

OWLS Director Report

October 19, 2023 OWLS Board of Trustees Meeting

County Funding Updates

Early this month, I was informed that our library aids request was included in the Outagamie County Executive's budget at 100% funding. I will meet with the finance committee on October 19th. The proposed Waupaca County Budget also includes 100% funding of our budget request. Final votes on both budgets are scheduled in early November.

Building Projects

Several OWLSnet member libraries have building projects in various stages of development. Three are in the construction phase: Appleton, Lakewood, and Weyauwega. Several are in earlier stages such as visioning, planning, fundraising, or bidding. These include Oconto, Seymour, Kaukauna, and Fremont. Shawano's main branch will likely need to move to a temporary location to during mold remediation in the current building. When libraries move, expand, or renovate buildings, OWLS provides consulting on placement of network infrastructure, manages data circuit changes through TEACH, advises and implements ILS settings to manage collection availability and patron service during closures, and coordinates delivery changes with Waltco.

Update on Director Searches

Little Chute's new director, Megan Kloeckner, will start on November 7th. Bradley is serving on the hiring committee for the Sturm Memorial Library in Manawa, which is currently in the interview phase of the hiring process. Martha Van Pelt has announced her retirement from the South Central Library System, and that position has been posted. David Kranz, director of the Southwest Library System has accepted a new role at Wisconsin Valley Library System.

Library Development & Legislation Report

Library Legislative Day is scheduled for Tuesday, February 6, 2024. It's an off year for the budget, but we will likely have a lot to discuss with legislators regarding proposed legislation related to libraries. There are a number of proposals under discussion that focus on rating systems and parental notification. I am working with a sub-committee of LD&L to develop a handout describing the tools and resources that libraries have in place to support parents' rights and responsibilities at the library.