

MEMORANDUM:

To: Winnefox Library System Trustees
From: Mark Arend, Assistant Director
Subject: Report of System activities
Date: 18 September 2007

The following is an update of activities since our last meeting. I would be happy to provide further details at our meeting, or feel free to give me a call or send an email in advance.

County Library Funding: Budgets time is always difficult and that the legislature has not come to agreement on the state budget makes a difficult task much more so. Even with these uncertainties, it appears that there will be increases in county library funding in all Winnefox counties.

Libraries have been concerned about how their county funding would be affected by payments due to libraries in adjacent counties under Act 420. At this time it appears that four of the five Winnefox counties will not be deducting these payments from in-county library funding and that funding to in-county libraries will not be lowered.

Legislative Update: The Assembly Committee on Urban and Local Affairs has amended **SB-1**, the bill to allow library boards to transfer gift funds to a related public library or community foundation for use in enhancing library services and programs. The amendment would make these transfers made prior to the effective date of this law retroactively allowed. If passed by the Assembly the amended bill would have to be sent back to the Senate for approval.

There has been one minor amendment to **SB-214**, one of two bills to change the library confidentiality law. This clarifies that any video surveillance records released to law enforcement officials would have to be “pertinent to the alleged criminal conduct” Other amendments have been suggested for this bill and its companion bill, **AB-433**, but nothing has been formally offered at this time.

Two bills have been introduced relating to state mandates on local units of government.

- **AB-290** would prohibit the legislature from imposing mandates unless the state reimburses the local government for the cost of complying with the requirement.
- **AB-350** would create a legislative Joint Committee on State Mandates to review and evaluate all proposed state mandates and directs the Legislative Fiscal Bureau to identify all existing mandates for the committee, other than ones having a minimal fiscal effect, and directs the committee to submit legislation repealing those mandates. It also prohibits state agencies from taking actions that impose mandates.

These are of concern because counties are required to reimburse libraries for services to residents in areas that don't directly maintain a library. Library system membership

requirements would probably not be affected by this legislation because the position of the Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning is that library system membership itself is not a state requirement.

Hearings have been held on several other library-related bills that I've reported on earlier but there have been no substantial changes in their status.

- **AB-141** would prohibit use of radio frequency identification (RFID) tags in documents.
- **AB-420** (not to be confused with *Act 420* which was passed by the Legislature last year) would add an additional method for calculating a municipality's exemption from the county library tax.
- Proposed Constitution amendments **AJR-27** and **AJR 34** which would limit the use of segregated funds, including the Universal Service Fund.

WPLC study: Earlier this year a survey was conducted for the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium measuring attitudes towards and use of public libraries by Wisconsin residents. A summary of this report is included as Exhibit H.

Library news: Two directors of member libraries have decided to further their education and have enrolled in programs to earn their Masters in Library Science. Marie Boleman, director of the Ethel Everhard Memorial Library in Westfield, is enrolled in the UW-Milwaukee, School of Information Studies. Sharon McDowell, director of the Montello Public Library has enrolled in Drexel University's College of Information Science and Technology. Both will be completing their programs through the distance education programs. The Wisconsin Library Association has awarded the Gloria Hoegh Scholarship for Education of Rural Librarians to Sharon McDowell in the amount of \$1,000. This is appropriate because Gloria Hoegh was one of my predecessors in this position (then called System Coordinator) from 1978 – 1998.

Staff news: Joy Schwarz, our Web Librarian & Interlibrary Loan Librarian, will be teaching a course in "Library 2.0" for the UW-Madison School of Library and Information Studies this fall. The course is online, so she is able to do this without traveling to Madison. Library 2.0 is a new public library movement. The principles of Library 2.0 are that the library is everywhere, has no barriers, and invites participation. Some of the tools being used in the Library 2.0 movement include blogs, instant messaging, podcasting, and wikis.