Present: Kathy Pletcher, Nick Dimassis, Julie Schneider, Jean Anderson, Mark Ibach, Heather Johnson, Kathy Klager, Connie Meyer, Kris Adams Wendt, Plumer Lovelace, Kurt Kiefer (DLT), John DeBacher (DLT), Dee Pettack (DPI)
Virtual participation via GoToMeeting: Janet Vrany (WEMTA), Erin Fabrizius (Blumenfeld Associates)
Absent: Diana Skalitzky, Steve Conway

Co-chair Pletcher called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Wendt acted as recorder.

The agenda was accepted as presented. Minutes of the June 3, 2016 meeting were approved with heading “Action items resulting from discussion items” changed to “Announcements and other business” on a motion from Schneider seconded by Ibach.

Biennial Budget Request for 2017. Kiefer provided an update on the DPI budget process, reporting that ideas shared at the June LD&L meeting were cultivated and taken to the cabinet level, and are now being formalized with a final focused request to be submitted to the Department of Administration (DOA) in September. It is anticipated that requests will include Public Library System Aids at the statutory requirement of 13% of local/county library expenditures, as well as cost to continue funding for the four resource library contracts, BadgerLink, Newline for the Blind, Wisconsin Digital Learning Cooperative, and WISELearn. DLT would like to modify WISEdash and WISEdata authorization to include eligibility for public libraries as well as for schools (wording change only without fiscal note), as the current language is limiting and needs to be more flexible for greater impact. There is potential to enable new projects as well as use existing tools to public library advantage, compare and visualize collaborative services, share data and training opportunities. Kiefer touched on additional areas associated with school and public library technological infrastructure and broadband access. In response to a question from Meyer, Kiefer confirmed that there would be no request for new state money associated with the Public Library System Redesign project.

Klager and Wendt asked for additional clarity regarding current and projected expenditures and appropriations, particularly for the resource contracts, noting that information provided by DLT in mid-June were different than the projections shared by Martha Berninger at the June 3 LD&L meeting; there are still questions. Wendt expressed concern that LD&L will not meet again before September DPI budget submission. In the absence of Berninger and given the day’s lengthy agenda, Kiefer assured the committee that another opportunity would be provided by DLT for a Q&A discussion very soon with the LD&L budget team and others who may want to participate.
Pletcher summarized LD&L budget team activities since June 3 which were distributed as a report to the full committee with other documents for this meeting. Meyer gave an overview of SRLAAW survey to identify common themes around which a proposal for system aids increase (less than 13% required ask, more than another year of flat funding) through DOA to Governor’s office might be structured. Workforce development and lifelong learning emerged as the dominant theme and Big Idea. Dimassis and Meyer will report to the August 22 SRLAAW meeting in Madison, accompanied by Conway if his schedule permits, and seek buy-in for the budget strategic plan. Final approval for the collaborative Government Relations contract sharing the cost between WLA and SRLAAW will also be on that agenda.

**Libraries Transform Poster Project.** Dimassis announced presentation of the Libraries Transform poster to Governor Walker will be at the Beloit Public Library on August 12. The event will serve as a kickoff to similar activities around the state. Discussion ensued about identifying common themes, further motivational tools and guidance to not only achieve a full set of legislative posters but also schedule presentations in the home libraries of each legislator. The project will provide election cycle opportunities for further relationship building.

**Cross county payments working group.** Klager reported that she, Pletcher, Wendt and Mark Arend have identified best practices which could provide consistency statewide and address a need for greater clarity and assurance regarding cross county library payments.

- Consistent methods for address verification at the time of card signup
- Consistent card expiration and renewal periods to improve accuracy of residency data
- Periodic internal audit of card holder records for correct patron location codes
- Establish a minimum threshold number of circulations for library billing to adjacent counties
- Common statewide billing form for consistent presentation of data to county clerks

The group has also experimented with DPI data to examine potential benefits and losses to counties/libraries under different billing scenarios (Examples for comparison purposes: cost per circulation per current law, cost per circ average statewide, cost per circ average from billing library’s county); no one “solution” fits all and there are winners and losers in all cases. Mark Arend will report on behalf of the working group at the August 22 SRLAAW meeting and ask for an endorsement. Conway is working on a meeting with Sen. Cowles and other legislators who have been hearing from unhappy county officials; Pletcher to reach out to colleagues in Shawano County.

**Federal Legislative Report.** Federal Legislative Advocate Schneider sent cards to US Senators Johnson and Baldwin thanking them for their vote supporting Carla Hayden as Librarian of Congress, also a card of congratulations to Hayden on behalf of WLA. The US Senate approved their LHHS (Labor, Health and Human Services, Labor, Education and related agencies) appropriations before leaving Washington, but the US House did not. The Senate called for increased LSTA funding, flat funding for Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) and decreased funding for Every Student Exceeds Act (ESSA). The House called for increased LSTA funding, eliminating funding for IAL and decreased ESSA funding. It’s likely that when Congress returns to Washington in September a “continuing resolution” will suffice in the absence of illusive consensus. Schneider suggested stronger encouragement for WLA members to engage with members of Congress at the local level and suggested more federal content on the WLA website. In this her sixth year as Federal Legislative Advocate, Schneider respectfully requested that a new person be found for the role, but would like to continue to represent academic and special libraries on LD&L. She asked for recommendations to Pletcher and Dimassis who will consult with Lovelace and Anderson on a new appointment so she can work with the new person through the first half of 2017.
DPI/DLT update. DeBacher provided an overview of current issues including a pending merger of the two counties remaining in Mid-Wisconsin Library System with Eastern Shores Library System. Shawano County is considering alternative organizational plans for library service. It has been suggested that the PLSR Steering Committee change the Chapter 43 work group – which was tasked with compiling such changes to statute as might be suggested as the process evolves – into a sub-group of the steering committee. Wendt recalled that recent PLSR steering committee minutes referenced a need for enhanced communication between the steering committee and LD&L and asked whether PLSR would be sending someone to LD&L or if LD&L should be sending a representative to the steering committee meetings. It appears PLSR leadership had not yet communicated with LD&L in this respect. Kiefer responded that steering committee members were appointed by the Superintendent; if LD&L requests a seat on PLSR Steering it should be relayed through him.

WEMTA update. Janet Vraney (WEMTA) and Erin Fabrizius (for Michael Blumenfeld) gave a brief update. Blumenfeld’s office sent out a rural broadband update which Fabrizius was asked to share with LD&L members. Kiefer, who is in regular contact with the WEMTA Board, added information about school library standards, and a school e-books project in collaboration with CESAs and WiLS.

Announcements and other business. Members were reminded of the WLA Fall Conference program on Thursday, October 28: “Libraries and Legislators: Transforming Together.” Pletcher announced she has a conflict on September 30, the next designated LD&L meeting date which also coincides with New Director’s Boot Camp. A doodle poll will be sent out to find a different September meeting date.

Remaining 2016 meetings. September (date TBD) and (Thursday) December 1.

Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 12:35 PM on a motion from Schneider seconded by Meyer.

Respectfully submitted,
Kris Adams Wendt, recorder