

MINUTES
Southwest Michigan Library Cooperative
Board Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2026
Allegan District Library

1. Call to Order – meeting called to order by President Rachael Wiegmann at 2:08pm.

2. Roll Call by President

Present:

- a. Rachael Wiegmann – Portage District Library
- b. Anne Rapp – Augusta-Ross Twp District Library
- c. Meg Paulette – Buchanan District Library
- d. Cheryl Kersey – Three Oaks Township Public Library
- e. Mary Harrison – Coloma Public Library
- f. Katie Burtchett – Watervliet Library
- g. Eric Hansen – Vicksburg District Library
- h. Andrea Estelle – Otsego District Library

Absent:

- i. Jim France – South Haven District Library
- j. Terri Hebert – Bridgman Public Library

Others Present: Tim Wiggins - Niles District Library

3. Approval Of Agenda – Andrea Estelle asked for a change in the agenda, to add to New Business a request to increase the ACH limit to cover payment to RIDES. Mary Harrison moved to approve with this change; Katie Burtchett seconded; motion carried

4. Public Comment – none

5. Approval of March 26, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes – A correction was made — adding Meg Paulette as Vice President. Mary Harrison moved to approve with this correction; Rachel Wiegmann seconded; motion carried

6. Communications – none

7. President's Report – none

8. Treasurer's Report –

- a. Mary Harrison reported the coops accounts are earning interest (more than a \$1000 of interest a month)
- b. Rachel question about the cost for the Word Press subscription for the coop's website, is it annual? Andrea reported that, no it is for 3 years.

9. Director's Report –

- a. Andrea Estelle reported she went to training with John from MLA and EveryLibrary. Andrea was intrigued by the idea of library's being able to write a policy that does not allow book

challenges. There was discussion that some libraries only allow a challenge to a specific title once a year, or that a challenger cannot continue to challenge the same title.

b. Andrea reported she has been talking to other libraries who may be interested in joining SMLC.

c. May SMLC events might be run by other groups because Andrea may not be available.

10. Unfinished Business – Discussion of refreshment policy. Andrea Estelle suggests that the policy should specify a different rate for “meal” and “snack.” Mary Harrison suggested a max of \$100. Mary said offering these funds helps the hosting library be more willing to host. Only SMLC group (not the Overdrive group) should qualify. Rachel Wiegmann did not like the word “refreshment,” so Andrea suggested “meeting expenses.”

Katie Burtchett made a motion to approve the Refreshment Policy with changes, Eric Hansen seconded. Motion carried.

11. New Business

a. Andrea Estelle requested an increase to the ACH limit to \$500,000 for payment of large cooperative expenses, such as RIDES, membership, and grant payments. Meg Paulette made a motion to increase the ACH limit, seconded by Anne Rapp. Motion carried.

b. Andrea Estelle requested that President Rachel Wiegmann be added to the cooperative’s bank accounts as a signer. Mary Harrison made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Hansen. Motioned carried.

c. The committee is scheduled to review the cooperative’s bylaws, but Andrea feels they have been amended recently and don’t need more changes at this time. Mary Harrison agrees the review can wait another year. Anne Rapp made a motion to review the bylaws at a later date, seconded by Eric Hansen. Motion carried.

d. The board discussed the potential of allowing new libraries to join the SMLC. Andrea reported some inquiries are from libraries quite far from the SMLC, even as far as the Upper Peninsula. Mary Harrison asked how these new members might benefit the cooperative, pointed out it would be difficult to offer them equal participation, and suggested a maximum distance (perhaps 100 miles). Eric Hansen did not like the idea of a firm limit in the policy, and suggested there be an application process to allow the board to review requests. Andrea also suggested reviewing all requests on a case-by-case basis. Cheryl Kersey pointed out that the cooperative is already a large geographic area. Anne Rapp asked if there are any rules already laid out in the bylaws, and Mary Harrison asked if there is an application process. Andrea reported that they must write a letter to the board.

12. Adjournment – President Rachael Wiegmann adjourned the meeting at 2:36PM.

Next Board Meeting: August 27, 2026, at Buchanan District Library
1:00PM Advisory Council will have a guest speaker, Dillon Geshel, new MLA Director.