



**Special Meeting Minutes: January 8, 2021**

**Online (via Zoom Meetings)**

**Approved 1.28.21**

Attendees: Stephanie Johnson, Michele Leininger, Liz Lynch, Laurie Ortega, Karen Pundsack, Krista Ross, Erin Smith, Jim Trojanowski, Jim Weikum, Ann Hokanson, Carla Lydon, Scott Vrieze

Guests: Sam Walseth, Capitol Hill Associates; Jen Nelson, State Library Services

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Chair Scott Vrieze.

<b><u>ACTION</u></b>	<b><u>MOVED BY</u></b>	<b><u>RESULT</u></b>
<b>Motion to approve draft Agenda</b>	<b>Trojanowski/Lydon</b>	<b>Approved</b>
<b>Motion to approve December 7, 2020 minutes</b>	<b>Trojanowski/Hokanson</b>	<b>Approved</b>
<b>Motion to approve RLBS resolution</b>	<b>Lydon/Ross</b>	<b>Approved*</b>

Lydon made the motion to approve each regional system director bring the following resolution to their respective governing board for consideration and approval:

*The \_\_\_\_\_ Board supports CRPLSA to advocate at the legislature to increase the funding to the 12 regional public library systems, to be distributed through a formula that will stabilize the relative allocation of funds to each system, in a manner that holds each system harmless for their current allocations, and which advances the ability of Minnesota's regional public library systems to help meet the library needs of its citizens.*

\*Roll call vote:

Hokanson—yes

Johnson—yes

Leininger—yes

Lydon—yes

Lynch—yes

Ortega—yes

Pundsack—yes

Ross—yes

Smith—yes

Trojanowski—yes

Weikum—yes

Vrieze—yes

The motion passed.

### **Legislative Discussion: Legislative Proposal Regarding RLBSS Formula & Funding**

*The Council of Regional Public Library System Administrators RLBSS Funding Request 2021* draft document, which Karen P. emailed out to the system administrators listserv prior to the meeting, was reviewed and discussed. An updated draft of this document with suggested revisions was emailed out by Karen P. during the meeting.

Overall consensus was that the goal is to stabilize and improve funding over time to help regional library systems meet needs. The importance of providing Sam W. with flexibility when discussing the proposal with potential legislative bill authors was recognized.

Following discussion, a motion to approve the RLBSS resolution was made and approved as indicated in the Action items above.

### **Legislative Discussion: Proposed Legislative Platform Language and Messaging: Bonding, RLBSS, Legacy,**

Prior to the meeting on 1-7-2021, Liz L. shared a draft *Proposed Legislative Platform Language and Messaging* document via email. The document outlines potential language around Bonding, RLBSS, and Legacy that could be included on the MLA Platform/in talking points/other communication formats.

Liz L. asked Sam W. about the timeline in which language for each area (Bonding, RLBSS, and Legacy) should be in a more final format for presentation to legislators, etc. Sam W. stated that crafting language for RLBSS and Legacy should take priority over Bonding based on legislative timelines.

Liz L. asked the group to review the document, consider any language changes/additions and to make them on the shared document prior to the upcoming Legislative Committee meeting set for Wednesday, Jan. 13 if possible. Ann H. and Liz L. also agreed to work on a more concise version of the document.

It was confirmed that a \$2.6 million request for Library Legacy funding was discussed during prior meetings and is the desired request with the understanding that if recipients are asked to take a percentage cut, CRPLSA would honor the request.

Sam W. reported that Governor Walz's budget is due to be released at the Legislature Tuesday, Jan. 26.

Scott V. and Sam W. reported that a small contingent of CRPLSA members were able to meet with Governor's Office representatives to discuss the impact of (too) many years without increased RLBS funding. Scott V. and Michele L. will follow-up with a thank-you note.

### **Roundtable Sharing/Other Topics**

Liz L. shared that a huge takeaway is the partnerships LARL has formed with other agencies due in part to the COVID pandemic and mentioned the legal kiosk partnership with Legal Services agencies in Minnesota. Some other regions indicated they also have libraries participating in this project.

Members also shared information on developing various policies and trainings.

### **Next Meeting:**

Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 10:00 a.m., most likely via Zoom.

**There being no further business to conduct, Chair Vrieze adjourned the meeting at 2:42 p.m.**

*Erin Smith, 2021 CRPLSA Secretary*