NOBLE Executive Board Meeting
November 10, 2015 @ NOBLE

Present: Ron Gagnon, Elizabeth Thomsen, Martha Driscoll, Alan Thibeault, Linda C. W. Gardener, Karen Pangallo, Patricia Rogers, Brian Courtemanche, Kathryn Geoffrion-Scannell, Martha Holden, Myron Schirer-Suter, Pat Cirone

1. Call to Order
The Meeting was called to order by President Alan Thibeault at 2:05 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes
The Minutes from the October 14th Meeting were distributed and approved.

3. Treasurer's Report
The Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer Karen Pangallo and approved.

Note: 2% increase in Evergreen software maintenance was not anticipated, last year.

Overage reflects purchase of new computers for Martha and Michele.

4. Executive Director's Report
Evergreen Hackaway

NOBLE was the host site for the 2015 Evergreen Hackaway, from November 4th to 6th, which brought together fourteen Evergreen developers from the United States and Canada, plus more via an online video hookup.

Sponsored by MassLNC, developers came from British Columbia, Washington state, South Carolina, Indiana, Georgia, Connecticut and Massachusetts, all working together to improve the Evergreen software. Areas studied included the catalog search and academic course reserves.

Hosting provided a great opportunity for NOBLE's Evergreen staff to meet, interact with and learn from the leading Evergreen developers, coming from both libraries and Equinox. Attendees were very pleased with the amenities provided by NOBLE.

Generator

Ron ordered the generator, previously discussed and approved, shortly after the last Executive Board Meeting. The final price still is being determined. The original quote did not include online monitoring, but it did include tax, so cost is likely to be close to the figure quoted. Site work is expected to start soon, with the plan to install the generator before winter weather arrives.

5. FY2015 Financial Statements and Filings
Ron reported that the process was straightforward, and there were no deficiencies or issues. In the past, the account groupings have never lined up with NOBLE's budget categories. This year, work was done to align these components, to make the audit and filing processes easier in the future. The FY2015 Financial Statements and Filings were approved by the Board.

6. FY2017 Action Plan
Ron explained that the FY2017 Action Plan needs to be submitted to MBLC by December 1st, as a prerequisite for grant funding. Ron does not anticipate submitting grants, but it still is good to have an up-to-date action plan on file, and, also, to have an action plan as a management tool.

Ron highlighted several items in the Action Plan:

Goal 1

D. NOBLE was not able to design and implement multi-part online courses on three different topics related to staff use of NOBLE service, last year, but plans to do this in FY 2017

F. Because of all the changes going on with MassLNC, the annual MassLNC conference has been moved from spring 2016 to fall 2016.

Goal 2

A. The implementation of new Evergreen web-based staff client modules is expected to begin with Evergreen release 2.10 or 3, probably in spring 2017. The circulation module will be first, with other modules to follow.

C. Rather than just be a part of MassLNC's Evergreen development priorities, NOBLE wants to determine its own individual priorities for development, based on member input.

D. NOBLE used to explain local area networks to individual member libraries, but has not done this as much recently. NOBLE wants to resume this service, so people will be better informed and technology issues can be resolved more quickly.

E. MassLNC is working on new relevance parameters for the Evergreen catalog, to be tweaked for NOBLE. This is focused on offering popularity as a factor in relevance rankings for catalog searches.

Goal 3

A. NOBLE will follow up on the results of MBLC's Social media login project. If going forward is recommended, NOBLE will need to consider whether and how to implement the social media login.

Goal 4.

A. NOBLE will keep working on the statistics dashboard, especially the important next step of including year-end statistics, as well as showing data for additional NOBLE services, such as EBSCO.

Goal 5

A. NOBLE will implement an OverDrive API, when available, to provide a more seamless transition from the NOBLE catalog to Overdrive.

C & D. NOBLE's EBSCO contracts will be coming up for renewal in June, 2016. In 2017, any changes resulting from the contract renewal, or not, will need to be taken up in FY2017.

E. NOBLE will consider growing the Overdrive downloadable collection to include music, etc., for FY2018.

Goal 6

A. It may be necessary to replace the Evergreen hardware sooner than stated – this may be a summer 2016 project

D. Improvements will be made to the NOBLE digital heritage metadata.

E. NOBLE plans to develop a feature to allow public identification of NOBLE Digital Heritage images.

F. NOBLE staff will continue to participate in testing newly released web staff client modules.

H. NOBLE needs to see where MassLNC ends up, and how this might have an impact on staffing.

Goal 7

D. Discussions are underway in regard to Lasell College, in Newton, possibly leaving Minuteman to become a member of NOBLE.

The FY 2017 Action Plan was approved, with two corrections: dates in Goal 7 section need to be corrected to read "2017," and references to ERDWG (Electronic Resources and Database Working Group) need to be made consistent.

7. Google Books Preview
ERDWG considered and recommended adding the Google Books Preview feature to the main catalog,

but, because of the subtle purchase link, the Board was asked to consider the implementation of this feature.

Google Books Preview is dynamic, meaning that, when the record is selected by a user of the Evergreen catalog, the icon appears, if there is a Google book of the item. The presence of the Google Book Preview feature is denoted by a small logo above the cover image. When available, Google Books Preview provides access to searching the text within the book when clicked and allows the user to see the section(s) of the actual text where the search term occurs. The feature is provided free of charge; however, there is a small "Buy this book" button in the frame at the bottom of the image, which provides an equally subtle link to several major online booksellers. On the positive side, the Google Books Preview allows people to either find information immediately and/or determine whether the book will be useful to them.

The issue was raised in regard to a publicly funded organization, e.g., a public library, seeming to support commercial activity. Up to now, we have stayed away from anything like this, although several NOBLE libraries use Wowbrary, which also provides links to purchase the title. There was a lengthy discussion with multiple viewpoints. ERDWG's recommendation was approved, with the understanding that the feature can be turned off, if further investigation indicates any legal issues for public libraries and/or community colleges.

8. Commonwealth Catalog
NOBLE and MetroBoston are the last consortia to make the transition from the Virtual Catalog to the new Commonwealth Catalog. NOBLE has begun training sessions for representatives from the member libraries to facilitate this transition. There will be a large group session on ComCat, at a later date.

9. MassLNC Update
A planning meeting has been scheduled for December 10th, on charting a new course for expanding MassLNC in the future. The current idea is to have MassLNC help other Evergreen users with contract administration and development, for a fee, based on the size of the library. These other users do not need to be located in Massachusetts.

10. Other Business
Myron suggested having NOBLE sponsor a conference or symposium on some selected topic, as other consortia have done. A subcommittee, consisting of Myron, Kathryn and Pat, was formed to explore the possibility of a NOBLE conference.

Pat mentioned that one librarian had had a request to hold a wake at her library.

Adjournment
A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Rogers
Clerk/Secretary