

*The Mission of Lake Agassiz Regional Library
is to share resources
in order to provide access to quality library services
that meet lifelong needs,
and enrich the lives of those we serve.*

**LARL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
EXECUTIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

A joint meeting of the Lake Agassiz Regional Library Executive and Finance Committees was held on Wednesday, April 5th at the Moorhead Branch. President Perry called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Executive Committee Members Present: Ellingson, Kolke, Melby, Perry (chair), Saar, Swanson.

Executive Committee Members Absent: Eid.

Finance Committee Members Present: Ellingson (chair), Gunderson, Jacobson, Kolke, Nelson, Perry (ex officio), Saar.

Finance Committee Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Fredette, Stroh.

PUBLIC INPUT. None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

Fredette requested the addition of the approval of the union contract as negotiated. Nelson requested the addition of a discussion on the Becker County Letter.

(Nelson/Melby) Moved to approve the Agenda as presented and amended. MCU.

(Saar/Kolke) Moved to approve the February 16th, 2006 Executive/Finance Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. MCU.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Board packets were mailed prior to the end of March; therefore, a draft of the March financial statements was distributed at the meeting rather than being sent with the Board packets.

LARL has received payments from the Regional Library Basic System Support (RLBSS) grant in the amount of \$118,678 and from the Regional Library Telecom Aid (RLTA) grant in the amount of \$20,750.

Each of the past several years, LARL has been covered by a Directors and Officers Insurance
(over)

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Policy/Employment Practices Liability Insurance. This insurance is up for renewal again in May. This policy protects the volunteers who serve on the LARL Board from lawsuits pertaining to their work while serving as a LARL Board member. It also includes coverage in the event of a lawsuit due to things such as wrongful termination, age discrimination, harassment, etc.

(Swanson/Ellingson) Moved to approve payment of the Directors and Officers Insurance Policy/Employment Practices Liability Insurance. MCU.

Two counties have not met our budget request for 2006, Clearwater and Norman counties. Potential cuts in service to these counties had been discussed at the March Full Board meeting and the county representatives were to discuss these options and report back with their recommended cuts. Clearwater County is still discussing the possibility of meeting our request. If they do not meet our request, Larson recommends that we choose option #1 for Clearwater County which includes eliminating the Library Assistant position and reducing the open hours of the library by two hours a week. Gunderson recommends choosing option #2 for Norman County which includes reducing the open hours of the Ada Library by three hours per week and reducing deliveries to just once a week for 23 weeks.

Discussion was held concerning these cuts. It was questioned whether or not we could just let the budget shortfalls go this year without making cuts and why the LINK sites were not being affected. It was the consensus that the cuts do need to be made in the counties which do not meet their request as that is specified in the LARL agreement. The LINK sites are not being closed as it takes very little to fund them, yet it would take a great deal of time, effort, and money to get them back up and running again if we closed them and started them up again later. Kolke stated that he would prefer to see option #1, eliminating the Assistant position and reducing open hours, implemented in both counties rather than option #1 in Clearwater County and option #2 in Norman County.

(Swanson/Jacobson) Moved to implement service cuts, as presented, in Clearwater County (Option #1) and Norman County (Option #2) as of May 1, 2006 unless funding requests are met prior to that time. Motion passed with Ellingson and Kolke voting against.

The first draft of the 2007 Preliminary Budget was presented to the Board. It included an increase in the materials budget, an anticipated health insurance increase of 10%, and asks for an increase of just over 3.5% from the Signatories.

There is no update on the van purchase to report at this time.

The union representatives and the LARL Negotiation team met again on March 13, 2006 and have agreed on a proposal for the new union contract. The negotiated proposal includes salary increases of \$.40 per hour in year one, a 2.5% increase in year two, and a 2% increase in year three. This proposal is being brought to the union members for their vote.

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(Ellingson/Jacobson) Moved to approve the 2006-2008 Union Contract as negotiated. MCU

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

(Swanson/Kolke) Moved to Authorize the LARL Director to sign an agreement with the State of Minnesota, acting through its Minnesota Office of Higher Education (OHE), for LARL to manage and operate a designated MnLINK (Minnesota Library Information Network) Gateway Server Site through June 30, 2007. MCU

A joint LARL Board/staff strategic planning meeting was held on March 11th in Moorhead. Since then, the Coordinating Team has met again with facilitator Carolyn Bacon. Four supervisors have stepped forward to take charge of different Focus Areas of the Strategic Plan.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

None.

OTHER

None.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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