

COMPASS USERS' GROUP
Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, January 24, 2007
Mt. Iron, MN

Members Present:

Shari Fisher-ALS, Mark Koukol-ALS, Rebecca Patton-ALS, Shelley Rogers-ALS, Jim Weikum-ALS; Debby Bocnuk-Babbitt, Mary Lukkarila-Cloquet, Jan Simmons-Duluth, Renee Zurn-Duluth, Mary Beth Kafut-Eveleth, Leigh Zika--Eveleth-Gilbert Schools, Ginny Richmond-Gilbert, Marcia Anderson-Grand Rapids, Terry Moore-Hibbing/Chisholm, Nancy Riesgraf-Hibbing, Sue Sowers-Hoyt Lakes, Diane Adams-International Falls Public, Julie Billings-Silver Bay, Susan Thompson-Two Harbors PL, Nancy Maxwell-Virginia, Steve Harsin-Iron Range Resource Center, and Linda J. Wadman-NCLC.

Others Present: Not at COMPASS Meeting but many more attended the Minnesota Digital Library presentation by Marian Rengel beginning at 10:40 a.m.

Meeting called to order at 9:30 a.m. Jim Weikum gave introductions. Members were reminded that meeting time would be short and agenda items should be prioritized.

The minutes of the Wednesday, November 29, 2006 meeting were presented and accepted with no changes.

Nancy Maxwell, new president, noted the short time we have for today's meeting and asked that members chose what agenda items they want to discuss first.

COMPASS AND COMPUTER RELATED ISSUES:

Questions or problems with Horizon functions:

Mark Koukol reported that the third T-1 is fixed and immediately filled to capacity as data surged to the newly available line. Hibbing reported response time remains slow 3-5 seconds early in the day and 10 sec (per scan) after school. Julie Billings noted that Silver Bay computers were much faster last week after the fix. Terry Moore asked if the problem can be technically analyzed. He stated the Compudyne quoted \$800.00 to find the problem at Hibbing. When asked what the basic problem is, Koukol replied that there are too many providers and that Horizon software is too complex or poorly designed which adds to routing problems. No one knows how Horizon 8.x will affect the system. The CP Telecom contract is for three years. Filtered internet has to route to ALS and back to libraries to go through iPrism device.

TeleCirc was included in the 2007 ALS Budget (not yet approved). This includes phone messaging (automated calls to patrons) for overdues, bills and request items on hold shelf. It would be equally available to all member libraries and patrons (not on a pay by mailing basis as is the current overdue service provided by ALS). Start up cost is \$18,000. Email notices would also be available through this system. Discussion followed with comparisons to other systems. Duluth uses an automatic notification system with their Polaris software. Long distance costs should be balanced out by reduction in staff time needed to make contacts.

Skipping to **Library Issues:**

Downloadable audio books have also been proposed for the 2007 budget at \$63,000 (Overdrive estimate). Overdrive and NetLibrary are the two choices for libraries. Some require downloading via a computer, others allow downloading directly to players (not all iPod compatible). Members expressed concerns about hardware, load times and costs. More research needs to be done. A committee was formed: Marcia Anderson, Grand Rapids; Renee Zurn, Duluth; and Susan Hoppe, Virginia. Rebecca Patton will organize the group.

Rural Sustainability Grant (Gates) workshops:

Terry Moore expressed his concern about content/usefulness of program and asked if there was a penalty for libraries who don't attend. There is an incentive (grant opportunity) but no penalty. The workshop will be held at ALS on Tuesday, March 13, 2007.

Legislative update: Jim Weikum stated that the Governor's Budget included a 1.8% increase to RLBS (first increase in 15 years. Compare to 2006 Consumer Price Index of 2.5% for one year.) Pawlenty budget also includes \$200,000 for a Library Structure Study (how libraries are organized in Minnesota). Weikum will be meeting with Susan Miller tomorrow and Linda Wadman (NCLC) plans to talk to Miller today.

MnLINK update: Jim Weikum stated that the MnLINK Gateway Operations Committee is meeting February 2. One topic on the agenda is future VDX software enhancements to separate or limit items by media type, copyright date, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m. to welcome additional participants for the presentation by Marian Rengel about the Minnesota Digital Library project.

The next COMPASS meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 28, 2007.

Meeting schedule for 2007 (4th Wednesday at 10 a.m. of month is standard):

January 24, February 28, no March meeting (MN Library Legislative Day), April 25, May 23, Summer: no June (network updates expected), July 25, no August (school workshops), September 26, October 31 (Oct. 24 is MLA), and November 28.

Minutes submitted by Ginny Richmond, acting secretary