

**Nebraska Library Commission  
Lincoln, Nebraska  
May 11, 2012**

MINUTES

The Nebraska Library Commission met on May 11, 2012, at the Nebraska Library Commission offices. Notice of the meeting was posted on the State Public Meeting Calendar and the Nebraska Library Commission website.

Commission members present: John Dale, Charles Gordon, Sheryl Crow, Diane Boyd, Patricia Gross, Steve Batty. Staff present: Rod Wagner, Mary Geibel, Richard Miller, Mary Jo Ryan, JoAnn McManus, Kathryn Brockmeier.

Chair John Dale called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. This meeting is in compliance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Steve Batty and seconded by Diane Boyd to approve the agenda. Motion approved on roll call vote: Steve Batty – aye; Diane Boyd – aye; John Dale – aye; Charles Gordon – aye; Patricia Gross – aye; Sherry Crow – aye. Motion approved.

**Approval of the Minutes:** (March 9, 2012) – Pat Gross requested a correction on page two to read, “Scottsbluff Star Herald.” A motion was made by Charles Gordon and seconded by Sherry Crow to approve the minutes as amended. Motion approved on roll call vote: Diane Boyd – aye; John Dale – aye; Charles Gordon – aye; Patricia Gross – aye; Sherry Crow – aye; Steve Batty – aye. Motion approved.

**Public Forum** – There were no public representatives present.

**Chair’s Report and Commissioners’ Comments**

**John Dale** reflected on his two terms with the Commission beginning in 2005, and his prior 28 years on the staff of the Lincoln City Libraries. He expressed appreciation for the opportunity to be involved with libraries, not just locally, but statewide. He said that he has cherished this appointment and will miss it.

John said that planning for the Conn Library at Wayne State College is coming along nicely. The learning commons concept is the key for planning. John observed that the library is right in the middle of the campus, and has served as a center of student study life. John said that the new concepts and the physical changes that are possible will make the library even better.

**Charles Gordon** – stated he has enjoyed working with John and has appreciated his guidance. Charles said that he enjoyed attending and participating in National Library Legislative Day, held in April in Washington, D.C. He thanked commission members for encouraging him to participate this year.

**Sherry Crow** – reported on some school and public librarian changes within the Meridian region. Sherry said that Sharon Osenga, Meridian Library System director, attended the Library Journal Design Institute in Denver. The new addition to the Ainsworth Public Library is finished. Sherry commented that the newly remodeled Valentine Public Library is beautiful and is well designed. A young adult roundtable meeting was held in Gothenburg and was well attended both by school and public youth librarians. There will be a Library Leadership Institute reunion at UNL in July. Sherry said that she also participated in National Library Legislative Day and enjoyed the experience. She noted the initiative to include school libraries and librarians in federal education program re-authorization legislation. Sherry mentioned the Kearney Public Library grand opening to celebrate completion of the expansion and renovation project.

**Diane Boyd** – expressed appreciation to John Dale for his leadership and work on behalf of libraries and library services. Diane shared an article published in *Nebraska Life* magazine that a South Sioux City school librarian sent. The article was based on last year's flood and the damage caused.

**Steve Batty** – thanked John for his guidance and professionalism. Steve said that the McCook public library will close the front entrance in order to install an elevator. A new entrance will be built on the back side of the library. The library foundation is paying for the project. The city will cover the expense for a temporary parking lot adjacent to the new entrance. Installation of the elevator will allow the children's section to be moved to the downstairs, along with a meeting area.

Steve said that the BTOP grant provided McCook with about \$13,000 worth of computer equipment. The library recently held an open house to showcase the new computers. City officials and library board members were among those attending the open house and program.

Steve attended the Nebraska Educational Technology Conference held in April. He said that conference presentations were excellent including Kevin Honeycutt's keynote presentation "*Trends, Tools and Tactics for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning.*" Steve said that one of the sessions covered a Department of Education project that involves creation of high quality eBooks, partnership with content providers and free access to finished eBooks. The eBooks will be published to be read on iPads. The resources will be supported by the Nebraska Department of Education. Steve noted the potential for Nebraska Memories and support from libraries for e-publishing. He mentioned the example of trains in the McCook area and the historical information and images. Steve said that retired railroaders living in the McCook area are a source for oral histories. The eBooks project goal is to provide high quality books for Nebraska schools, students and citizens free of charge.

**Pat Gross** – Pat said that she attended the BTOP grant project open house in Sidney. Pat commented that the Morrill public library received an \$8,500 grant and the Bridgeport Public Library a \$20,000 grant from the Shirley Kreutz Bennett Donor-Advised Fund through the Nebraska Community Foundation. The grant funds will be used by the Morrill public library for renovation work including new windows and paint. The Bridgeport public library will also use grant funds for library remodeling work and to better house their BTOP technology. Pat said that

the Mitchell public library also held a BTOP open house. Pat said that the Scottsbluff Public Library has hired a new director. Abigail Yellman will begin her new position on June 1. Pat mentioned the local newspaper's "People Pride" section and the library story on the front page. Deb Carlson and Nancy Escamilla from the Scottsbluff public library go to the schools to introduce the public library and the opportunity to have a library card. They offer vouchers for the parents to bring them in for a great marketing tool.

Pat thanked John Dale for his service and expressed appreciation for the inspiration he has given to her for many years.

**Director's Report** – Rod Wagner reported on National Library Legislative Day activities. He thanked Charles and Sherry for attending and Francine Canfield from the Ralston public library. Francine is the in-coming chair of the Nebraska Library Association legislative committee. Visits to Nebraska's congressional delegation offices were made on Tuesday, April 24. A briefing day was held on Monday, April 23. Among issues discussed were LSTA funding and inclusion of school libraries and funding within federal education related programs. Wagner said that the American Library Association is promoting funding for next fiscal year at the current year funding level. That flat funding is a goal is recognition that major budget cuts are expected in the coming year. The federal budget won't be determined until after the November elections. Cyber security legislation was another issue brought up and discussed. Wagner said that Congressman Lee Terry has significant involvement in that legislation. The Nebraska library group met with Rep. Terry's Legislative Director, Brad Schweer. The group also met with Senator Mike Johanns, Rep. Adrian Smith, Kerri Price (Rep. Fortenberry's Press Secretary and Policy Analyst), and John Cavanaugh (Sen. Nelson's Deputy Legislative Assistant).

**Mary Jo Ryan** reported on the NET News "**Campaign Connection 2012: Voter Voices**" **Project** – "Voter Voices" came about as a result of the BTOP project. Mary Jo said that the first BTOP launch event was held in Neligh. Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Radio was invited to cover the event. Bill Kelly, from NET Radio, attended the Neligh event. Libraries and the BTOP project got some people at NET thinking about a spinoff project; they decided they wanted to do the "Campaign Voter Voices Project" which would allow people to come into the library, use the equipment and record a message about what they think is important or questions they might want to ask a candidate. Meetings with Library Commission staff led to identifying libraries to work with in introducing and developing the project format. There are now videos available. NET will also hold public forums in libraries where people are invited to come and to discuss political issues of voter interest. One forum was held in Broken Bow. The forum was recorded and NET has used it in their radio programs. Mary Jo said that the recording is very well worth listening to.

**Mary Jo Ryan** reported on IMLS Scholarships and Internships. Mary Jo said that this is an exciting time for the project. The project is mid-way through its three year grant period. At this time, 57 scholarships have been awarded. Mary Jo said that 70 scholarships are planned for undergraduates, which include community college and bachelor's level. Half that number has been awarded. Mary Jo said that the project plan calls for award of 35 scholarships for master's level library science degrees, including school library programs. Thus far, 22 have been awarded.

Mary Jo said that just because we have awarded scholarships that doesn't mean the money is spent. The Library Commission will likely need a project extension in order to spend down the next batch of scholarships. Depending on a student's personal situation, it can take several years to complete a degree. Scholarship awards in the next round, which is the end of June, will carry beyond the end of the grant. Additional time will be needed. This won't result in more money, but an extension will allow more time to spend grant funds.

In addition to scholarship funds, there are funds for stipends. Scholarship students can request funds for purchase of a laptop computer. Thus far, 39 of the 57 scholarship recipients have received stipends for purchase of a laptop. Stipends can also be requested to pay for professional association memberships and to attend regional or national library conferences. For these purposes, 14 students have asked for professional association dues and 10 students have attended regional or national conferences.

Mary Jo reported on another summer activity – the Technology Rodeo. The Tech Rodeo is planned specifically for the scholarship students. However, others can also participate. Laura Johnson and Michael Sauer have been working with a staff team to develop the program. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) stresses 21<sup>st</sup> century learning skills and these skills will be addressed in the program. The tech program will be held at Doane College from July 26 through July 28. Included will be a team activity that will involve designing a project, presenting it, and promoting it.

**JoAnn McManus** reported on the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP) project. JoAnn said that of the project's 147 libraries, 141 have almost all their equipment. The 6 libraries that remain requested that they be brought in at a later stage. Current plans include providing 1,187 computers (675 desktops, 74 ADA desktops, and 438 laptops), 29 laptop charging carts, 146 printers, 157 scanners, 87 projectors, 109 Wi-Fi routers/access points, 125 network switches, 415 desks and 593 chairs. JoAnn said that more than \$185,000 worth of furniture for 118 libraries has already been ordered. Seventy-four libraries have increased their broadband speeds. Of the 74 that have been upgraded, the average speed moved from 2.9 mbps to 17.2 mbps. JoAnn said that we now estimate that 90 libraries will upgrade broadband service. The Library Commission has offered training to BTOP libraries including marketing & communication gymnasium, technology planning conference, e-rate sessions, and ADA computer station training. Thus far, 92 libraries have held open houses. BTOP libraries & partners are now using the project calendar and communications blog. The Commission has spent \$2,383,230 of the \$3,668,189 grant amount. This represents 65% project completion. JoAnn said that there are 1,083 public computer workstations deployed – 489 replacement and 594 new stations.

**Financial Report** – Rod Wagner commented on the March – April Financial report. The Commission's budget is on track at this point of the year. Wagner said that since this is the first year of the biennium any state funds remaining at the end of the fiscal year will carry over for expenditure in the second year.

Wagner referred to the 2012 state aid payments report that John Felton prepared. State aid payments were made taking into account library eligibility, service populations, accreditation levels and the reduced appropriation amount. Payments were distributed to 170 accredited

libraries. Expenditures totaled \$364,373. Payments were also made to unaccredited libraries that completed library statistical reports. These *Dollars for Data* incentive grants of \$250 each were awarded to 45 libraries for a total of \$11,250.

Wagner said that the **LSTA Maintenance of Effort Waiver** request is due next week (Tuesday, May 15). The request will be submitted on the same basis as the one submitted last year. State funds reductions were based on the biennium budget that was in place at that time and the budget decisions that were made during the special legislative session in 2009, during the regular session in 2010, and further changes made during the 2011 legislative session resulted in state expenditures that fell below the MOE requirement. The conditions that led to the governor and legislature making state budget cuts were the same as they were a year ago. Those cuts were made largely across-the-board for a majority of state agencies. State economic conditions and proportional budget reductions are the primary factors the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) looks to in deciding whether to grant a waiver. Wagner said that the procedures for submitting a waiver request have changed somewhat. The IMLS asks for a comparison with a group of agencies such as arts and humanities councils, state historical societies, those that have a closer relationship to the state library agency. The Library Commission's state funds reductions are close to these other agencies on a percentage basis. Waiver decisions are expected sooner this year.

### **Unfinished Business**

**LSTA Five-Year Program Evaluation & LSTA Five-Year Plan 2013-2017** – Rod Wagner said that Kathryn Brockmeier and John Felton did the great majority of work on the five-year evaluation report, and did a great job. Kathryn Brockmeier is facilitating work on the five-year plan. Kathryn Brockmeier commented that the new plan, when submitted, will include an agency mission and a vision statement, goals, objectives and how they relate to LSTA priorities. The plan will also include the specific services and activities to undertake for each goal. She said that through the evaluation and planning process input is being sought from all sorts of areas, from other agencies and organizations, and with Nebraskans that have a stake in what the Nebraska Library Commission does. Kathryn said that the process addresses who the Commission serves – and ultimately the citizens of Nebraska. Kathryn led an activity to collect responses from Commission members for use in developing the LSTA plan.

### **New Business**

**Election of Chair/Vice-Chair for July 2012- June 2012** – Diane Boyd nominated Steve Batty to serve as Commission chair for the fiscal year beginning July 1. Steve Batty nominated Charles Gordon to serve as Commission chair. A vote was taken by a show of hands with Steve Batty elected as chair.

**Election of Vice-Chair for July 2012-June 2013** – Steve Batty nominated Charles Gordon for vice-chair. There were no additional nominations. It was moved by Pat Gross and seconded by Sherry Crow that Charles Gordon be elected to serve as Commission vice-chair. Motion approved on roll call vote: Steve Batty – aye; Diane Boyd – aye; Patricia Gross – aye; Sherry Crow – aye; Charles Gordon – abstain; John Dale - abstain. Motion approved.

**Out-of-State Travel Request** – Rod Wagner requested approval to attend an event in Anaheim, California, sponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The meeting is scheduled prior to the American Library Association Annual Conference. The foundation invited state librarians and library development officers to participate in the meeting. The foundation will cover airfare expenses, meals and two nights lodging. Wagner also requested approval to attend the American Library Association Annual Conference to be held in Anaheim following the Gates foundation meeting. Diane Boyd moved and Sherry Crow seconded the motion to approve the out-of-state travel request. Motion approved on roll call vote: Sherry Crow – aye; Steve Batty – aye; Diane Boyd – aye; John Dale – aye; Charles Gordon – aye; Patricia Gross.

**Special Recognition** – Rod Wagner expressed his appreciation and that of the staff to John Dale for all his work, good support and leadership. Rod said that John’s assistance to the Commission extended back to his two terms on the State Advisory Council on Libraries.

**Next meeting** – Wagner asked if Commission members would consider changing the next meeting date from July to June. The earlier date would allow the Commission to review and act on the LSTA five-year plan that is due the end of June. It was agreed that the next Commission meeting will be held on Monday, June 11, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Library Commission offices.

John Dale adjourned the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

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Mary Geibel, Secretary