

Present

Allegan – Devin Erlandson and
Pamela Armstrong
Augusta-Ross – Anne Rapp
Benton Harbor – Kat Boyer
Berrien Springs – Kristina Knezic
Bridgman – Dennis Kreps
Buchanan – Meg Paulette
Cass District – Barbara Gordon
Coloma – Mary Harrison
Comstock – Emily Kubash and
Rachael Wiegmann
Dowagiac – Matthew Weston
Eau Claire – Ann Greene
Galesburg – Helena Hayes
Kalamazoo – Ryan Wieber

Lawton – Lyn Tone
Marcellus – Christine Nofsinger
Martin – Alicia Kershaw
New Buffalo – Julie Grywnich
Niles – Stevyn Compoe and Tim Wiggins
Parchment – Teresa Stannard
Paw Paw – Gretchen Evans
Portage – Christine Klien and Lawrence Kapture
SMLC / Otsgeo – Andrea Estelle
Van Buren District – Dan Hutchins and
Molly Wunderlich
Vicksburg – Eric Hansen
Watervliet – Sharon Crotser-Toy

Guests

Kathy Webb, State Aid and Penal Fines Coordinator, Library of Michigan.
webbk1@michigan.gov Phone: 517-335-1514

1. Call to Order & Introductions

Meeting called to order by President Greene at 1:05 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

- Motion to approve the agenda made by Knezic with support from Kreps. Passed.

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4. Approval of August 13, 2020 Minutes

- The minutes of the August 13, 2020 minutes were approved on a motion by Tone with support from Erlandson. Passed.

5. Guest Presentation:

Kathy Webb, State Aid and Penal Fines Coordinator, Library of Michigan.
webbk1@michigan.gov Phone: 517-335-1514

State Aid

- \$1,000,000 has been added to the State Aid Budget for 2021, which is \$0.03 more per capita, for a total of \$0.42998 per capita.
- Directors are urged to send an email to Kathy requesting their State Aid Computation form for review. Make sure you include your library name in your email.
- If your district has a contracted area, review the contract(s). Does it need revision?
- If your service population has changed, let Kathy know.

- If you couldn't send staff to workshops required for state aid certification this year, waivers are available. Contact Kathy.

Penal Fines

- Kathy was asked what her prediction for next year's penal fines is. She said that this year the disbursements varied widely by county – some were up, most were down. The average Penal Fine rate per capita this year is \$2.66; last year it was \$4.20.
- She noted that judges and the general public don't understand the impact of penal fines on library services. Libraries should continue to communicate how important these monies are to their budget and services to their legislators. Also send stories to Kathy, as the Library of Michigan and MLA can use them as talking points with influencers.
- She and her colleagues on the MLA Task Force for Penal Fines are looking for alternative sources. For example, looking at schools are no longer offering libraries for student use, perhaps an agreement from school aid funds could be offered to libraries. At this point it is just an idea to consider.

6. Financial Report:

Treasurer Kapture reported the end of year balance is approximately \$205,000. Profit and loss is the same as last year. He will set up the audit very soon.

7. Director's Report

- a. Update on Eos and the Oct. 2 Supreme Court ruling. The Director noted that the Michigan Department of Health has issued its own emergency orders which are the same as the EOs issued by the Governor. She recommends that any libraries that have the text "per EO" in their signage remove it and replace it with "per MDHHS directive."
- b. MCLS News: Sue Alt, RIDES Coordinator, retired. New Coordinator is Tara Kanon.
- c. MLA's Virtual Conference: Oct. 28 and 29. Still time to sign up:
<https://mla.memberclicks.net/annual-conference>
- d. Great news from MLA:
 - The Michigan Senate declared October 2020 the first ever Michigan Library Appreciation Month.
 - 2021 State Aid Budget: State Aid increase of \$1,000,000 for Michigan Libraries. This adds \$0.04 per capita.
 - SB 611 passes Senate and moves on to House. (MI Library Privacy Act Edits)

8. President's Report

There was no report from the President.

9. Old Business

There was no old business.

10. New Business

There was no new business.

Southwest Michigan Library Cooperative
Council Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2020
1:00 pm via Zoom.us

11. Member sharing

Kapture announced that the Geek Fest will continue this year as a virtual event. For more information see the Geek Fest Facebook page.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned by President Greene at 1:45 pm on a motion by Grynwich.

Minutes taken by Teresa Stannard, Parchment Community Library