

### **Maine InfoNet Board meeting 5/3/21**

All members present, Janet joined the meeting about 30 minutes in.

**Item 1:** April meeting minute notes unanimously approved. Joyce motioned, Sarah seconded.

**Item 2:** Finance committee has not met, no update except that IRS form 990 was submitted.

**Item 3:** ARPA funds. IMLS will distribute approx. \$2.3 mil directly to MSL for investment in already identified priority IMLS projects. This is part of the COVID relief funds. MSL's top priority is Bendable, a free lifelong learning platform, which will be available statewide and cost approx \$600,000. Direct aid to libraries will be in the \$550,000-\$600,000 range. Plans are for Maine Infonet to receive \$500,000. In the spirit of LD-1149, Maine Infonet will use the funds to implement strategies to connect more Maine libraries to Mainecat. Funding must be spent by September of 2022.

James discussed some possible strategies to expend the funds in time available, and using multiple modes. They include:

1. More libraries directly added to Minerva, perhaps 7-12
2. Grow MILS
3. Support growth of Balsam group libraries
4. Perhaps we take 20 libraries to do new conversions, outsource it to Bywater or move them into Polaris.
5. Hire or contract hire a support worker
6. Support Atrium group in Aroostook
7. Catalog cleanup
8. e-book content

Whatever is chosen, must be in general alignment with plans that were already in place for IMLS

There was a general discussion of other possible approaches to investing this 500,000, ranging from putting Arc libraries into Polaris system, to an investment model. One outcome goal may be to grow MILS enough in order to sustain a staff member. Unclear how many members that would take. Discussion will continue at the next meeting after James does more investigation on ARPA spending.

**Item 4:** James reported on ICOLC conference concerning an OCLC taskforce letter that went to OCLC, and proved to be upsetting for OCLC.

**Item 5:** Update on Project Reshare.

**Items 6:** CBB is implementing the III mobile app.

**Item 7:** Discussion of whether to have a half or full day retreat this summer. Perhaps around the topic of modeling scenarios of new groupings of libraries for the future in relation to technology opportunities. Discussion to be continued.

**Item 8:** Executive director report is in the Drive.

Meeting adjourned at 3:04pm.