

MID-HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM
System Services Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: August 23, 2023

Location: Virtual

Committee members attending:

- Matt Pavlov (Columbia)
- Thea Schoep (Columbia)
- Jesse Chance (Dutchess)
- Mary De Bellis (Dutchess)
- Catherine Benson (Greene)

- Maureen Garcia (Greene)
- Michele Capozzella (Putnam)
- Johanna Reinhardt (Putnam)
- Julie Kelsall-Dempsey (Ulster)
- Margie Menard (Ulster)

Staff Attending: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich (MHLS), Saran Camara (MHLS), Laurie Shedrick (MHLS)

Others Attending:

Minutes from May 2023 meeting reviewed and approved by M. Menard seconded by J. Chance

Discussion Items:

1. 4th Draft of MOU (Memorandum of Understanding)

Concerns brought to R. Aldrich

after the last DA Meeting have been addressed and most have been incorporated. One was to add a definition section, defining Mid-Hudson Library System; Member Library; and Director's Association. Under Review of Agreement 2 sentences have been added one addresses resigning after 10 years the other adds an orientation of the MOU by new directors.

2. DA Bylaws: MHLS hired a professional parliamentarian to provide guidance. Main updates were to voting methods: in person meeting a show of hands will suffice. Any member can call for a roll call vote when consensus was not reached. Online meetings shall not have votes taken by a show of hands. Votes done at online meetings shall be by roll call unless unanimous consent is used. Unanimous consent can be used for items where there appears to be no opposition such as routine business like approval of the minutes.

Additionally any item requiring a vote must be on the published agenda 7 days prior to the meeting to be voted on instead of 5.

A motion to recommend the proposed amendments to the DA was made by J. Chance Second by M. Garcia. All in favor

3. Union Vale: R. Smith has met with the new Board of Union Vale 4 times. They need library space, collection, furniture, computers, programs etc before applying for a charter. A Library Manger has been appointed and is contacting local libraries to introduce herself and get guidance. R. Aldrich met with the library manager in August and will provide a report to the directors of the 4 neighboring libraries.

4. Request to Visit MHLS DA- Members of RCLS have requested permission to attend an upcoming DA meeting. This was approved at the June DA. T. Schoep with contact M. Capozzella to confirm the visit has been scheduled

5. MHLS Updates:

a. ILS Roadmap

Training is being launched. There is not a date to publicly launch Vega but L. Shedrick hopes to have one by the Oct SSAC meeting and/or the Nov DA meeting. Discussion on whether to keep the url: search.midhudsonlibraries.org or launch Vega on a new url: discover.midhudsonlibraries.org and keep Encore on the old url . We could then do a soft launch for 30 days giving patrons time to adjust.

The committee recommends the new url for Vega and 30 days soft launch with Encore still available at the old url with a message and redirect.

There are a couple issues to be addressed prior to launching. L. Shedrick is working with III to get them addressed.

Training has been launched online and in person. Extensive information is already in the Knowledgebase and Training on demand in in place.

MHLS is working on a launch kit to help member libraries with promotion of Vega.

b. III Contract

III contract expires in 2024. L. Shedrick has been researching and gathering information from other ILS companies to compare to III. Still waiting to hear from Sirsi Dynix but the quote from Bywater is more than we pay now and the catalog would not be included. We currently have the catalog included in III for 5 years. L. Shedrick will use the data collected to negotiate with Innovative. Based on the pricing L. Shedrick has received so far the committee agreed the best option is to move forward with III negotiations.

c. Eleanor Roosevelt Val Kill offer to partner on a “Banned Books Club”

Val Kill has reached out to see if the Mid-Hudson Library System would be interested in participating. They have permission from the National Park Service to hold the meetings at Val Kill. The first book selected was “*Gender Queer*” Val Kill has a funder who would underwrite copies of the book. R. Aldrich has been attending county meetings to discuss this opportunity. There has been some concern from some members about possible political ramifications. MHLS Board has asked if it could be a Pilot with only some libraries participating. More information on what is expected of the libraries is needed. R. Aldrich will meet with the Val Kill representatives in early September and report back.

d. MHLS Website redesign:

MHLS staff will be starting to redesign based on feedback received.

e. 2024 Salary & Benefits Survey

This survey will be released on Oct 1st. MHLS would like 100% participation this time. Last time 65 libraries participated.

f. Recommendation 7 in the final report of the Ad Hoc Overdrive committee calls for the system to prioritize advocating on State and Federal level for legislation and agreements with publishers to have library digital book access comparable to library access to print books. MHLS has booked an expert on this topic, Alan S. Inouye, Ph. D. Senior Director, Public Policy and Government Relations and Interim Executive Director of ALA for an online session to educate us about the current state of eBook legislation and advocacy issues. The session is Tuesday October 10th 10:00am

6. **November Luncheon:** M. DeBellis will reach out to M. Capozzella to coordinate.

7. **Meeting Dates for 2024:**

The committee recommends the following dates for DA meetings in 2024:

Wednesday February 28th Virtual

Thursday April 25th In person

Tuesday June 11th In person

Thursday September 12th Virtual

Wednesday November 13th In Person

8. **Annual Meeting:**

MHLS Annual Meeting is scheduled for Oct 27th

9. **Other:**

J. Chance is leaving Hyde Park and will be the new director of Esopus. Dutchess will need a new representative to the SSAC

To include in DA Business Meeting Agenda Attachment as an Action Item:

- Title: Bylaws Amendments
- Background:
- Issue:
- Recommendation: SSAC recommends approving the proposed amendments.
- Status:

To include in DA Business Meeting Agenda Attachment as New/Proposed Business & Information:

- Title: 2024 Meeting dates
- Background:
- Issue:
- Recommendation: SSAC recommends approval of the 2024 proposed meeting dates
- Status: