# Maine Library Advisory Council (MLAC)

## Meeting Minutes

**July 2, 2020**

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| Present: | Maine State Library: Jamie Ritter, Janet McKenney, Deborah Clark  Goodall ML- Chip Schrader (Reg. 1)  Waterville PL- Tammy Rabideau (Reg. 3)  Southern Maine Community College- Carin Dunay (Acad.) |  |
| Next meeting: | **August 26, 2020**, 11:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. |  |

1. Call to order & introductions

The meeting was called to order by MLAC Chair C. Schrader at 11:09 a.m. As there was no quorum, Chip will e-mail voting items to council member within two weeks of the meeting.

1. Review of legislative changes to the council: discussion and questions

**Discussion:** J. Ritter explained the history of the Maine Regional Library District (MRLS), ARRCs,

and creation of a statewide library council of representatives from all areas of the state and library types. Recently, legislation was enacted that formalized the restructured library regions and Maine Library Advisory Council. This necessitates a revision of the council bylaws to better align with legislative language.

**Action:** For information to prepare for adoption of revised bylaws.

1. Updates to by-laws based on legislative changes

**Discussion**: D. Clark presented the bylaws revisions proposed by a C. Schrader, D. Clark, and

Debbie Lozito of Edyth Dyer ML in Hamden. J. McKenney recommended some further revisions.

**Action:** All bylaws revisions were accepted by the members present to be put up for an approval vote. C. Schrader will e-mail the final draft of revisions to all council members for a vote adopt via e-mail by July 17.

1. Discussion of COVID-19effects/challenges per region

Members described the challenges their libraries and regions are facing during the COVID-19 closures:

* Larger libraries are just beginning to open their buildings. Many are offering curbside service and in-building appointments.
* Some libraries are dealing with building renovations and new directors, complicating re-opening.
* Some libraries are offering Beanstack virtual summer reading programs.
* The pandemic is providing an opportunity for libraries to look at new and creative ways to deliver services and programming such as online programs, virtual readers’ advisory, and new materials booktalks via social media.
* Community college libraries are working to provide chat reference and e-resources such as e-textbooks. There is more budget shifting to electronic resources over print, such as e-magazines instead of print subscriptions.
* Academic libraries are also upgrading their technology to accommodate off-campus student learning as well as rearranging library spaces, preparing for re-opening of their facilities as appropriate.

1. Discussion of potential municipal sharing-budget issues

All members expressed budget concerns for their libraries. For many, they are beginning their new fiscal years not knowing if there will be further cuts in revenue. It is also not yet known how federal CARES funds will be dispersed by the State to municipalities. The budget situations in Blue Hill and Ellsworth were discussed.

1. Adjournment

C. Schrader adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Business items to be taken up in future meetings:

* Possibility of summer symposium
* Orientation of new council members

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Clark 7/2/20