

STATE OF CONNECTICUT, RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
STATE LIBRARY BOARD  
March 24, 2025

INDEX

Members joining in person:  
Jessica de Perio Wittman, Mary Etter, Sheri Szymanski

Members joining via Teams:  
Judge Henry Cohn, Claudia Jalowka, Scott Matheson, Sandy Ruoff, Melissa Wlodarczyk-Hickey

Members absent:  
Allen Hoffman, Betsy Pittman, Sally Whipple

Others joining in person:  
Deborah Schander, Dawn LaValle, Matt Geeza (CSL)

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The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m. by Vice Chair Jessica dePerio Wittman. Deborah Schander took roll call attendance of board members. No attendance of the members of the public attending the meeting was taken.

**MINUTES**

It was MOVED (M. Etter) seconded (S. Szymanski) THAT THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 27, 2025 STATE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING BE APPROVED. PASSED unanimously.

**MINUTES**

Motion

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No Executive Session was needed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**BOARD COMMENTS**

Jessica sent the Board regards from Chair Allen Hoffman, who was unable to attend the meeting. She also shared the announcement that the South Windsor Public Library is being renamed the Mary J. Etter Public Library at a ceremony in April. The Board offered congratulations to Mary on this honor.

**BOARD COMMENTS**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT**

Deborah referred everyone to her written report for a full list of recent agency activities. She then provided the Board with an update on President Trump's March 14, 2025 Executive Order (EO), directing the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and six other federal agencies that their "non-statutory components and functions [...] shall be eliminated to the maximum extent consistent with applicable law, and such entities shall reduce the performance of their statutory functions and associated personnel to the minimum presence and function required by law." IMLS is the federal agency which provides financial and other support to libraries and museums across the country. There remains a great deal of uncertainty surrounding this EO and the impact it will have on state libraries and their functions as well as on museums. Currently, Connecticut receives about \$2.1 million per year from IMLS's Grants to States program,

**STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT**

which supports the majority of the Division of Library Development's (DLD) work. To the best of our current knowledge, this program is statutory and will continue to be funded under the Continuing Resolution which runs through the end of the current federal fiscal year (September 30, 2025). It is not yet known what the impact will be on discretionary programs. CSL is in frequent conversation with other state libraries, the Office of Policy and Management, the Attorney General's office, the Governor's office, our federal delegation, and others to ensure the most accurate information is known and shared during this period of uncertainty. Once more firm information is known, it will be shared out with the library community and other interested groups.

**REPORTS OF BOARD COMMITTEES**

There were no reports at this time.

**OTHER REPORTS**

External Organizations

One written report from the CT Open Educational Resources Coordinating Council was included in the Board packets. There was no discussion of the report.

Divisions and Units – Discovery Services

Jessica welcomed the Discovery Services Unit to the meeting. Unit Head Stephen Slovasky was joined by staff members William Anderson, John "Jack" Bednar, and Verna Thomas-Green. Laura Diller was unable to attend the meeting but helped prepare the presentation. The Discovery Services staff gave in-depth information about their key functions to catalog and process print and electronic materials in the State Library's collections, including state newspapers, maps, gift materials, federal documents, and the many state documents for which CSL may be one of the few, if not the only, holders. Melissa thanked the group for their presentation, noting her appreciation as someone who does not have a library background of her own. Scott thanked the group for their Name Authority Cooperative Program (NACO) participation. Jessica again thanked the group for their presentation.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of Items on the Consent Agenda: There being no objections, the consent agenda was MOVED (S. Szymanski), seconded (M. Etter), and PASSED unanimously.

The item on the consent agenda was:

Recommended Appointments to the Connecticut Digital Library Advisory Board (CBLAB) (SLB DOC 25-2)

**OLD BUSINESS**

Budget Update

Deborah stated that CSL has concluded its formal hearings with the Appropriations Committee and the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee's

**REPORTS OF BOARD COMMITTEES**

**OTHER REPORTS**

External Organizations

Divisions and Units  
Discovery Services

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**OLD BUSINESS**  
Budget Update

Bonding Subcommittee. The legislative response has been uneven, with Appropriations focusing on one operational decision involving money not appropriated to CSL or otherwise part of the State Library's budget, and a very positive response from the Bonding Subcommittee to the State Archives building project and the Public Library Construction Grant program. Deborah will continue to engage in additional conversations with legislators, OPM, and others to ensure CSL's budget needs are given full consideration.

Legislative Update:

CSL continues to monitor legislation that may impact the State Library or its statutory responsibilities. This includes eBook legislation and several bills about library policies. Deborah continues to engage with bill sponsors and committee chairs as needed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Proposed Changes for the 2025-2026 Version of the State Grant Program for Public Library Construction Timetable and Guidelines (SLB DOC 25-1): It was MOVED (M. Etter) seconded (S. Szymanski) that the State Library Board approve changing the *State Grant Program for Public Library Construction Timetable and Guidelines* for 2025-2026 to:

- In the "Local Funds" definition, update the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) grant reference to also include the name of these monies: Community Investment Funds. Remove redundant fiscal language ("to replace former Tax-Exempt Proceeds Fund (TEPF) account") from the Grant Payments Section.

PASSED unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 1:51 p.m. it was MOVED (M. Wlodarczyk-Hickey) THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED. PASSED unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for 1 p.m. on Monday, May 19, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

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Deborah Schander, Secretary

Legislative Update

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ADJOURNMENT**  
Motion