to afford. All of the work performed by Northern Lights Library Network affects the direct service of its members, and has an exponential effect on its client base. A primary goal of Northern Lights Library Network is to bring resources from the state and national level to the local level. Another goal is to discover resources within the region and share them universally.

The Viking Library System is seeking \$15,000 to support a new bookmobile for the Viking Library System region.

Northern Lights Library Network Governing Board is giving books, quilts, and toys to the community of White Earth for the Christmas Drive.

Northern Lights Library Network recently sponsored the following literacy initiatives:

Mini-“Better Together” Workshop

Electronic Library of Minnesota (ELM) resources

Morning Area Workshop for Educators, Media Specialists, and Librarians

Monday, August 13, 2018

8:30 a.m. – 12 noon

Lakes Country Service Cooperative

1001 East Mount Faith

Fergus Falls, Minnesota

Capacity: 40

There was no charge for this workshop

The Workshop included Four Continuing Education Credits

Presenter:

Carla Steinberg Pfahl, Minitex

Carla Pfahl is a Reference Outreach & Instruction librarian with Minitex and is Coordinator of AskMN: The Librarian Is In!, Minnesota's 24/7 statewide digital reference service. Carla has over 15 years of experience instructing on a variety of online reference tools and digital resources as well as information literacy and research skills. Carla is fascinated with the world of information and delights in the ability to educate users of all ages on best resources, search strategies, and help equip them with the tools to meet their information needs.

Electronic resources that are useful for pre-K – 12 were presented and discussed at this workshop. Lesson plans and curricula development were introduced for classroom teachers. These resources are available for free to all Minnesotans through *Electronic Library of Minnesota* (ELM): <http://www.elm4you.org/>

The following resources were discussed:

InfoBits, a reliable, factual, database with information on animals, music and movies, people, plants, sports, technology, arts, geography, health, literature, science, and social studies. Topics include pictures, audio books, magazines, and news articles on each topic.

Explora gives students access to information in encyclopedias, magazines, news, books biographies, primary source documents, reviews, and academic journals, resources that are intellectually stimulating and accurate. Topics covered in detail include arts and music, animals, biographies, geography, language arts, math, science and health, and social studies.

All things *Encyclopaedia Britannica* .

LearningExpress Library includes materials in the areas of career preparation, including GED preparation; ACT, SAT, college admission's tests; skill-building resources for classroom and homework success.

ELM resources were taught by Carla Steinberg Pfahl, expert information professional from the University of Minnesota, Minitex. Carla has over fifteen years of experience teaching a variety of online reference tools and digital resources, focusing on information literacy skills and research skills for students at all levels.

Schedule:

8:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.

Coffee, tea, rolls

Welcome

Introductions

Discussion

Introduction to Resources for Teachers

- ELM Portal
- Electronic Library of Minnesota (ELM) Webinars
- ELM Promotional Materials
- Responsive Design at ELM for mobile devices

9 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Electronic Learning Resources for Grades K – 5

- Kids InfoBits
- Explora Kids
- Britannica for Elementary and Learning Zone (pre-K to second grade)
- Electronic Books

10:15 a.m. – 12 noon

Electronic Learning Resources for Grades 6 - 12

- Britannica School: Middle and High School
- Explora Teens
- Research in Context
- Student Resources in Context
- Points of View Reference Center
- Science Reference Center
- LearningExpress Library includes:
 - Career Preparation Center
 - Career Accelerator
 - College Admission Test Preparation Center

- Best ELM Resources for History Day
- Minnesota Reflections Primary Source Sets
- Learning Express Library
- Electronic Books

Educators from the following schools participated in the August 13th workshop:
 St. Joseph School Moorhead, Underwood Public Schools, Lake Park Audubon Schools, Detroit Lakes High School, Perham High School, Heart of Lakes Elementary in Perham, Prairie Wind Middle School in Perham, Minnewaska Area Schools, Breckenridge High School, Parkers Prairie High School, Roseau School, and Campbell Tintah Schools.

Another mini – “Better Together” workshop took place at Lakes Country Service Cooperative on September 29th, focusing on material from the Destiny online catalog:

Destiny Training
 Saturday, September 29, 2018
 Lakes Country Service Cooperative
 1001 East Mount Faith
 Fergus Falls, Minnesota
 8:30 a.m. – 12 noon

*There was no charge for this workshop
 The Workshop included Four Continuing Education Credits*

8:30 a.m.
 Coffee, tea, rolls
 Welcome and Introductions

Glenn Heinecke, Media Specialist, Roseau Public Schools
Melanie Holmquist, Detroit Lakes High School

Log In to Destiny- User Name and Password

- Different Levels of Access-
 Tech Crew , Library Administrator, Library Paraprofessional, Students
 Can change the level under Back office

- Home Page
*Adding Links to you pages
 Creating Groups, Adding Websites*

- Dashboard
 Library Overdues
 Library Circulation Stats by Year
 Library Holds
 Library Circulation Stats by Day
 Library Circulation Stats by Month

- Catalog

Searching by Title, Author, Subject, Series and Keyword

Destiny Quest

Destiny Discover- E Books

Adding Titles-

Titlewave

- Circulation

Checking In Items

Checking Out Items

Renewal

Holds

- Reports

Library Reports- Check Outs, Call Number Reports, Digital, Labels

Patron Reports-Patron Data, Patron Names, Labels

- Back Reports

Manage Patrons

Manage Classes

Library Policies

Calendar

Access Levels

Sheri Levasseur

Media Specialist

Pequot Lakes School District 186

- Follett Resource Manager for Inventory and Check-outs
- Follett Shelf for eBooks, Placing Holds, and Creating Lists
- Follett's LibGuides
- Ordering Books through Titlewave and Migrating them to the Catalog

From Laurie Conzemius:

Here are some helpful resources for Destiny users. I especially recommend creating an account in the Follett Community and taking advantage of all the free resources, networking, and training opportunities.

Follett Community (create an account & sign in):

<https://www.follettcommunity.com/p/cm/ld/fid=1>

Follett Community is a network of Destiny users as well as a collection of Destiny Library Manager resources. You can register for, and participate in, free webinars, read regular blog posts, access free training, network with other librarians, and much more!

Connect with other Destiny users (requires login)::

<https://www.follettcommunity.com/p/cm/ld/fid=6>

Destiny Library Manager Online Support

<https://resources.follettlearning.com/support/destiny-library-manager>

Additional helpful links:

How-to's, training tools & videos:

<https://resources.follettlearning.com/support/destiny-library-manager/training>

Raise Awareness (promotional and teacher materials):

<https://resources.follettlearning.com/support/destiny-library-manager/raise-awareness>

Behind the Book Interviews:

<https://resources.follettlearning.com/content/behind-the-book-interviews>

The following schools were represented at the September 29th Destiny training:

Breckenridge High School, heart of Lakes Elementary in Perham, Menahga High School, Cleveland Elementary in Fergus Falls, Central Elementary in Bemidji, Naytahwaush School, Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Sig School, Barnesville School, Warroad School, Lancaster School District #356, Ortonville School, Minnewaska Area Schools, Lake park Audubon Schools, Barnesville Schools, Browns Valley School, Underwood School, Perham High School, Menahga High School, Moorhead High School, Bagley School, Morris Area Elementary School, Norman County West Public Schools, Wadena Deer Creek Public Schools.

A very special thank you to Glenn Heinecke, Melanie Holmquist, and Sheri Levasseur for presenting the Destiny workshop. Thank you to Aleta Sanford, Communication Director at NLLN and to Paula Johnson at Lakes Country Service Cooperative to make the Destiny workshop successful.

The “Better Together” workshops are sponsored by members of Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) to bring librarians, staff, and educators of all types together to share their experiences and to learn from one another.

Thank you so very much for all of the professional volunteers who make the “Better Together” workshops possible:

- Glenn Heinecke, Roseau School
- Lynette Schwagerl, Campbell School
- Carol Sibley, Professor emerita, Minnesota State University Moorhead
- Laurie Conzemius, Technology Integrationist and Consultant, Park Rapids Public Schools
- Melanie Holmquist, Detroit Lakes High School
- Aleta Sanford, Minnesota State University Moorhead

Glenn Heinecke provided onsite Destiny assistance at St. Joseph’s School in Moorhead and Breckenridge Public School in August.

Adell Bridgeford is providing ongoing onsite support at Walker Hackensak Akeley Public School and recently wrote a grant from the Alternative Career Pathways to support bringing Electronic Library of Minnesota into the schools.

Northern Lights Library Network sponsored an ELM Expo. in Detroit Lakes on September 21st.

Executive Director, Kathy Enger, along with Professor Lin Enger, MSUM, presented at the eLearning Summit, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, campus on August 2, *Essential Key Components to Successful Student Engagement in Online Learning*. Prior to NLLN, Kathy was a professor at NDSU and an online professor for a decade.

NLLN is supporting Pelican Rapids High School Library to bring students to the movie, *The Hate U Give*, in Fargo on October 26th.

NLLN is sponsoring ACRL Assessment in Action Roadshow presented by the Tri-College University, Minitex, ODIN, and NLLN for members of the Tri-College (Concordia, MSUM, MState Moorhead, NDSU, and NDSCS), Thursday, March 28, 2019, one-day workshop, *“Assessment in Action: Demonstrating and Communicating Library Contributions to Student learning and Success:*

<http://www.ala.org/acrl/conferences/roadshows/aiaroadshow>

NLLN sponsored Minnesota Book Award author visits to Fergus Falls, Bemidji, Thief River Falls, Moorhead.

NLLN is funding eBook access for middle and high school students within the counties served by **Lake Agassiz Regional Library (LARL)** and **Northwest Regional Library (NWRL)**.

NLLN provided **access to online bibliographic materials using the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) Union Catalog** for Northwest Regional Library, Lincoln High School Thief River Falls, Kittson School Media Center, Warren/Alvarado/Oslo High School, Breckenridge High School District, Clearbrook Gonvick High School, ADA-Borup Public School, Independent School District 435, Audubon High School Media Center, Perham/Dent Public School, Holy Rosary School, BUG-O-NA-GE Shig School, Grygla School Media Center, Bemidji Public School, Park Rapids High School, Northland Community Schools ISD #118, Circle of Life School, St. Joseph’s School, Lancaster public School, Tri-County School, Mahnomen Public School, Frazee-Vergas School, Pine River Backus Public School, Badger School, Blackduck Public School, White Earth Tribal & Community College Library.

Carol Sibley and Pam Werre presented the following poster and bibliography at the 36th IBBY International Congress. NLLN sponsored Carol with a scholarship to attend:

Bibliography of Best Hmong and Vietnamese Juvenile Fiction from a Presentation at the 36th IBBY International Congress by Carol Sibley and Pam Werre

East Meets West in the Middle: Fifty Years of Fiction about Refugees from Southeast Asia

Conference Sub-Theme: Difference, Sameness, and Diversity in Children

Carol Hanson Sibley, Library Professor Emerita Minnesota State University Moorhead
Moorhead, Minnesota USA sibley@mnstate.edu

Pam Werre, Professor & Curriculum Materials Center Librarian Minnesota State University
Moorhead Moorhead, Minnesota USA werrepa@mnstate.edu

BEST OF HMONG JUVENILE FICTION

Brown, Jackie. *Little Cricket*. New York: Hyperion, 2004.

Cha, Dia [Insider]. *Dia's Story Cloth: The Hmong People's Journey of Freedom*. Stitched by Chue and Nhia Thao Cha [Insiders]. Compendium by Joyce Herald. New York: Lee & Low Books, 1996.

Eng, Jill V. D. *Divided Moon*. Wisconsin?: Solstice Publishing, 2012.

Gerdner, Linda, and Sarah Langford. *Grandfather's Story Cloth =: Yawg Daim Paj Ntaub Dab Neeg*. Illus. Stuart Loughridge. Walnut Creek, CA: Shen's Books, 2008.

Rempel, Leah. *Hey, Hmong Girl, Whassup?: The Journal of Choua Vang*. St. Paul, MN: Hamline University Press, 2004.

Shea, Pegi D. *Tangled Threads: A Hmong Girl's Story*. New York: Clarion Books, 2003.

Shea, Pegi D. *The Whispering Cloth: A Refugee's Story*. Illus. Anita Riggio [Insider]. Honesdale, PA.: Boyds Mills Press, 1995.

Vang, Ka [Insider], and Aimee H. Johnson. *Shoua and the Northern Lights Dragon*. St. Paul, MN: Council on AsianPacific Minnesotans, 2012.

Xiong, Mai K [Insider]. *Melody of the Qeej*. Illus. Vang Lee. St. Paul, MN.: Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans : Minnesota Humanities Center, 2013.

Yah, Cha [Insider]. *The Terrible Journey: A Hmong Child's True Story of His Escape from Laos to Thailand = Txoj Kev Txaus Ntshai : Ibtus Nyuam Hmoob Zaj Keeb Kwm Tseeb Khiav Nplog Teb Rau Thaib Teb*. Illus. Yuepheng L. Xiong [Insider]. St. Paul, MN.: Hmongland, 2013.

BEST OF VIETNAMESE JUVENILE FICTION

Breckler, Rosemary. Deborah K. Ray. *Sweet Dried Apples: A Vietnamese Wartime Childhood*. Illus. Deborah K. Ray. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1996.

Bui, Thi [Insider]. *The Best We Could Do: An Illustrated Memoir*. New York: Abrams ComicArts, 2017.

- Burg, Ann E. *All the Broken Pieces*. New York: Scholastic, 2009.
- Garland, Sherry. *The Lotus Seed*. Illus. SherryTatsuro Kiuchi. San Diego, CA.: Harcourt Brace, 1993.
- Garland, Sherry. *Shadow of the Dragon*. San Diego, CA.: Harcourt Brace, 1993.
- Garland, Sherry. *Song of the Buffalo Boy*. San Diego, CA.: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1992.
- Kidd, Diana, and Lucy Montgomery. *Onion Tears*. New York: Orchard Books, 1989.
- Lai, Thanhha [Insider]. *Inside Out & Back Again*. Typographer Ray Shappell. New York: Harper, 2011.
- Lai, Thanhha [Insider]. *Listen, Slowly*. New York: Harper Collins, 2015.
- McKay, Lawrence. *Journey Home*. Illus. Dom Lee, and Keunhee Lee. New York: Lee & Low Books, 1998.
- Partridge, Elizabeth. *Dogtag Summer*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2011.
- Phi, Bao [Insider]. *A Different Pond*. Illus. Thi Bui [Insider]. North Mankato, MN.: Capstone, 2017.
- Skrypuch, Marsha F., and Tuan Ho [Insider]. *Adrift at Sea: A Vietnamese Boy's Story of Survival*. Illus. Brian Deines. Toronto: Pajama Press, 2016.
- Starke, Ruth. *Noodle Pie*. Tulsa, OK.: Kane Miller, 2008.
- Tang, Eric M. [Insider], and Ed Ifkovic. *Dragon on a Ten-Speed*. Baltimore: PublishAmerica, 2004.
- Tran, Truong [Insider]. *Going Home, Coming Home =: Về Nhà, Thăm Quê Hương*. Illus. Ann Phong [Insider]. Trans. Nguyen Q. Duc. San Francisco: Children's Book Press, 2003.
- Wood, Fiona. *Cloudwish*. Boston: Little, Brown, 2016.
- Zeiss, Joyce B. *Out of the Dragon's Mouth*. Woodbury, MN: Flux, 2015.

Proposed changes to Minnesota Library Statute 134:

From Executive Director Kathy Enger: There is discussion among the Minnesota Library Association's (MLA) Legislative Committee; MLA's Lobbyist, Sam Walseth; the Regional Public Library Directors (CRPLSA); and the Minnesota Multi-county, Multi-type System Directors concerning changes in statutes that govern the two systems in Minnesota that receive funding from the legislature through the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). The Minnesota Multi-county, Multi-type Systems receive 100% of their funding from the legislature and the regional public library systems receive less than 10% of their funding from the legislature.

The statutes governing library systems that receive funding from the legislature in Minnesota are Chapter 134. Public and Multitype Libraries:
<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/134>

Much earlier, the conversation surrounding statute revision began with the Minnesota Office of the Legislative Auditor in a Program Evaluation Report on *Public Libraries*, March 22, 2010, that recommended “To reduce duplication and enhance coordination, the Legislature should eliminate multitype library cooperation systems and move their function and funding to the regional public library systems.”

See: <https://www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us/ped/2010/libraries.htm>

I have been concerned that the changes suggested may reroute multitype funding to the regional public library systems and result in merging the two systems; whereby, the multitype systems would possibly be eliminated. This is where the conversation began July 26, 2018, in Mankato.

Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) is one of seven multicounty, multitype systems in Minnesota -- four of those multitype systems are independent and three are already part of regional public library systems. Those multitype systems that are independent cover a geographic area that exceeds the boundaries of the regional systems. NLLN covers four regional public library systems.

The three multitype systems that are part of the regional systems direct multitype funding through the regional systems to use according to existing statute, without separate administrative costs. The four multitype systems that function independently have separate governing boards and manage their own administration. My concern is based on past initiatives and on conversations and emails I have received over the past year. Some of the correspondence is in the minutes and email, below. I am including the information as primary documents so it can be as clear as possible.

The first is minutes from the joint Multi-type and CRPLSA (regional library) Directors' meeting on July 26th in Mankato. Northern Lights Library Network Executive Director, Kathy Enger, is

currently secretary for the Minnesota Multi-county, Multi-type Library Systems in Minnesota and recorded the following portion of the minutes:

Minutes

Thursday, July 26, 2018

9 A.M. – 12 Noon

Minnesota Multitype Directors' Meeting

Joint Meeting with Council of Regional Public Library System Administrators (CRPLSA)

From SAM WALSETH's Statments, CAPITOL HILL ASSOCIATES:

"MCMT and RLBSS funding strategy going forward.

MLA Legislative Platform: Wording, handout, background, etc.

Discuss uniform look to folders in preparation for August 8 Legislative Forum.

“Life begins and ends with the Governor’s Office.”

The question for the 2018 election is -- Will the House Remain Republican? Both parties believe they will have control. Power control for the State Senate.

State revenue numbers are up, but that is just one side of the coin. What do the expenditures look like?

The state is left in good fiscal order, but economic uncertainty around tariffs and trade remain.

Provider tax generates six million in health care access fund and needed for federal medicaid funds.

When the funds are needed, the legislature will be looking for surplus. People will be looking to the general fund for the funds they are not receiving from budgets and taxes.

We’re going to have a good old fashioned “food fight.”

We need to get smart about line items.

Our ability to move within the Education Committee is very important.

Early childhood will continue to dominate.

Need to come in with a more unified voice, don’t have time to go through multiple systems.

What do the libraries need? And how much do we have for libraries?

The fewer library voices there are, the better. We cannot compete with each other. We need to come in with the library ask and it has to be one thing; it cannot be on many different fronts. In

regard to library systems and programs -- legislators have to hear ONE THING. **RLBSS formula change with equity funding** is recognized, but we need to combine the ask into one. Need to get one voice from libraries -- one ask -- from both systems. Too Much Information (TMI) -- “so far into the weeds”.

“Library systems need funds.” Equitable access of services. The legislature can grasp one ask, but not multiple asks, such as an ask from CRSPLA and another ask from the Multi-types.

We need to be unified in our ask. It’s about all ‘What can we do for the libraries in the E-12 budget?’ The complexities don’t matter. TMI: Too Much Information for legislators.

Not getting \$ and seeing \$ erode because we have three separate statutes. They can’t work with three different statutes -- doesn’t work long-term.

Reform and streamline, make government faster and more efficient. Make things look smoother, faster, and more efficient is the ‘sales hook’. Legislators like the optics of streamlining.

Legislators can’t move the needle. *The Library* – needs to be seen as one group.

Shared message.

State librarian, Jennifer Nelson, suggested revisiting the Legislative Audit Report from March, 2010, on *Public Libraries* that recommends eliminating the multitype library cooperation systems and move their function and funding to the regional public library systems to reduce duplication and enhance coordination. The report states that state library funding from the legislature (through MDE) for public library systems amounts to about 7% of public library funding in the report.

Sam Walseth recommends a change in state statute in order to bring all libraries together, to bring all three statutes together as one. Sam Walseth insists on combining statutes between the multicounty, multitype library systems, and the regional library systems and present one ask to the legislature that the multicounty, multitype statute 134.351 doesn’t say anything. He states he is going to ‘win’ on this.

Legacy dollars is what the legislature is going to do for libraries.

Gave communities \$2 million dollars for Legacy funding.

E12 spreadsheet, Omnibus Education bills, Special Education, Early Learning is becoming important.

Democrats: How do I keep all of this?

Republicans: How do I give it back to the tax payers?” Sam Walseth, Lobbyist, Capitol Hill Associates

Those in attendance:

MULTITYPE DIRECTORS: Kathy Brock Enger, Executive Director, Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN); Shari Fisher, Assistant Director, Arrowhead Library System (ALS); Shelly Grace, Prairielands Library Exchange; Ann Hokanson, Executive Director, Traverse des Sioux Library Cooperative (TdS); Mary Wilkins Jordan, Executive Director, Central Minnesota Libraries Exchange (CMLE); Ann Walker Smalley, Director, Metronet; Reagen Thalacker, Regional Librarian, Southeastern Libraries Cooperating/Southeast Library System (SELCO/SELS).

REGIONAL PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTORS: Laurie Ortega, Executive Director, Pioneerland Library System; Jim Trojanowski, Director, Plum Creek Library System; Liz Lynch, Director, Lake Agassiz Regional Library; Ken Behringer, Executive Director, Metropolitan Library Service Agency; Karen Pundsack, Executive Director Great Regional Library; Krista Ross, Executive Director, Southeastern Libraries Cooperating/Southeast Library System; Carla Lydon, Executive Director, East Central Regional Library; Gerri Moeller, Director, Viking Library System; Kristi Hanson, Director, Northwest Regional Library.

Also in Attendance: Jennifer Nelson, State Library Services; Sam Walseth, Capitol Hill Associates; Valerie Horton, Minitex; Margaret Stone, Minnesota Library Association

Following the minutes, here is an email from Ann Hokanson, Executive Director of the Traverse du Sioux Library System, and Chair of the Minnesota Library Association (MLA) for this year, calling for an in-person meeting of both the regional and multi-type directors to discuss drafting legislation to increase basic system support for regional public library systems and the multitype systems with a ‘one ask’ approach to include one bill for all of Minnesota library funding requests (funds received from the Minnesota legislature through the Minnesota Department of Education). The conversation among regional public library directors has historically been to usurp multi-type funding and close the multi-type systems in favor of a new Minnesota library system. This is a draft of the email Ann Hokanson sent to the multi-type and CRPLSA (public) library directors:

“Subject: Meeting request to discuss draft legislation

From: Ann Hokanson <ahokanson@tds.lib.mn.us>

Sender: <multitypes-crplsa@alslib.info> To <multitypes-CRPLSA@alslib.info>, Sam Walseth <sam@capitolhillassoc.com>

Date 2018-09-07 16:52

Hello regional library system colleagues both public and multitype:

There are two important actions in this email—a poll for a November in-person meeting date and a save the date for a December 5 online meeting.

At our joint meeting in Mankato, Sam Walseth was asked to work with Legislative staff to draft a bill that addresses the request for increased basic system support for regional public library systems and the multitype systems.

His recommendation is the 'one ask' approach—an overarching bill that includes all of our library funding requests. Sam has been working on a draft that will give us something concrete to discuss.

Any legislation that goes forward must address all of our needs, so that we all can really get behind our effort.

The timeline is driven by the November 6 election and the deadline for the Governor-Elect to have a budget prepared. This process begins immediately following the election. Regardless of the election outcome, we need to make every effort to have our requests included in the governor's budget.

Action 1: Select meeting date to discuss draft legislation— The meeting will be in Saint Cloud from 9:30 - 12:30. <https://doodle.com/poll/xps4egi7akqvfzns>

Action 2: Save the date—Please hold your save the date for Wednesday, December 5, at 10 A.M.—the time slot for the Minnesota legislative update online meeting—for a strategy development meeting. This will be an online meeting.

Thank you, Ann Ann Hokanson Executive Director Traverse des Sioux Library Cooperative ahokanson@tds.lib.mn.us 833-837-5422 x 700.”

The date set to discuss the bill drafted by MLA Lobbyist, Sam Walseth is:

Tuesday, October 30, 9:30 – 12:30 in St. Cloud at the St. Cloud Public Library.

We had a telephone conversation with Sam Walseth on **September 25, 2018**. Sam was on speaker phone in my office, along with NLLN’s President, Wayne Ingersoll; NLLN’s Office Manager, Debra Keena; and NLLN’s Communication Director, Aleta Sanford.

The September 25, telephone conversation included the following:

Sam said that any proposed legislation has yet to emerge and will only emerge after continued discussion with the various library partners.

Also, the idea of merging all multi-type systems solely under the umbrella of the regional public library systems has been dismissed in subsequent conversations post Mankato.

Sam Walseth, the Minnesota Library Association (MLA) lobbyist from Capitol Hill Associates, the current and past MLA Legislative Chairs, Ann Hokenson, and Ann Walker Smalley, still want to merge the two statutes, to update and modernize them, and codify what the current structure really looks like. Fit the two statutes together, the regional public library systems and

the multitype systems, so the bill can go into the budget sessions with one organized request. Wants one line item on the budget agenda as the request goes to the legislature this next session.

Sam warned that according to “Minnesota Statute 134.351, Subdivision 1. Establishment. The Commissioner of Education, upon the advice of the Advisory Council to the Division of State Library Services, may approve the establishment of multicounty, multitype library systems and the geographic boundaries of those systems.” He said I should look at the statute more carefully, because the commissioner of education has the right to close the Minnesota multicounty, multitype systems. Sam Walseth said that the current statute provides little protection for multitype systems. The new proposed statute could reduce the Commissioner of Education’s power. ***Sam strategy is to streamline the statutes to get more money.*** Working with new legislature will set the legislative agenda.

(Some public library systems already feel like they are doing the multitype’s job. A long-term NLLN Governing Board member said the following, “I think the regions are being starved of money. Both from the state and even more so from the counties. NLLN’s programs seem less important to them. It hasn’t been so long since the regions broke up and really rejected NLLN as any sort of support system. Now, they see support for school programs as less necessary since there are so few librarians in schools. A friend’s daughter is teaching in Chicago and their library is full of books with no one in charge. There isn’t even a way that teachers can take students in. So, they see the money they need just sitting there. A big problem is that the legislature can say then, “well, we’ve taken care of the library people and won’t have to pay attention to them for a long time.)

Conversations concerning the proposed changed legislation took place without input from Northern Lights Library Network, which covers twenty-three counties in northwest, north-central, and west-central Minnesota, over one third of the state. In speaking with constituents about the change, many voiced concern over losing the services provided by Northern Lights Library Network. A meeting among multicounty, multitype library directors will take place on October 10, to discuss the proposed legislation. The follow-up meeting will be October 30, in St. Cloud. I am the only person who opposes changing the statute.

Here is information in a memo from Shelly Grace, the Executive Director of Prairielands multicounty, multitype system, following the October 10, 2018, meeting with the multicounty, multitype directors:

Subject: October 30 meeting with CRPLSA
From: Shelly Grace <shelly@sammie.org>
To: Ann Hokanson <ahokanson@tds.lib.mn.us>, Ann Walker Smalley <ann@metronet.lib.mn.us>, Kathy.Enger@nlln.org <Kathy.Enger@nlln.org>, <kross@selco.info>, <mwilkinsjordan@cmlc.org>, <Shari.Fisher@alslib.info>, Reagen Thalacker <rthalacker@selco.info>
Date: 2018-10-10 15:37

“Hopefully everyone will be able to attend and contribute to our discussion with the regional directors on October 30, from 9:30 a.m. – noon at the St. Cloud Public Library. These are the

points we agreed on at our [October 10th] meeting. We encourage anyone with *differing* opinions to attend the meeting, and we promise to allow everyone to participate in a mutually supportive environment. Any joint legislation must aim at strengthening both multitype and regional library systems in Minnesota. The outcomes from the discussion should include agreement on joint action, and an action plan with tasks assigned to move it forward.

We want to ask the legislature to merge the two statutes on multitype and regional systems into one statute that clearly outlines multitype systems, regional systems, and hybrid systems.

We want to clarify the *difference* between multitype and regional system directives, even shifting multitype responsibilities aimed at public libraries to regional systems, allowing multitypes to concentrate on school, academic and special libraries.

The new legislation must address the realities of today's libraries, not repeat wording about libraries from the 1970s.

Multitypes want to shift focus to ensuring school media *staff* are prepared to serve their students and teachers, while also serving academic and special libraries.

Any continuing education *offered* by a multitype system will welcome participants/attendees from all types of libraries.

We want to allow systems to create governing boards with greater representation of library professionals than the general public [eliminating the current structure with representation from elected officials representing regional public library systems].”

Shelly Grace Executive Director Prairielands Library Exchange SMSU McFarland Library 507-532-9013 www.sammie.org

From Sam Walseth, MLA Lobbyist in an email dated October 16, 2018:

“Kathy,

I spoke with Senate Counsel yesterday to outline the "one statute, one system funding line-item" approach we're moving forward with for our collective review and discussion on October 30th in St. Cloud. I'm assuming they will use 134.20 and will rename it "regional library systems" instead of "regional public library systems" in order to reflect what is intended to be a statute covering public, public/multi-type and multi-type systems that will deliver library services across the state. However, I don't know that for sure and will have to wait for them to return a bill draft to be able to accurately answer your question.

Amendments to chapter 134.355 will be in the bill draft as the public systems want to amend their distribution formula and potentially RLTA allowable uses (also located in 134.355). The multi-type formula is located in rule and I've heard no discussion of changing the multi-type distribution formula.

The multi-type changes that were discussed last week in St. Cloud are: amendments to board governance with an aim to reduce the potential over influence of the regional public systems; and

amendments to scope of services to put a focus on, but not limited to, school/E-12 services. The multi-type directors were tasked with writing language or making suggestions on how these changes could be written.

I'm hoping that a draft bill will be sent to the regional public and multi-type directors late next week. Our drafter in Senate Counsel leaves for Rome on the 26th and he said he will get to work on it right away.

Those attending the multi-type directors' meeting last week in St. Cloud were unanimous in their instructions to me to continue down the path of having a "one statute, one system funding line-item" bill drafted for review on 10/30.

This project has a long way to go and there's no guarantee that it will fly in the end. It will take agreement by the various library partners before I would be in a position to seek legislative sponsors to have such a proposal introduced as legislation during the 2019 legislative session.

Sincerely,
Sam”