

STATE LIBRARY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
March 25, 2009 – Conference Call

Present:

Council Members:

Steve Benetz  
Wendy Breeden  
Jeff Donnelly  
Sharon Hartman  
Carolyn McClendon

Staff:

Judi Ring  
Loretta Flowers  
Jennifer Womble  
Gerard Clark

**Introductions**

Introductions were made and a quorum was announced.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes from the December 15, 2008, meeting was made, and they were approved unanimously.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be sometime in August. Further information on this meeting will be provided at a later date.

**Recommendations for Vacancies**

There have been no applications or names submitted.

**Division Update**

**SFY08-09 Budget Reductions**

Special Session A was held in January and the 4% budget holdbacks have been made permanent. Also, an additional holdback of 15% has been instituted on fourth quarter funds.

To compensate for the holdbacks, most position vacancies in the Department are being held open. The Division has only been able to fill federally funded positions. Additionally, the Department is taking a look at the use of Blackberry devices, cell phones, and air cards in an attempt to reduce costs.

The additional 15% holdback will affect State Aid to Public Libraries grants, Community Libraries in Caring grants, and Multitype Library Cooperative grants by further reducing funds for these grant programs.

Senate Bill 44A passed during special session. This bill strongly limits state-funded travel. All travel must now be signed by the Secretary of State and very strong mission-critical justifications have to be given. Out of state travel is prohibited unless it is reimbursable.

## SFY09-10 Budget

It is estimated that for the upcoming fiscal year, Florida's population will have virtually no growth, and personal income and employment will have weak growth. Additionally, the private housing industry will not start entering positive territory until July 2010, into 2011. Estimators foresee that Florida will not begin to recover its normal growth rates until FY2011-2012, and that recovery will begin on a low level at that time.

As the Legislature attempts to prepare its state budget recommendations, daily requests are made to the Department by House and Senate committees on different approaches to reducing the state's budget. One idea that the Department put forth to the Senate Transportation and Economic Development committee was to reduce State Aid to \$17,000,000, which is lower than the maintenance of effort to receive full funding of Library Services and Technology Act funds. However, there is discussion about moving the Division's 27 LSTA funded positions into general revenue, which would add to the maintenance of effort. Moving the positions to state funding would also mean that the positions would not be dependent on the lower level of LSTA funding that the Division receives.

Other reductions that impact the Division were submitted with the Department's Legislative Budget Requests and are still on the table. They include the consolidation of the Legislative Library to the State Library and the discontinuation of the Source Document Microfilming at the State Records Center. Six positions would be lost.

## Legislation

The Division is tracking 97 bills, 11 of which are early voting bills. Some of the early voting bills pertain to early voting in public libraries and the expansion of voting places. The Florida Library Association supports more venues for early voting because of the impact on public libraries.

The Division is closely following public library Internet safety bills, which are moving through their assigned committees very slowly. Other bills the Division is tracking, which have no direct impact, relate to records management, records exemptions, or records retention; electric vehicles and libraries; condominiums and home owners associations and libraries; and meeting notices or bylaws on library Web sites.

## Old Business

### Sunset Review

The Division continues to provide requested information to the Legislative Sunset Review Committee. Most recently, a chart of all of the Division's grants for the past three years was requested and provided.

## PeDALS

Division Staff participated in general update conference calls for the Persistent Digital Archives and Library System, a multi-state grant-funded project to develop and test an infrastructure for preserving and accessing government electronic records and documents. Staff also selected potential records and documents for test ingests into the system and downloaded electronic records and documents from the Web sites of the Attorney General and the Public Service Commission for the ingest phase.

## Consumer Health Information Network

The Division's work with the Agency for Health Care Administration, the Department of Health, and the Medical School Libraries will soon come to a conclusion. The company that supplied the databases for the Florida Electronic Library has offered to pilot a new Web site for Consumer Health Information. Additionally, to finish the program, focus groups will be conducted throughout the state to gather ideas to help get better consumer health information to Florida's citizens.

## **New Business**

### Electronic Records Management Project

The Division continues planning for a survey of state agency electronic records management practices in response to the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability's recommendations to develop a statewide strategic plan.

### Economic Recovery Stimulus

The Division's Web page now includes informational resources for libraries to understand opportunities in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The Division has an opportunity to participate in the Recovery Act by becoming part of a state team that will look at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program grant. The BTOP provides grants to support the deployment of broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas, to enhance broadband capacity at public computer centers, and to encourage sustainable adoption of broadband service.

This presents an opportunity for Florida's libraries, which are now filling the digital divide for many of Florida's citizens who don't have Internet access by providing fiber-optic lines for faster Internet connection in areas of need.

Additionally, the Division is looking at another aspect of the BTOP that deals with programs and services, which would allow the Division to put forward a request for funding to benefit all public libraries in the state. The Division will host a Web conference in the beginning of April to provide public library directors and other interested parties with further information.

### National Library Legislative Day

Due to current economic conditions, there will not be a large group of Floridians visiting Congress to advocate for library funding at National Library Legislative Day. The Division is encouraging

Floridians to participate virtually by contacting their state delegation by e-mail, fax, or phone about the importance and value that federal funds bring to Florida's libraries.

#### New Collection Development Policy

The Division asked the Council to review and vote on the approval of a new Collection Development policy for the State Archives of Florida.

A formal motion to approve the policy was made and it was approved unanimously.

#### Orientation Manual

The Division is currently in the process of developing an orientation manual for all councils and boards that work with the Division of Library and Information Services. A request for volunteers from the Council who would assist the Division in developing a manual to meet each of the members' needs was put forth; Jeff Donnelly and Steve Benetz volunteered.

Members recapped what is happening in libraries, archives, or records centers in their areas.

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.