

RPLAC meeting – February 3, 2012

Georgia Public Library Service – Atlanta, GA

Present at the meeting:

RPLAC members:

Patricia Edwards – Jefferson County Library (Rural Single County)
Sandy Hester – Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County Library (Rural Single County)
Carmen Sims – Bartow County Library (Urban Single County)
Lecia Eubanks – Cherokee Regional Library (Rural Multi-County)
Anne Isbell – Lake Blackshear Regional Library System (Rural Multi-County) – **RPLAC Chair**
Stephen Whigham – Ocmulgee Regional Library System (Rural Multi-County)
Jon McDaniel – Forsyth County Public Library System (Urban Single County)
Adrian Mixson – Hall County Library (Urban Single County)
Barbara Osborne – Harris – Coweta County Public Library (Urban Single County)
Claudia Gibson – Chestatee Regional Library System (Urban/Rural Multi-County)
Kelly Lenz – South Georgia Regional Library (Urban/Rural Multi-County) – **RPLAC Secretary**
Carrie Zeiger – Flint River Regional Library System (Urban/Rural Multi-County)

GPLS Administrative Staff:

Julie Walker – Deputy State Librarian
Alan Harkness – Assistant State Librarian for Library Development
Christopher

Spectators:

Kathryn Ames
Lyn Hopper
John McDaniel
Anna Lyles
Barry Reese

Various dial-in spectators:

Emerson Murphy, Donna Howell, Dustin Landrum, Steve Schafer, Teresa Cole, Billy Trip, Kathy Griffis, Brigid Broderick, Bob Morrise, Ashley Moore, Laura Harrison, Teresa Cole, Susan Whittle, Susan Stephens, Pamela Grigg, Linda Kean, Karen Odum, Jean Turn, Janet Boudet, & Daryl Fletcher

(Meeting convened at 10:15 AM)

Motion from Anne Isbell: *To approve the minutes from the last meeting with corrections.*

Seconded by Claudia Gibson

Announcements from GPLS:

Lamar scheduled one-on-one meeting with legislators. The house may vote on FY12 amendment today. A 2% reduction is on the table. Everyone should have received the capital outlay list. Those on the list should be sending letters to their legislators. Emily Almond and Julie met with ITS. They are talking about partnering with them, board of regents, and the department of education to go out to bid for a

great big network. The purchasing power of the group is much stronger. We are also looking for solutions in the meantime for problems with bandwidth issues.

Issues to be addressed:

Adrian Mixson – Continues to have issues with bandwidth – issues with quality of service.

Julie Walker – AT&T is surprised that competition is around. They believe that GPLS will not go looking at competition.

Adrian Mixson – Questioned moving to charter

Julie Walker – Explained how complicated this was and that we would have to pay QTS to buy bandwidth. You can't apply for e-rate. Half a million dollars would get everyone's nose above water, but without e-rate we can't pay for it.

Anne Isbell – The reason that my library needs to come to the State Library is PINES.

Kathryn Ames – How soon do you anticipate having a solution? – I'm desperate.

Anne Isbell – Is there any way to shift bandwidth around?

Julie Walker – Going out and moving those lines would be too expensive. AT&T will charge us for moving those lines

Adrian Mixson – AT&T is not necessarily a good provider of anything. They could not explain my phone bill to me.

Lecia Eubanks – Someone missed the boat when stimulus money was available. It should have been BOE, colleges, and libraries doing the fiber backbone.

Julie – We had T-1's in every library, so we couldn't say we were underserved.

Julie Walker – If we are able to create a position and have someone to be a program manager for all this, it truly would be a full time job because they would have to write an e-rate application for each of the 159 counties.

Julie Walker – the level for service we receive from AT&T is inconsistent. For example, if something goes down we are first on the line to be fixed. However, 4 days later we could still be waiting. It is not a guaranteed level of service

Kathryn Ames – Are we saying don't go out and buy separate T-1 or charter access at this point?

Julie Walker – That's not our official position, but you have to do what you have to do.

Continued discussion about bandwidth and possible solutions

Kathryn Ames –Are you hearing anything from the legislature about possibly restoring our funding for next year?

Julie Walker – Lamar said as of yesterday that he hasn't heard anything.

Anne Isbell – Do we have an update on the TRS state payscale committee?

Julie Walker – Nothing more than what Steve and I sent out a few weeks ago. It was very spelled out what everyone could do except librarians. Now we know about our working in retirement. You can work 3 months part-time temporary every fiscal year, and also 49% of your job plus cost of living raise.

Anne Isbell – Are they going to write it down anywhere?

Julie Walker – I wrote it down and it's on our website.

Anne Isbell – Do we have an update from the Standards Committee?

Julie Walker – The first meeting is at Susan White's library in Canton, GA. Susan is the chair of that group.

Discussion of members of State Standards Committee

Anne Isbell – Let's go right into the discussion of how we're funded now.

Claudia Gibson – Nothing on here about the Miss Wessie position – didn't have to give up position – was converted.

Discussion of Miss Wessie rule

Anne Isbell – Could Christopher give us a spreadsheet as if everything were fully funded?

Lecia Eubanks – Could you discuss OPB population figures and how that's being addressed?

Julie Walker – depending on the year sometimes those get funded. This year it was funded for FY2013.

Julie Walker – I've always wanted us to simplify materials – they all need simplifying.

Lecia Eubanks – Is our goal to simplify or to redistribute?

Alan Harkness – I was thinking about this process. The pie doesn't change but if we're lucky it doesn't get smaller. Until one group wants to sacrifice for others, it's not going to be fair.

Adrian Mixson – Unless these change no increase until 4 or 5 years. The state economy is sluggish.

Lecia Eubanks – Is it too soon to be looking at a formula or structure change?

Adrian Mixson – When you have no money and you try to divide it up things can get ugly.

Anne Isbell – We won't have a plan when funds increase.

Lecia Eubanks – Can you tell us the current status of director/assistant director supplements?

Julie Walker – They are exactly the same.

Julie Walker – The House just passed a FY12 amended budget with the 2% cut in it.

Discussion of 2% cut and its effect on outreach services and TBC's

Barry Reese – We'll never get consensus among all library directors.

Adrian Mixson – We're only here to offer suggestions.

Patricia Edwards – sometimes we forget the fact that the State Library is a support and not in control of libraries.

Lynn Hopper – State needs to decide whether they're function is to equalize.

Kathryn Ames – If you're talking about equalization, you're going to be looking at 150 separate libraries. Small counties are not getting enough library support. We've got to look at more digital books, but it's the trained librarian that makes the difference. I'm not in favor of cutting positions.

Further discussion of changing funding formula

End of Old Business

The next meeting will be March 30, 2012 in Conyers, GA.

(Meeting concluded at 11:47 a.m.)

