

DRAFT MINUTES

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM

UNIVERSAL SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, June 5, 2026 | 1:00 PM

RAILS Burr Ridge and Videoconference Sites

125 Tower Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527 | 630.734.5000

1. Welcome and Call to Order
Catherine Yanikoski, Committee Chair, welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.
2. Roll Call of Members
Grabowski called the roll of the committee members.
Catherine Yanikoski, Chair – Engineering Systems, Inc.
Angela Campbell – RAILS Coal Valley
Rob Parks – RAILS East Peoria
Brooke Sievers – RAILS Burr Ridge
Michelle Roubal – RAILS Burr Ridge
Alissa Williams – RAILS East Peoria
Absent: Jenny Cutshall, Emily Porter
3. Recognition of Guests and Announcements
Guests in attendance at RAILS Burr Ridge: Joe Filapek, Alice Grabowski (designated notetaker)
Guests via Zoom: Kate Niehoff
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 Universal Service Committee Minutes of March 13, 2026
Parks moved for the approval of the consent agenda, Sievers seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.
6. Unfinished Business
 - 6.1. 2024 Universal Service Plan and Action Item Assignment – Review

The committee members reviewed the 2024 Universal Service Plan and Action Item Assignment for relevance and potential additions. Filapek stated the action items are grouped into three categories: understanding the unserved, simplifying access and expanding service, and demonstrating value and building support. The Illinois State Library Advisory Committee (ISLAC) met last week and discussed forming a subcommittee to focus on non-resident administrative rules and further explore issues related to unserved populations. Additionally, the State Library has been looking at models in other states as it relates to the unserved. Once ISLAC clarifies the charge and the intent of the new group, the priorities of this committee will be shifted to provide support.

Sievers made the recommendation to define what Universal Service is to this group in planning future goals.

Parks pointed out Action Item #4 – Possible amendment to the Public Library District Act designed to remove barriers to libraries merging. The difficulties with the merging of libraries were addressed, noting differences between city and district libraries. Discussion continued regarding the lengthy process this entails.

7. New Business

7.1. Illinois Legislative Update

Filapek stated there are not many updates to be shared due to the end of the General Assembly session. HB 5236 on eBook legislation, HB 4261 on Per Capita grant funding for systems/libraries, and HB 3411 on OER funding will be picked up again in the fall veto session with continued advocacy taking place.

7.2. RAILS Strategic Planning Update

RAILS is in the process of a Strategic Plan refresh. A member survey was completed and collected approximately 500 responses. Strategic Planning Consultant, Cindy Fesemyer, did many one-on-one interviews and focus groups. Feedback reiterated one of the long-term aspirations for RAILS is a strong emphasis placed on universal access, particularly through statewide systems.

7.3. Review and Brainstorming: Advocacy and Legislative Options for the Unserved

This past year the committee completed the Community College survey, provided advocacy information sharing, and shared the barriers on non-resident card rules. Additionally, Scott Pointon presented a proposal in tasking county government to act as an agent in addressing the unserved and draft legislation around mergers. Consideration of a proposal to ILA PPC for universal service was discussed. Review of the expectations of what is needed in a proposal and the time it takes to ensure support was noted. A pilot program on a county level before presenting to a state level, creating two-year proposal to present, the potential

of utilizing Scott Pointon's proposal, and a statement/memo to present to ILA PPC are options to consider. "Transforming Our Image, Building Our Brand" by Valerie Gross is one example on how the state of Maryland was able to serve the unserved. The tight timeline was discussed in prepping a draft in a subcommittee of Universal Service Committee.

7.4. Committee Membership in FY 2027

The committee charge and term rules were reviewed. Michelle Roubal and Angela Campbell are finishing their terms. Emily Porter is stepping down. There are several individuals who had expressed interest in joining, a reach out will be made. Representation from all types within the service area will be sought after. A thank you was expressed to the committee members for their dedication and hard work.

7.5. Approval of the RAILS Board Universal Service Committee Meeting Schedule for FY2027
Quarterly meetings are set starting in September. The September meeting was suggested to move to the morning due to the holiday weekend. The meeting was moved to 10 am. Sievers moved for the approval of the RAILS Board Universal Service Committee Meeting Schedule for FY2027 as amended, Williams seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

8. Meeting Recap and Agenda Building for the next RAILS Board Universal Service Committee Meeting

The next Universal Service Committee meeting is scheduled to be held on Friday, September 4, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

9. Adjournment

Yanikoski adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.