

Maine InfoNet Board Meeting  
January 7, 2019, via Zoom

Present: Pauline Angione, Nancy Grant, Marjorie Hassen, James Jackson Sanborn, Diane Nadeau, Steve Norman, David Nutty, Jamie Ritter, Joyce Rumery, Ben Treat

Absent: Sarah Campbell

Meeting convened at 1:30.

**Meeting notes**

Marjorie Hassen agreed to take the notes for the meeting.

December Minutes approved.

**Legislative Update**

Jamie added to Box a PDF and word document that describe a legislative initiative and a resource sharing overview. The bill addresses resource sharing initiatives - Catherine Nadeau from Winslow and Eloise Vitelli from Topsham sponsored. There are 4 primary pieces: 1. Strengthen ILL; 2. Bolster resources in Digital Maine around career and workforce development resources. 3. carbon copy of MIN NexGen grant (\$500K); 4. Funds to support a professional survey of resource sharing across the state.

Next steps: this week the bill should become public. Will then need to begin to line up support for the hearing. He believes it will move through the process relatively easily though may be slowed down during the appropriations effort. He suggests reaching out to libraries that will benefit from the initiatives that will be funded and ask those folks to target their legislators to bolster the potential for success. Jamie will keep us informed about ways we can help to identify supporters.

**State-Wide Borrowing Card Report**

Jamie reported on this effort, which has been previously discussed, to make walk-in borrowing and library services easier for out-of-area residents. There is a team established (the "low-hanging fruit team") to create an MOU for all Sierra Libraries in Maine for a one-year pilot to participate (voluntary participation). James, Steve, and Ben are involved. This should be ready later this month and then will be communicated. The "high-hanging fruit team" is investigating what it will take for other libraries to participate. That group is also looking at the challenges for the libraries that could be disproportionately impacted, e.g. Lithgow. Other members are looking at what other states are doing. Jamie noted that MLA and other boards are aware of the effort. More communication will be forthcoming once the MOU is finalized. Jamie is interested in feedback on the best way to manage the message.

Discussion about who is steering this effort and where does documentation go? MSL or MIN? Jamie suggested MIN and MSL as sponsoring partners with information on both agency websites. Agreement on this.

### **Update on move to combine the Board and Collaborative**

James reached out to the Maine Association of Non Profits about the Evergreen API work and the Board combination and heard back from the Assistant Director. She connected him with an attorney, Rob Levin, who will assist. We get 30 free minutes and then can continue to work with him on standard fees after that.

### **Director's Report**

James received 4 applications for the new 10 hour position funded by Minerva, this position can work at home. Other items of note covered in James' report.

### **Review of Progress on the Strategic Plan**

Upcoming Deadlines:

Governance: David reported that the Governance Committee will be scheduling a meeting next week. Jamie reminded the group that he is charged with following up on the community college board appointment; he will get back to us.

Finance: Finances not changed since our last meeting. Minerva dropped their membership fees from \$4200 to \$4000. Full report dated 12/31 in box.

Joyce noted Finance goal 3.1.1: need to work on a plan to reach out to potential funders (the legislation is part of this). James notes that there is a Development and Finance Committee meeting scheduled on January 24<sup>th</sup> in Augusta. Plan to schedule a meeting of the committee with the board, aiming for March.

MaineCat Environment and Growth: 1.3.1 – Merrill Library in Yarmouth went live in December. Millinocket Public Library will be live by the end of January.

1.2.2: James reported that with the exception of Encore much of the new system has been implemented. There is an issue with URSUS, largely because of the age of the system and the way it was set up to get around some limitations, it is an issue of using scopes instead of facets. MIN is working on what functions may need to be backed out. James needs to see where we are with this and will check with his staff.

David noted that one of Janet Mills' appointees is Heather Johnson as the Executive Director of ConnectME. They are charged with trying to advance broadband infrastructure within the state. She should be an ally for MIN. We will invite her to a meeting after she has been in the office for a while.

Jamie mentioned that Dick Thompson is now the Deputy Commissioner for Department for Administration and Financial Affairs. He should also be an ally for us.

Marjorie reported that she was in touch with the CBB III rep and with James and will work on finding a time for a CBB/MIN update meeting.

David asked about meeting with the consultants. Joyce reminded the group that we discussed bringing one consultant at a time. James suggested we begin with Lisa Shaw, the small and rural library consultant. We will ask for her to talk to us for about 5 minutes about her work and responsibilities and then stay for the entire meeting. We will plan this for the February 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:43.