

SPRING 2021 Tamarack Minutes

May 15, 2021 10:00 a.m.

Missoula Public Library (and ZOOM)

*Voting Board Representative

Bitterroot Public Library- Mark Wetherington, Warren Neyenhuis*
Darby Community Public Library-Stacie Rennaker, Barbara Ackerman*
ImagineIf Libraries- Connie Behe, Al Logan*
Lincoln County Public Libraries-Alyssa Ramirez, Annie Gassmann*
Mineral County Public Library-
Missoula Public Library-Elizabeth Jonkel, Becky Mosbacher*
North Lake County Public Library District-Abbi Dooley, Mallory Witham, Brooke Wegner*
North Valley Public Library-Denise Ard, Leon Theroux*
Plains Public Library- Christine Shelton, Myra Lindborg*
Preston Hot Springs Town County Library-Starla Rice, Matt Pavelich*
Ronan Library District-Michelle Fenger, Margaret Burke*
St. Ignatius School Community Library-Amanda Richter, Brenda Arlint*
Thompson Falls Public Library- Crystal Buchanan, Sarah Cooper*
Whitefish Community Library- Joey Kositzky, Sarah Ericson*
Montana State Library – Tracy Cook (Consultant), Ken Wall (Commissioner)

October 2020 Minutes

Warren made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Becky seconded. Motion carries

Unfinished business:

Reminder to directors to report how spent Tamarack funds. Log in to Aspen
<https://mslservices.mt.gov/aspen/>

Login, Click on Manage and report your Tamarack spending. The View button will show you what you have spent. Really needs to be done by mid-August.

NEW BUSINESS

FY 2022 Plan of Service. The largest difference is we do not have to identify the area expected expenditures in advance.

New Federation Coordinator is Abby Dooley

Fall meeting date in October

Consensus October 21, 2021 ONLINE 6:00 p.m.

Spring Meeting Date

May 13 & 14, 2022. Discussion about Bigfork or Missoula. Missoula Public Library is the consensus

2022 PLAN OF SERVICE

Tamarack Federation \$52,639.62

July 1 Abbi Dooley takes over as coordinator

Administration \$1,337

Annual meetings \$6,000

Individual library split \$45,302.62 which is \$3235.90 per library.

All programs and such will be the same as last year

Victoria made a motion to accept the Plan of Service, Warren seconded. Motion carries

There is a bit less money than last year for each library, which has to do with the division for the 6 different federation and was started with taking more money off the top for the coordinators to travel.

NOMINATION FOR VICE CHAIR

BECKY NOMINATES SARAH COOPER FROM THOMPSON FALLS

Tracy Cook explained what being vice chair this entails.

Becky Mosbacher made a motion to appoint Sarah Cooper as Vice Chair. Sarah Cooper seconded. Motion carries.

Sarah accepts nomination

Sarah Cooper is now vice chair

Sarah Erickson is Chair for next year.

Abby Dooley has agreed to be coordinator.

Al Logan made a motion to accept Abby as Federation Coordinator. Sarah Cooper seconded. Motion carries.

Acknowledge Honore for the 13 years of service as Federation coordinator. Honore served with great enthusiasm and will be missed as coordinator

Becky Mosbacher read Honore's coordinator report. Honore is not running for coordinator this year (bylaws state every 2 years).

STATE Library report

Cara Orban

- 1- Update Montana Library Network: based on feedback from community and State Library Commission. Network advisory council and committees. Incorporates framework for advisory group and committees. Library Fair access resolution. Overall plan give NAC authority to make policy and recommendations for budget...more focused subject matter experts in smaller areas of core services committees. Committees drafted and will be opening recruitment for volunteers.
 - a. 3 committees need seated now. E-resources committee...federal funding that will need to be obligated to eresources....need collection management committee.
 - b. ILS committee-Montana shared catalog due to replace sirsi dynix contract...expires next year...formal procurement process....committee for rfp, maybe beyond shared caalog
 - c. 3rd is resource sharing committee...example courier, oclc, as well as define exactly what resource sharing committee needs to address.
- 2- Montana Memory Project...RFP ,,,,has been with oclc, content DM – which has not really been expanded. MMP will move to a new program called RECOLLECT platform. Our Tech support Chuck has left us, Jennifer Birnel is working with others from state library to move to new platform. Also moving to Montana data center (digital archive.) maintained in Helena and Miles City. Fun contests going on with MMP... (example: memery project. Current contest going on with prizes for each age category) Use of MMP has increased
- 3- Shared Catalog. RFP in progress and have received RFI (request for Information) Received 8 responses. MSC and shared catalog staff is reviewing these questions and answers. RFP released late summer and early fall
- 4- MSC workflows etc has been updated
- 5- BC mobile app for Shared catalog libraries
 - a. Great Falls and Toole County have joined shared catalog.
 - b. Conrad has agreed to join. System admin is working on server cleanup and conviguration
- 6- Moving ILL infrequent users for requests and do not have to lend items. Waiting for next steps from oclc
- 7- RFI for courier services (only received 1 response). Not a lot of services that cover all of Montana. Able to deliver to some areas not able to currently serve. Probably will not change because of current use. What does Courier service look like...looking for committee members
- 8- Montana Library2go now offering magazines. No wait, no charge. Anyone can check one out at any time.

Question about connectivity and access being part of eresources committee

Question asked about checking out magazines causing apps to crash

Small increase in Federal LSTA act award

MLA interest group met in April. Pam Henley is the contact for that interest group

Director's institute scheduled August 30-September 2nd. In Great Falls. Enrollment open in Aspen.

Ready 2 read- virtual rendezvous planned for this Fall One day event with 2 speakers. Intended to reach a broader audience. Amelea Kim can tell more

Ready 3 texting program still running. Just shy of 1,000 people signed up . 3 texts/week

New ready to read website.

Ready2readmontana.org

Resources games rhymes, etc early literacy

Readsquared available thru May 2022

1,000 books before kindergarten still available

5 libraries doing pilot of Ready to read Wild Trunks program....library will keep trunks

Public library standards task force has offered draft to state library commission. Being voted on at June 2021 meeting. Drafts and roadmap on website under library development and consulting.

Trustee interest group meets June 21 on zoom at 4:30 p.m. Trustees can email Pam Henley for links to join the interest group.

Connie shared appreciation for AI formallyfor being part of trustee interest group. Trustees discuss issues that are impacting libraries around the state.

Has anyone heard about copyrights being extended for online content.

Any offer adult literacy programs? Most seem to be on County or regional level. Lifelong learning center has adult literacy. Libby Montana has it through their college

Find Public Library Directors aspen events- great falls

Becky Mosbacher move to adjourn . Warren second. Passed. Adjourned 12:13 p.m

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Bitterroot Public Library

Joys:

- No major staff impacts from COVID.
- New Youth Services Librarian starting May 18th.
- Operations slowly but surely starting to get more "normal"
- Success with take-home kits and Wi-fi hotspots
- Currently in early stages of partnering with the City to expand into the adjacent Fire Hall upon its vacancy
- Still joyful about our successful mill levy in June 2020 that provided us with funding to stabilize our operations

Concerns:

- We miss Wendy Campbell!
- Funding our expansion project, managing construction, etc.
- Loss of community support due to COVID policies
- Lack of affordable housing in our community

Darby Community Public Library ImagineIf Libraries-

JOYS

- So far have made it through the pandemic with only one staff being infected with COVID and she got it at a family gathering. The safety measures we had in place were effective.
- After 78% of staff were vaccinated and there was better weather providing more ventilation we moved to masks recommended but not required on April 30th.
- Staff wellbeing was a big concern, but through clear, mission-driven communication and consent building, it has been a success.
- New website is coming and Summer Experience is about to launch. Staff have created a "Junior Ranger" style program that families can take out of the building to do together.
- The Bigfork Capital Campaign has made the half-way mark and is on its way to 80% complete by this fall.

CONCERNS

- We are still working on the issue of who will take ownership of the finished building. The commissioners have been clear that they don't want to own a library facility or accept the gift of a 1.6 million dollar library.

The problem we need to solve with the Bigfork facility is that people literally can't access the building because it isn't ADA compliant, more than two families cannot fit in the library comfortably, we close for lunch because it is single staff due to budget and space constraints. Because can not meet our mission to provide access to information and reading to the people of Bigfork, it would be irresponsible to do nothing. And yet, we are faced with the dilemma of building ownership and funding.

- Employee retention is a concern. With lack of funding and support from County leadership and amount of abuse staff received during the pandemic has led to burnout for many staff. These folks have dedicated their professional lives to be in service to our community and more and more are open to finding other paths.

Lincoln County Public Libraries

Joys

- Our libraries (Libby, Troy, Eureka) are fully open
- Under the solid leadership from our Director and despite the pandemic, progress has been made in renovation and reconfiguration of the Libby and Troy Libraries.
- We found innovative and creative ways to continue service throughout the pandemic, even with the added disruption and destruction from the Libby branch library flooding.
- Our Troy Branch is pursuing the idea of a joint community center space, with the adjacent vacant building.

Concerns

- Our smallest and most distant library branch (Eureka) is in need of updating. The small space and community atmosphere are presenting challenges for the library.
- All our libraries have on-going IT issues that are limiting patron service and staff efficiency.
- We have on-going problems with a library vehicle. With our car breaking down, we have been working with the County to use one of their vehicles. This situation is not ideal, it saps time and funds from other areas.

Mineral County Library Joys and Concerns, May 2021

Due to COVID, we have been closed much of last year, and then on shortened hours, we are now open Mondays through Thursdays from 9 AM to 4 PM, and have renewed Saturday hours – from 11 AM to 3 PM.

Last year just about nobody came in for the Summer Reading Program. We hope this year that will improve. We will have meetings in a local park again this year.

The Friends have helped us to reorganize the library, the new patron seating area is bright and welcoming, and we have received many compliments from patrons. Groups are beginning to come in and use the seating area.

We are trying to institute several new projects: Lunch at the Library, in concert with local grocery and others; a new non-fiction “conversation” book group with guest speakers; as well as our regular StoryTime, Crochet Group and Fiction Book Group.

Our biggest concern right now is thinking of ways to bring people back to the library.

Missoula Public Library

North Lake County Public Library District

Joys:

- We welcomed a new full-time Youth Services Librarian. She has our Summer Reading Program well planned. We are looking forward to having our programs outside in one of the City parks.
- We have been able to start in person children’s programming again. We continue to provide virtual programming for those that prefer it.
- Our Story Shuttle is bringing books to some of the child care facilities in Polson.
- Our large meeting room is available again for the public.
- Our Foundation is making progress with fundraising for our renovation. A promotional video was created that turned out very well.
- We feel very lucky that we were able to stay healthy and open from June 2020 to present. Our Covid precautions worked very well for us.
- Our Board of Trustees has been very supportive during the pandemic and they helped us create policies to fit the ever changing situation.
- We have expanded our year round hours. Our patrons have been very pleased with this change.
- We continue to provide curbside service and plan to make this a regular practice.

Concerns:

- Our Technology Librarian position has yet to be filled with a 'just right' fit.
- We have lost some of our popular Hot Spots. Patrons have been reluctant to return them, even after they have been deactivated.

North Valley Public Library

Plains Public Library

Preston Hot Springs Town County Library

- FACILITIES – Our bathrooms have been painted and we have replaced the toilets
- SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC – The doors are open. Book delivery to patrons.
- FINANCES – We have survived even with a 10 mill shortage! We are grantwriting.
- TECHNOLOGY – The hot spots have taken off!
- ADMINISTRATIVE Our Friends Group and Foundation have really come through for us. The Friends are buying our books through our budget shortage. The Library Foundation replaced our dying patron printers. We will re-open the doors on Saturdays starting June 5, 2021.

☹☹☹☹☹☹☹ Concerns... ☹☹☹☹☹☹☹

- FACILITIES – The un-washable flat paint throughout our building. Keeping the staff at the library safe both from the vaccinated and un-vaccinated and the people who are abusive towards staff!
- SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC – I'm not comfortable opening the bathrooms yet. General services are in place with a minimum of risk but programming is at a standstill.
- FINANCES – The county failed to bill the public for 10 of our mills. We've kept spending down and we have gotten through but it was a huge mistake that the county wouldn't talk to us about. It blindsided us because he would never have thought it could be possible
- TECHNOLOGY – Our digital footprint is so minimal that it is almost non-existent.
- ADMINISTRATIVE - Hiring personnel has become very challenging. Again, is my staff going to be safe around the new person. We have made it through Covid without any of the staff getting sick. How do we train new personnel while maintaining social distancing. I solved that early this spring by hiring the sister of the employee that was leaving, so I didn't have to worry about bringing another family group into the library building. How do we handle the vaccinated versus un-vaccinated question coming to the surface now? Is shedding happening? What danger is a vaccinated person to a un-vaccinated person and vice versa. We used to have actual answers to these questions, now all we have is questions and a wait and see existence.

Ronan Library District

Facilities-finally open-

Services to the Public-curbside was/is awesome

Finances-hoping rent will stay same for the next fiscal year

Technology -hoping to start soon with mobile laptop lab

Administrative-need more board members

Hotspots, tablets, laptops, etc...for circulation

St. Ignatius School Community Library

Thompson Falls Public Library

Joys:

- Our Friends of the Library held a Book Sale recently and brought in around \$1,000.
- We have had quite a bit of new patrons and families sign up that are new to the area, we had two months where we had broken our 'sign up record'. We have also signed up three new FOL members over the last few months too.
- We have had lots of new teen volunteers (3 reg. consistent ones, and 9 special event ones) since Nov. Between Feb and early May we have received and benefited from 68.5 volunteer hours from these youth volunteers.
- We are currently down a Trustee in June, however there is another community member who seems interested in stepping into the role.
- We received a very generous donation from a local group, to sponsor and kick off our '1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Program'. Welcome bags, T-shirts, incentive prizes, and new children books have been covered by this gift. Another local group has sponsored a 'free welcome book' for each child that enrolls.
- Summer Reading prizes are in, and I have been invited to come and speak with some of the local schools to promote the program. Flyers will also be sent out.
- Our library is also turning a 100 this year, we are doing fun things throughout the year to celebrate, such as new '100 Year Anniversary FOL Bags', a time Capsule, reaching out to family members of our original founding board members to request pictures for an art display, and the goal of adding 100 new titles to various sections.

Concerns:

The roof began leaking over our non-fiction section in mid-Feb. It has been an interesting process to get everything approved and scheduled.

Our plumbing went on the fritz, and a plumber may have to be called in.

Whitefish Community Library

JOYS

Like many of the libraries across the country we modified our services with a the goal to provide as many services as possible, as safely as possible. We offered remote access to our printer, re-created a “Winter Recess” story time that allowed stories and activities to be outside, offered curbside service (which we still do), and offered hotspots, tablets and laptops. (A special thank you to the State Library for their generosity.) Many of our in-house programs and meetings were adapted so participants could join via ZOOM. We are now in the process of working with our City and Trustees to create a plan for re-opening this summer.

I was able to work with the Trustees and City of Whitefish to create a new Youth Services Librarian position. We were fortunate that our own Mary Drew Powers applied for and was promoted to that position.

We received TIF (Tax Increment Fund) money that has enabling us to remodel a portion of the library to create an office and storage area and will include overhead lighting. This project is still in progress.

We participated in the Whitefish Community Foundation 2020 Great Fish Challenge. With the funds raised we were able to replace the 23-year-old carpet in the Community Room with a barnwood looking vinyl plank. We are also having our large Oriental area rug cleaned.

We welcomed two new Trustees to the Board recently: Richard Hildner, former City Council member and Deb Bond, a former US Forest service employee. They join our current Trustees, Anne Moran, Sarah Ericson and Trevor Gonser.

We are happy to announce the creation of our new website. Working with anidea.co we can now insure that our website is easily accessible to individuals with disabilities. Anidea.co also represented to WCL that any future accessibility issues that arise can and will be, promptly remedied.

CONCERNS

There has been an influx of new residents to our state, counties, and cities. Whitefish, along with most Montana communities, has seen an explosion in building permits and out of state families moving to the area. We are averaging two to three new library card applications from out of state individuals weekly. It is difficult to anticipate the impact this will have on our library.