# Maine Library Advisory Council (MLAC)

## Meeting Minutes

**September 23, 2020**

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| Present: | Reg. 1 Rep. Chip Schrader, Goodall ML, Sanford  Reg. 2 Rep. Beth Kane, Norway ML  Reg. 3 Rep. Tammy Rabideau, Waterville PL  Reg. 4 Rep. Debra Lay, Vose Library  Reg. 5 Rep. Michelle Fagan, Thompson FL, Dover-Foxcroft  Reg. 6 Rep. Debbie Lozito, Edythe Dyer CL, Hampden  Reg. 7 Rep. Elly Andrews, Northeast Harbor Library  Reg. 9 Rep. Sonja Eyler, Mark and Emily Turner ML, Presque Isle  Ex officio- Academic library rep. Carin Dunay, SMCC  Maine State Library: Janet McKenney, Deborah Clark, Lisa Shaw  Maine Library Commission Rep. Jeff Cabral |  |
| Absent: | Reg. 8 Rep. Marianne Thibodeau, UM Machias  Ex officio- School library (MASL) rep. Amanda Kozaka, Cape Elizabeth Middle School  Maine State Library: Jamie Ritter, Kara Reiman, Chris Dorman, Jared Leadbetter, Jenny Melvin |  |
| Next meeting: | **TBD** (November?) |  |

1. Call to order & introductions

The meeting was called to order by MLAC Chair C. Schrader at 11:24 a.m. C. Schrader welcomed new Region 4 Rep., Debra Lay from Vose Library in Union.

1. Approval of August 26, 2020 minutes

**Discussion:** The August meeting minutes were presented for approval. D. Lozito moved and M. Fagan seconded the minutes be accepted as presented.

**Action:** The minutes were unanimously approved with no changes.

1. Maine State Library Update

**Discussion**: J. McKenney reported the Governor’s Office accepted only 3.4% in MSL budget curtailment rather than the 10% that had been originally requested.

McKenney also updated members on the state library building situation. MSL staff and collection will be moved to 242 State St., the Cross Building, and a warehouse in Winthrop for the next 2-3 years. The public-facing facility will be located at 242 State St., Augusta.

**Action:** For information

1. Maine Library Commission Update

**Discussion:** J. Cabral reported the commission has not met since the last MLAC meeting. They plan to meet on October 13. Even though other government commissions have begun to receive new member appointments, the MLC has not yet.

**Action:** For information

1. Old business:

MSL Support Letter-

**Discussion:** The council discussed whether a letter should still be requested from the Maine Library Association since the budget cuts to the state library would not be as severe as was originally expected.

**Actions:** The MLA letter of support request for the MSL was tabled.

**MLAC Officer Nominations-**

**Discussion:** The council discussed the terms of service for the MLAC Chair and Vice-chair. Since officers begin their terms at Fall Council, it was determined a Vice-chair should be appointed immediately. With the legislative action of September 2019 making the MLAC an official governance council, all representative and officer terms of service reset.

**Actions:** M. Fagin nominated herself for Vice-chair and was unanimously appointed by the Council (M. Fagan moved, C. Schrader seconded). J. McKenney will send a list of members and officers to Council members showing everyone’s terms of service.

**Small Academic Libraries and Minerva-**

**Discussion:** C. Dunay reported some community colleges in Minerva were concerned they would lose their Minerva membership as Freedom Express reduced their van delivery days. The Minerva Board reassured them the van days requirement would not be enforced during the pandemic. There is still a concern about the lack of collection and lending capacity for some small colleges which may make them ineligible to continue their participation in Minerva. J.

**Actions:** J. McKenney assured the state library along with Maine Infonet would continue working on the small academic library issue with Minerva membership.

1. New business:

Regional Communications: Small Public Libraries Joining MILS-

Discussion: D. Lozito conveyed communications from two libraries frustrated at the slow pace of entry into the MILS consortium. They requested APIs be developed to allow them to enter their holdings in MaineCAT for now.

Actions: J. McKenney has invited Maine Infonet director, James Jackson Sanborn to address the Council on the situation of small public libraries to either participate in the MILS consortium soon or connect their holdings to MaineCAT via an API with their small independent consortia systems (Attrium, Apollo, Koha, Balsam).

1. Review of MSL Strategic Plan Project 1 (ARRC System):

**Discussion:** J. McKenney explained Project 1 of the MSL strategic plan submitted for an LSTA annual federal grant. Project 1 involves the ARRC (Area Reference and Resource Center) statewide system which facilitates ILL and van delivery, free card services, reference services, and MSL liaison office space at Portland PL and Bangor PL. Other ARRC libraries are MLS and Lewiston PL. McKenny also explained which areas of MSL’s budget is funded by federal and state monies.

There was some discussion as to whether some ARRC funding should be shifted to accelerate MILS membership which would reduce ILL requests on the ARRCs. Also, since most libraries were not using ARRC reference services much, some of those funds could be used to address other resource sharing priorities along with monies saved from closing MSL offices at the ARRCs. MSL staff acknowledged discussions such as these were necessary and ongoing to make the best use of federal and state funds, keeping in mind the financial impact on the ARRC libraries.

McKenney expressed the guiding principle for MSL’s strategic planning and budgeting is *equitable library services* for all Maine residents.

Actions: J. McKenney will send out MSL/ ARRC budget information to council members.

1. Adjournment

C. Schrader adjourned the meeting at 1:27 p.m. J. McKenney will send out the meeting recording to council members.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Clark 9/23/20