

**NOBLE
MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION MEETING
AT BEEBE MEMORIAL LIBRARY, WAKEFIELD
SEPTEMBER 24, 2009**

PRESENT: Twenty-three libraries were represented at the meeting, attendance sheet attached.

CALL TO ORDER: Martha Holden called the meeting to order at 10:00. Introductions were done. Nadine Mitchell discussed NMRLS meeting. Mass. Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) considering consolidating the regions to only one or two regions. MBLC Director Rob Maier will be going to regions in October. State has asked Rob to cut FY '11 MBLC budget 16%, with most coming from region line and networks cut 33%. No state aid cuts, but 9C cuts will be announced 2nd quarter.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ruth Urell made a motion to approve Minutes from June 11, 2009 meeting. Lorraine Jackson seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Doug Rendell reported on 6/30/09 fiscal year end report. Bob Guimond, our CPA, is working on audit. Ron added the last quarter Innovative invoice is not reflected. Pat Cirone made a motion to approve report. Brian seconded the motion, vote was unanimous.

MANAGERS' REPORT:

Ron Gagnon -

- Reported on update of both grants, which were approved by MBLC.
 - Server Grant** – This is a 1 year grant to replace Innovative server. The server is coming to end of life and needs to be replaced.
 - Open Source Grant** – This is a joint grant between NOBLE, CW/MARS, and MVLC to explore an open source library system.
 - Been working throughout the summer with the other networks on this. Paul Kissman of MBLC has been working with the networks on the grant also.
 - MVLC set up Evergreen and NOBLE set up Koha to review. The two systems were compared and experimented with over the summer and the decision was made to go with Evergreen based on consortia abilities. Vote will be presented to Members in November. Have to submit with Annual Action Plan to MBLC by Dec. 1st.
 - The System Review Working Group, chaired by Elisabeth Tully, continues to examine different points regarding how the system will operate. Electronic Resources and Database Working Group, chaired by Jeff Klapes, continues to examine policies.
 - The \$414,000 grant shared amongst the three networks is funding two main purposes:
 - 1) development and migration; and 2) fund a project coordinator to over see the development of the project. Position expect to start January 1st.
 - Ruth Urell asked if any idea financial situation of other networks in long term. Ron explained the systems will be set up separately, but parallel, so can be supported regionally. Ron explained too complex to merge systems.
 - Patti Rogers asked about time frame. Ron explained it's two year grant beginning October 1st. Most of the time is to develop, test and migrate the software. The first network to come up most likely will be MVLC in summer 2011. The other networks will roll out after that.
- Ron and Elizabeth attended ALA in July. Attended sessions on Open Source issues, and new technology. Met with vendors that support open source. Attended URSA Working Group, Virtual Catalog Software, Ron represented Mass.
- The audit is underway.
- Working with the regions on Automated Sorting Task Force as part of the statewide delivery initiative. An RFI was issued. Next step is meeting in mid-October to continue process to RFP. Multi-million dollar project for automated sorting. Goal is to streamline process at library end not having to use slips in books.

Elizabeth Thomsen –

- Reviewed upcoming meeting schedule. Complete schedule will be on Staff Information System tomorrow. Big event coming up is MassLNC Open Source Library System Grant Meeting conducted jointly by the three networks. Two meetings will be held, October 21st at Palmer Public Library, and October 29th at Osgood Landing, N. Andover. Both meetings have the same agenda and librarians can attend either session.
- Continue to use GoTo Meeting software, has been very useful in assisting libraries without having to travel to their library. Will be sending out specific issues that can be booked.
- Working groups have been meeting, Electronic Resources and Database Working Group looking at catalog and database issues. Collection Management will be sponsoring sessions throughout the year.

Martha Driscoll –

- Continues to work on Comcast installations. Almost all public libraries are set up for use with public workstations. Getting 16MB bandwidth, the current T1 with NOBLE is 1.5MB. Next phase is to change libraries with wireless access. Derek Ketchopulos, consultant been working with. He's a specialist with wireless, worked with Gloucester and Swampscott. He'll be meeting with libraries to discuss wireless connection. Carol Gray added he has been very helpful.

FY2011 BUDGET PRESENTATION:

Ron did Powerpoint presentation. Budget was sent out to directors prior to meeting. Budget is presented at this meeting with vote at October meeting. Highlights below:

Headlines

- Interest income will be used to subsidize budget
- No capital contribution.

Issues

- Decreasing state funds
- Diminishing surplus rollover
- Loss of \$118,661 in income for FY 2011, represents 12% cut
- Cost increases for Innovative and Comcast total \$24,360

Lack of state support

- MBLC line 7000-9506 not restored to FY 2001 levels.
- 24% decrease in network allocations for FY 2010, applied to NOBLE FY 2011.
- Possible 9C callbacks on funds
- Additional 16% cut likely next year

Diminishing Rollovers

- Surplus from one fiscal year rolls over to subsidize future year. This is diminishing due to tighter budgets and correct data line billing.

FY 2011 Reduced Expenditures

- Two part-time positions eliminated, \$10,000
- Part-time catalogers cut 1/3, \$12,000
- FY 10 Cost of Living adjustment cut, \$15,000
- Capital contribution cut, \$60,000
- Catalog enhancement cut, \$5,100
- Other decreases, \$24,200
- Total cuts \$126,300

Reviewed FY 2009 to FY 2011 expense graph. Only increases Innopac and Telecomm, and Cost Distribution FY 2010 & 2011 chart.

Goals

- Financial stability
- Stay current with technology
- Support old and new technology in transition

Financial Stability

- Build up Capital while holding costs: \$1,203,629
- Capital will be used for new system
- Capital may be needed for relocation or renovation costs, May 2011

Holding Down Assessments

- No increase in FY 2007 and FY 2008
- 1% increase in FY 2009
- 2.95% increase in FY 2010 – CPI up 6.3%
- 1% increase proposed for FY 2011, CPI down 3.4% (showed chart depicting NOBLE and CPI)

Multipurpose Technology for Outreach

- Continue OverDrive and NextReads projects
- NextReads materials for websites, custom newsletters, cross-promotion
- Libraries add individual electronic purchases, NOBLE staff work with libraries to implement

Challenges

- Reliable, efficient computer system
- Adequate telecomm and Internet bandwidth
- Lease renewal in May 2011

Library System

- Tri-network open source system LSTA grant with MVLC and C/W MARS, \$400,000
- New system recommendation, Evergreen
- Software improvements will be needed
- Contain costs while improving usability

Telecomm bandwidth

- Paetec network improvements moved bottleneck from Internet to library lines
- Supplemental Comcast connections resolved problem at extra cost
- Vision for FY 2012, use only commercial Internet, no private network
- Work, expertise needed to migrate and manage

Carol Gray commended Ron on his presentation. Ron added budget doesn't include OverDrive, EBSCO, or PC Support costs.

OVERDRIVE DOWNLOADABLE UPDATE:

Elizabeth Thomsen reported on the Digital Bookmobile at Beverly Public Library held last week and thanked Pat Cirone for arranging. Currently NOBLE provides only audiobooks and not downloadable eBooks, patrons were inquiring about that service. That service should be considered in the future.

Did overhead presentation:

- Boston Public Library OverDrive site has all formats that OverDrive offers, including eBooks. Any Massachusetts patron can get e-card and use service at Boston Public Library. Kindle has been the most popular e-reader device and made to use with Amazon. Sony E-Reader coming out in January and can go online. Sony and OverDrive have an agreement where you can search through the Sony E-reader and it will return hits from libraries that have eBook service. ManyBooks.net is a free site.

- Discussion on formats and looking forward. EPUB is upcoming format using Adobe. Pat asked what future plan is. Elizabeth stated would initially purchase best sellers in eBook.
- Ruth asked if patrons in Massachusetts can use BPL OverDrive site, why should NOBLE copy that? Elizabeth explained there could be issues using BPL as primary site. Not sure how long BPL e-card model will last and having trouble keeping up buying number of books for their patrons. Ron added with state cuts, there's a possibility the service could get cut.
- Patti Rogers asked what is vision or opinion of paper copies of books. Elizabeth stated feels people have individual needs for different purposes. Martha Holden felt demand for e-books will increase and do we want to be able to meet that demand.
- Elizabeth considering setting up meeting for staff to bring devices. Pat added patrons ask for eBooks and feel more comfortable using their own library service and getting help within their own community library whether public or academic.
- Demonstrated NOBLE OverDrive site, overdrive.noblenet.org. Windows Mobile now available. Working on layout of the site.
- Elizabeth reiterated doesn't have to be a service that is expensive for end users if have download station in library. Just need inexpensive device. The other group need to target is visually impaired. Think about other ways to reach people for OverDrive.

ADJOURNMENT: Ruth Urell made a motion to adjourn, Lorraine Jackson seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 12:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Courtemanche
Secretary