Approved 11/9/2026

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MINUTES

RAILS BOARD CONSORTIA COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, July 13, 2026|10:00 a.m.
RAILS Burr Ridge and Videoconference Sites
125 Tower Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527 | 630.734.5000

1. Welcome and Call to Order
   Slaughter called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

2. Roll Call of Members
   RAILS Burr Ridge: Elizabeth Clarage (CARLI), Kate Hall (CCS), Paul Mills (Pinnacle), Megan Gove (RAILS)
   RAILS East Peoria: Antony Deter (RSA)
   Sterling Public Library: Jennifer Slaney (RRLC)
   A quorum was present.

3. Recognition of Guests and Announcements
   Guests in attendance at RAILS Burr Ridge: Alice Grabowski (designated notetaker), Joe Filapek, Kate Neihoff, Anne Slaughter, Maggie Thomann, Matt Hammermeister (Pinnacle).
   Crystal Vela (SWAN) arrived 10:06 am.
   Guests at East Peoria: Kendal Orrison (RSA)
   Guests via Zoom: Rebecca Malinowski (CCS), Aaron Skog (SWAN), Laura Van Cleve (SWAN), Janette Derucki, Barb Miller, Mark Hatch, Eric Bain, Jennifer Baugh (SHARE), Kortni Springer, Grant Halter, Leila Heath, Carolyn Coulter (PCAT)

4. Public comments
   There were no public comments.

5. Adoption of the Consent Agenda
   5.1. Adoption of the Agenda
   5.2. Approval of the RAILS Board Consortia Committee Minutes of April 20, 2026
   Hall moved and Gove seconded the approval of the consent agenda as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

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6. Reports
   6.1. Chair Report
   No report is available at this time.

   6.2. Consortia Report
   There were no comments on the Consortia report as presented in the meeting packet.

   6.3. RAILS Reports
   There were no comments on the RAILS report as presented in the meeting packet.

   6.4. Consortial Delivery Data Working Group Report
   The first meeting was held June 26, 2026. Halter provided a recap and overview of where the project currently is and the goals of the group. Next steps are to focus on reviewing the LLSAP and library policies that may influence the reporting to create definitions. Several members have mentioned library staff are looking forward to potentially eliminating the physical count.

7. Unfinished Business
   7.1. Updates on legislation and funding
   Filapek reported on IMLS funding and the ALA's National Library Funding advocacy campaign. Final funding levels remain subject to House and Senate negotiations. He also noted concerns about the federal E-Rate program, which provides broadband and telecommunications discounts to schools and libraries. The FCC is seeking public comment on the program's future, and a coalition of national organizations has launched the Save Our E-Rate campaign.
   The Illinois legislation topics included the passing of the FY2026 Public Library Per Capita and Equalization Grant funding, the Library Security Grant Program, and the construction grant which was awarded to approximately a dozen libraries.
   Discussion on the impact of the removal of the E-Rate program on Illinois residents and how the LLSAPs can pull data to help support the advocacy efforts were reviewed.
   Status on the E-book bill was provided, highlighting the focus this past summer on outreach to senators about the importance of this bill.

   7.2. RAILCAR update
   Halter stated efforts to simplify and streamline the web form for the RAILCAR data collection alongside the LLSAP Support Grant process are occurring. Details on the application, report structure, and data cleanup were provided. Furthermore, SHARE is invited to submit a webform for inclusion in statewide data analysis. Updates have been

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made to the RAILCAR Dashboard, including progress on a trends page and an LLSAP snapshot page to better understand each LLSAP and their libraries.

8. New Business

8.1. Approval of the RAILS Board Consortia Committee Meeting Schedule for FY2027

Slaughter explained the necessity of shifting the cadence of FY2027 meetings to a different rotation.

Hall moved and Gove seconded the approval of the RAILS Consortia Committee Meeting Schedule for FY2027 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

8.2. Creation of a new Consortial Listserv

Slaughter opened the discussion on the suggestion made at a previous meeting to establish an email list for all consortia staff in addition to the existing Consortia Managers LISTSERV. RAILS would request that an individual volunteer as convenor to advise on establishing and minimally moderate the listserv. Discussion on the interest level and participation for this listserv was evaluated; an annual event was suggested as a possible alternative. If a listserv to help facilitate asynchronous communication is a desire among LLSAP staff in the future, RAILS would be happy to support and set it up. LLSAPs are welcome to suggest additional opportunities for RAILS collaboration and support.

8.3. RAILS Academy and Continuing Education Update

Niehoff presented on the new RAILS Academy, powered by Niche Academy which is an online learning platform specifically for libraries. This includes tutorials on a number of different topics provided by RAILS as well as other organizations. RAILS Academy is open to all staff at any RAILS member library. Since the opening of this platform 3 months ago, top areas accessed are customer service, Youth Services training, supervisor training, along with tutorials for front line staff. An overview of existing and potential future resources was given. Certificates can be downloaded after certain training sessions are completed.

9. Meeting Recap and Agenda Building for the next RAILS Board Consortia Committee Meeting

The next Consortia Committee meeting is scheduled to be held on Monday, November 9, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

10. Adjournment

Slaughter adjourned the meeting at 10:48 a.m.