

*Minutes of the Meeting of the
Consortium of County Law Library Resources Boards
March 9, 2012, 11:00 a.m.
12th Floor Ohio Supreme Court Law Library, Columbus, Ohio*

The Consortium of County Law Library Resources Boards held a meeting at 11:00 a.m. on March 9, 2012 in the 12th floor conference room of the Ohio Supreme Court Law Library in Columbus, Ohio. The following Board Members were in attendance: Judge Charles Schneider, John Leutz, Ken Kozlowski, George Baker, and Kathleen M. Dugan. On behalf of the Advisory Council, Keith Blough attended in person, Dick Baker and Susan Boland participated by telephone, and Judge Shriver arrived at 11:55 a.m. Also in attendance were Executive Director Angela Baldree, Assistant Attorney General Jennifer Croskey, and Brendan M. Inscho, Assistant Legal Counsel for the Auditor of State, who was appointed to replace J. Desiree Forbes. Guests included several county law librarians, who participated by telephone.

Judge Schneider first called for the election of officers. Upon motion of John Leutz, seconded by Ken Kozlowski, the following slate of officers was unanimously approved by the Board: Judge Schneider as Chair, George Baker as Vice-Chair; and Kathleen M. Dugan as Secretary.

Judge Schneider then called for approval of a small correction to paragraph 4 of the October 19, 2011 Minutes. Upon motion of John Leutz, seconded by George Baker, the change was unanimously approved by the Board. Judge Schneider then made a motion for approvals of the December 6, 2011 Minutes, which was seconded by Ken Kozlowski and unanimously approved by the Board.

Angela Baldree then introduced Brendan Inscho, who Ms. Baldree previously asked to a) update the existing flow chart of fines and penalties and b) include the process of CLLRB approval of county legal resource purchases in all state audits of Ohio counties. Mr. Inscho then summarized his background and role with regard to the Consortium and indicated that his office is in the process of updating the outdated fine distribution chart.

Judge Schneider then called for approval of the financial report. Ms. Baldree indicated that four (4) libraries still have not paid for last year, but she and Jennifer Croskey are following up with these libraries. Upon motion of John Leutz, seconded by George Baker, the financial report was unanimously approved by the Board.

Judge Schneider then indicated that he would like to have the Executive Director's report that Ms. Baldree presented in December 2011 approved so that he can distribute it to the appointing authorities and all county law libraries. As a result, upon motion of Ken Kozlowski, seconded by John Leutz, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Executive Director's report as the annual report of the Consortium.

Mrs. Croskey then provided an update on the Consortium's agency status. She indicated that

the Consortium could be considered a state agency, an instrumentality of the state, or simply a consortium of county law libraries. However, Mrs. Croskey indicated that in her informal opinion, the Consortium is a state agency because a) the Board contains a member from the Supreme Court, which is a state body, b) the Board is composed of state-wide positions, including the Judicial College, which is funded by the state, if not officially a state agency itself, c) the Consortium is funded in the state budget, and d) one major task of the Consortium is negotiating state-wide contracts like the state Department of Administrative Services (“DAS”) does. Although Mrs. Croskey has drafted a letter to request a formal opinion from the Attorney General, a question was raised as to whether the Consortium had standing to make such a request, which can only be made by state agencies. After possible suggestions were made to approach the Supreme Court, the State Auditor, a state Senator, or a county prosecutor, Mrs. Croskey indicated that she is working on an alternative sponsor, and DAS may be willing to accept her informal opinion. As a result, upon motion of George Baker, seconded by Ken Kozlowski, the Board unanimously voted to waive the Consortium’s attorney-client privilege to allow Mrs. Croskey to publish her informal opinion on the Consortium’s agency status.

Ms. Baldree then provided an update on Consortium initiatives. She first indicated that the Matthew Bender book offer was reopened with March deadlines at the same costs as in December 2011. She is also helping to plan a session that will be presented at the AALL annual meeting this year on collaboration among county law libraries. In addition, she has been engaged in discussions with Lexis, Westlaw, and Loislaw about online offers for the Consortium. Although both Lexis and Westlaw feel that their state contracts adequately cover password plans, they are willing to further discuss county law library patron access plans. Ms. Baldree advised both vendors that county law libraries would have to be released from their current contracts, and West even asked if county law libraries were interested in remote access, which could mean no Westpack discounts for books. Because Loislaw’s proposal came in too late to review, discussion of that vendor was tabled until the next meeting. Ms. Baldree further added that she is aware that although two (2) county law libraries are cooperating, there have not been any formal mergers into multi-county law libraries.

Ms. Baldree then indicated that she will provide an update on behalf of the Consortium at the ORALL County Law Library Spring Retreat at the Delaware County Commissioners’ building on April 25, 2012.

A request was made to have the County Commissioners Association of Ohio remind counties that they cannot charge county law libraries for any indirect costs. Judge indicated that he will mention it to the Legislature and Victor Hipsley, and John Leutz can send a notice to his members.

The next order of business was the approval of grants to county law libraries, which the Board previously approved up to \$50,000.00. Ms. Baldree indicated that she received 20 requests for over \$80,000.00 and that she and Susan Boland had the opportunity to review all of them before the meeting. They broke them down into three (3) categories for 1) proposals they recommended be approved in full, 2) proposals they recommended be approved in part due to insufficient documentation, and 3) one proposal from Henry County. She also indicated that she and Mrs.

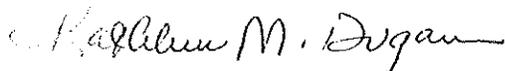
Croskey are working on a Memorandum of Understanding each grant recipient's county will have to sign to ensure that grant funds are applied to county law library accounts and used for their intended purposes. Ms. Baldree also indicated that grant recipients will have to provide receipts for all expenditures and return any funds which exceed their actual expenses. In reviewing the grant applications, questions were raised about grants seeking funds for memberships, mileage, seminars, and attorney fees.

Upon motion of John Leutz, seconded by George Baker, Board members Schneider, Leutz, Baker, and Kozlowski voted, with Ms. Dugan abstaining, to approve the grant request from Cuyahoga County in the amount of \$3,373.40. Upon motion of Ms. Dugan, seconded by Ken Kozlowski, all Board members unanimously voted to approve the remaining grant proposals fully recommended by the grants committee in the amount of \$35,130.32. Upon motion of John Leutz, seconded by George Baker, Board members Leutz, Baker, Kozlowski, and Dugan voted in favor of deleting the \$800.00 attorney fee request from Guernsey County that was recommended by the grants committee, and Judge Schneider opposed. Upon motion of John Leutz, seconded by Ms. Dugan, the Board unanimously approved the grant committee's reduced recommendations, as amended above, for the second page of grant proposals beginning with Ashland County and ending with Seneca County in the amount of \$19,266.19. These approvals brought the total in grants awarded to \$57,769.91. Judge Schneider then asked Ms. Baldree to tell Henry County that the Board needs more information before it can consider that County's grant proposal.

The Board considered scheduling a meeting in conjunction with the aforementioned Retreat in Delaware County, but nothing was confirmed.

Upon motion by Ken Kozlowski, seconded by John Leutz, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 12:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathleen M. Dugan, Esq., MLS, Secretary