

Midwest Collaborative for Library Services
Board Meeting Minutes
Concordia Theological Seminary (Ft. Wayne, IN) (with hybrid option)
August 8, 2025
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. EDT

I. Call to Order

A. Roll Call and Accountability of Meeting Preparation

Board President Lisa Waskin called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Present: Boruff-Jones, Garrison, Hawthorne, Ingmire, Lake, West LaPrise, McNeil, Patton, Petrusa, Riley, R. Smith, T. Smith, Speer, Tuite, Waskin, Zalgout (online)

Guests: Megan Dudek, Kalyn Huson, Pam Seabolt

B. Agenda Approval

Motion: approve agenda as amended (see II.D.). *Moved and seconded. Motion passed.*

C. President's Comments

President Waskin noted Board Policy Manual and Bylaws changes and Ownership Linkage as major meeting topics. She also recognized Ingmire as a new Board member and MCLS staff present at the meeting.

II. Required Approvals and Consent Agendas

A. Required Approval – Minutes for May 2, 2025 meeting

Motion: approve May 2 minutes. *Moved and seconded. Motion passed.*

B. Recording Board Vote to Appoint Andrea Ingmire as Michigan At Large Representative through 12/31/26 (July 25, 2025)

Motion: record vote. *Moved and seconded. Motion passed.*

C. Required Acceptances – Executive Director Monitoring Reports (*Internal*)

1. Monitoring Report for Policy 2.5 – Financial Condition and Activities Report (May)
2. Monitoring Report for Policy 2.8 – Emergency Executive Director Succession

Motion: accept Policy 2.5 and Policy 2.8 monitoring reports. *Moved and seconded. Motion passed.*

D. Board Self-Assessment Against Means Policies (according to monitoring schedule)

1. Review of Policy 2.9 – Communication and Support to the Board
2. Review of Policy 3.0 – Global Governance Process/Membership Linkage
3. Review of Policy 3.5 – Board Linkage with Ownership

4. Review of Policy 4.0 – Global Board Governance – Management Connection
5. Review of Policy 4.2 – Accountability of the Executive Director
6. Review of Policy 4.3 – Delegation to the Executive Director

The Board discussed a question about wording for Policy 2.9 and moved Policies 4.0, 4.2, and 4.3 to the November meeting agenda.

Motion: approve II.D. items 1-3 and move items 4-6 to November meeting agenda. *Moved and seconded. Motion passed.*

- E. Next Monitoring Assignment (see Board Policy Manual pp. 23-24)

President Waskin reminded Board members to expect Policy 2.1 and 2.5 monitoring reports in August (and Policy 1.0 and 2.2 monitoring reports in September).

III. Board Education

A. State Library updates

Riley noted that unlike Indiana, Michigan does not have an approved state budget as of today. He informed the Board of the Library of Michigan (LM)'s mix of federal and state funds, and spoke of some potential change scenarios over the next few years depending on multiple aspects of state and federal funding in the current "maybe space" that could impact LM's MeL contract with MCLS (which helps create capacity for MCLS to serve both Indiana and Michigan). Riley also acknowledged his complicated role as MCLS Board member, member, and customer, and encouraged Board members to contact their representatives in Congress and to be kind to state library employees. He also emphasized the need to promote what libraries do and why it matters and the need for collaboration (in which MCLS can play an important role).

Speer detailed changes in Indiana state government, tax revenue, and funding in early 2025, and the cut the Indiana State Library (ISL) took in the current state budget (comprised mostly of staff positions). ISL has worked to maintain statewide services with available funds and freeze costs where possible. Speer also touched on difficult INSPIRE database negotiation dynamics and mentioned that ISL had to decrease the level on some INSPIRE databases. He also spoke of some possible change scenarios over the next few years depending on state and federal funding. Speer noted that property tax changes will have a negative impact on public libraries by 2027 and that public libraries are conserving funds.

The Indiana library community does not support changing public library standards, but that may become necessary.

The Board discussed strategies for working with vendors in the current times, how libraries might help one another, how Indiana and Michigan's situations compare with other states, and potential ways MCLS could use its resources to support libraries.

B. Executive Director updates

Garrison offered highlights of recent activity including current progress toward MCLS strategic plan initiatives, recent and upcoming staff changes, planning for potential loss of statewide databases, and successful IMLS grant disbursements.

IV. Ownership Linkage

A. Communication with the External Environment related to Board's Annual Agenda

Following a brief update from Seabolt regarding engagement work the MCLS staff are planning, the Board discussed how to gather new Ownership Linkage data in time for considering the Ends at the Board retreat (and keep its work connected to staff engagement work). The Ownership Linkage Committee will use Board input to finalize a new survey of Owners (i.e., members) that the staff will distribute after Labor Day. The committee, President Waskin, and Garrison will meet to coordinate communication so members understand their role as Owners and the Board's role as the informed agent and voice of the Owners. Seabolt offered more context about the history of consortia, and the group discussed recent membership patterns and data MCLS has, and the need to educate libraries' current staff about the value their consortia deliver.

V. Board Operation pt. 1

A. Board Policy Manual updates

Lake led the Board in a first reading discussion of potential changes to Board Policy Manual sections 2.1, 2.2, 2.6, 2.7, 2.9, 2.10, 3.1, and 3.7 that a Board committee recommends. Some Board members supported some changes. The Board will conduct a second reading discussion and vote at their November meeting.

VI. Board Operation pt. 2

A. Bylaws updates

The Board held a first reading discussion of potential changes to MCLS Bylaws sections 1.02, 2.02A, 3.01, and 4.01. Discussion centered around how much detail is required in various sections and legal language including regarding Board composition. Garrison committed to arranging a discussion between the Board officers (i.e., the Bylaws Review Committee) and MCLS's attorney to discuss details and revise language ahead of a Board second reading discussion and vote.

- B. Audit Committee
Treasurer Mike Hawthorne updated the Board on the FY2025 audit process including meetings leading up to field audit.
- C. Nominating Committee
Motion: approve the 2026 MCLS Board election slate. *Moved and seconded. Motion passed.*
- D. 2025 Board Retreat Agenda, Meeting Agenda and Orientation Planning
President Waskin and Garrison updated the Board on the November Board orientation, meeting, and retreat schedule, including work to be done prior.
- E. 2025 Membership Annual Meeting
The Board discussed timing and basic agenda for the 2025 Annual Meeting.

VII. Announcements

VIII. Comments for the Good of the Order

IX. Adjournment

Motion: adjourn at 2:06 p.m. *Moved and seconded. Motion passed.*

Reminder about upcoming meeting dates and locations:

November 13-15, 2025 (orientation, meeting, retreat)*	Marina Grand Resort	New Buffalo, MI
December 2, 2025 10am Eastern	MCLS Annual Meeting	online

* *Board begins transition from current to next year at fall retreat*