

**Midwest Collaborative for Library Services
Board Meeting Minutes
MCLS Office (Lansing, MI)
May 2, 2025
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (EDT)**

I. Call to Order (10:00 a.m.)

A. Roll Call and Accountability of Meeting Preparation

Board President Lisa Waskin called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Present: Boruff-Jones, Merida Foster, Garrison, Hawthorne, King, Lake, West LaPrise, McNeil, Patton, Petrusa, Riley, R. Smith, T. Smith, Speer, Tuite, Waskin

Guests: Megan Dudek, Kalyn Huson, Rose Mercier, Pam Seabolt

B. Agenda Approval

Motion: approve agenda as amended (adding II.C.). *Moved and seconded. Motion passed.*

C. President's Comments

President Waskin noted budget and Ownership Linkage as two major meeting topics.

II. Required Approvals and Consent Agendas (10:05 a.m.)

A. Required Approval – Minutes for February 21, 2025 meeting

B. Recording Board Vote to Change Policies 1.0 and 2.7 (March 7, 2025)

C. Recording Board Vote to Appoint Kevin King as Michigan At Large Representative through 12/31/26 (April 24, 2025)

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

1. Monitoring Report for Policy 2.0 – Global Executive Constraint

2. Monitoring Report for Policy 2.3 – Compensation and Benefits

3. Monitoring Report for Policy 2.5 – Financial Condition and Activities (February)

E. Board Self-Assessment: Assurance of Effective Performance

1. Review of Policy 3.3 – Board Members' Code of Conduct

2. Review of Policy 3.9 – Cost of Governance

3. Review of Policy 4.1 – Unity of Control

4. Review of Policy 4.4 – Monitoring Executive Director Performance

Motion: approve Consent Agenda items. *Moved and seconded. Motion passed.*

III. Board Education, part 1 (10:10 a.m.)

A. Indiana State Library (ISL) update – Jake Speer

Speer noted that like the Library of Michigan (LM), ISL got a questionnaire from IMLS regarding funding. The state of Indiana is cutting ISL's budget, including

funds for INSPIRE for Indiana's FY2026 (begins July 1). ISL uses some federal funds for INSPIRE. Given the IMLS situation and a state budget cut, ISL is working through planning and difficult decisions regarding INSPIRE and other programs including broadband, InfoExpress, and Evergreen. ISL began reporting to the Indiana Department of Education in January, and is not able to respond as quickly as they could before that. Indiana public library standards are also under discussion. Public libraries will receive fewer funds and their services will be impacted. ISL will make recommendations about the standards to the Indiana Library and Historical Board (ILHB) once they know more about the impact of funding cuts for Indiana public libraries.

B. Library of Michigan (LM) update – Randy Riley

Riley outlined the chronology of actions the federal executive branch has taken to attempt to dismantle IMLS and the response to date. LM reports to the Michigan Department of Education (their fiscal year begins October 1). Riley has worked through the Michigan Department of Education to provide information to the Michigan Attorney General's office regarding the current 21-state lawsuit regarding IMLS. LM staff created an impact statement that was released under Riley's signature. IMLS has communicated with multiple state libraries including LM about planning to receive at least a portion of FY2026 Grants to States funds. LM is anticipating reducing current contracts to some extent for FY2026, and is working through decisions on programs including MeL and the Rural Libraries conference with many questions and few answers. They are working with the Historical Society of Michigan on America250. Riley noted that LM receives a lot of value for their contract with MCLS. He has updated public libraries on the situation (and will update academic libraries next week).

C. Board Discussion

The Board discussed topics including what if any IMLS programs and funding would continue, how LM will make decisions about MeL, how libraries and Board members could tell/amplify stories about what their state libraries do for the library community, and the impact of tariffs on physical materials.

IV. Executive Director Report (10:40 a.m.)

A. FY2026 MCLS Budget Discussion and Board Acceptance

1. Monitoring Report for Policy 2.4 – Financial Planning/Budgeting

Garrison presented his estimated MCLS FY2026 budget.

Motion: accept Policy 2.4 monitoring report and FY2026 budget. *Moved and seconded. Motion passed.*

V. Board Education, part 2 (11:10 a.m.)

A. Ownership Linkage – Rose Mercier, Senior Consultant and Partner, The Governance Coach, Inc.

Mercier trained Board members on Policy Governance Ownership Linkage principles and practice, noting that her organization offers blogs, videos, and other content. She emphasized the Board members should be informed of Owners’ perspectives, values, and priorities in order to set Ends.

VI. Board Education, part 2 cont’d. (12:30 p.m.)

A. Discussion of next steps

Seabolt reminded the Board what the MCLS engagement plan framework will look like. The Ownership Linkage committee can use the engagement plan to frame its work in 2025 and beyond.

VII. Announcements and Closing Comments from Board Members (1:50 p.m.)

Board discussion included: welcoming King as a new member; happenings at Board member libraries (e.g., filling positions, making cuts, strategic planning, vendor dynamics, changing budget processes, and adapting through building/space issues and renovation); MCLS business; general uncertainty and the importance of persisting through it safely; upcoming conferences (including MiALA and the MI OER Network); thanks for Huson’s work; Board Policy Manual review work; personal news;

VIII. Adjournment (2:00 p.m.)

Motion: adjourn at 2:02 p.m. *Moved and seconded. Motion passed.*

Reminder about upcoming meeting dates and locations:

August 8, 2025	Concordia Theological Seminary	Ft. Wayne, IN
November 13-15, 2025 (retreat)*	Marina Grand Resort	New Buffalo, MI
TBD	MCLS Annual Meeting	TBD

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