

**Mountain-Valley, North Bay and North State  
Joint Steering Committees Meeting  
February 6, 2008  
Vacaville Public Library – Town Center Branch**

Present: Jon Torkelson, Sandy Habbestad, Tom Andersen, Derek Wolfgram, Bonnie Thoreen, Danis Kreimeier, David Dodd, Fred Batt, Bill Michaels Diane Smikahl, Ann Cousineau, Mel Lightbody, Sandy Cooper, Annette Milliron, Patty Hector, Gregg Atkins, Loren MccRory, Bessie Platten, Marilyn Cochran, Coral Henning, Darla Wegener, Maureen Sullivan

Maureen explained the white paper from PLS and asked participants for what they would like to see a joint venture bring our libraries.

Comments on White Paper:

Will systems lose money by joining together? Answer is: yes, a slight amount. How much do the CLSA rules (state law) constrict a joint venture? You do have to meet the CLSA requirements, but you can do much more beyond those requirements. It was felt that a lot of the issues in the White Paper will be the same for our systems.

Communities of Practice within the larger group (i.e. have rural libraries come together for rural issues)

Systems meet together for small group discussion

**NBCLS**

Benefits/Gains

Opportunity to bring more library types into the mix

Economies of scale

Delivery

More ability to get grants

Power to negotiate

Question everything we do; continuous beta

Risks/Losses/Concerns

Keep delivery affordable and still meet needs  
Can we stay flexible?  
Can we be equitable?  
Is CLSA a hindrance?

### Questions

How do we fit into CLSA structure?  
How do we guarantee equal representation in governance?  
Where is HQ?  
How do we meet? Sub areas, video conferencing or other technology?

## **MVLS**

### Benefits/Gains

Sharing – resources, information, communities of practice, communication tools, ILS's  
Stronger voice at state library level  
Stronger position for grants

### Risks/Losses

Distance  
Size  
Loss of local identity  
Travel expenses and distance (loss of involvement)  
Technology problems  
Funding (diversity of the libraries)  
How do you keep academic libraries involved?

### Questions

How do we get grants?  
How do we work under CLSA?  
The funding challenge – fee structure with so much diversity  
Delivery issues – how can it be seamless and affordable  
Legislation to include academics, special and school libraries

## **NSCLS**

### Benefits/Gains

Services, access  
Expanding visibility of libraries  
Expertise especially technological issues

## Risks/Losses

### Identity

Ignored because of distance and size

Difficulty of meeting esp in person

## Questions

How structure and financing would work.

How do we create new services?

How would Rural Initiative dovetail with a joint system? Would some of it be redundant?

Groups report out: Questions, concerns, plans,

- Others don't see loss of identity but an enhancement of identity.
- Benefit of having a regional library identity for patrons.
- Marketing campaign (BALIS is involved in it) Free 2; we could benefit from their groundwork
- Share entrepreneurial things like graphic artist, geek squad
- Cafeteria plan of services that people can choose from
- Resource creation
- Consolidated organization that is affordable
- Show a commitment to far north libraries by going to them

## **Possible Initiatives/Services**

- Graphic Artist
- Common Marketing program
- Geek squad marketed to small cities
- Contract services
- Centralized means to load up and deliver new computers
- Spa menu approach
- Really good resource sharing and resource creation

## **Next Steps**

- Consult an attorney
- Clarify CLSA requirements to know where we can go beyond that
- Lay out a timetable for whatever we can specify

- Check whether all libraries in systems are participating in universal borrowing because consolidation would mean that all would be required to loan to each other
- Develop a work plan

Very soonest consolidation could take place is July of 2009. Request would have to be made by Sept of 2008. In the Bay Area they will have the issue in front of the Lof C Board in Aug. Each system is submitting a letter of intent by July. They did not dissolve their systems, they are creating a superstructure. To dissolve their systems, each library would have had to go back to their boards/city councils to change JPA.

How we will introduce/discuss this with our administrative councils?

### **Initial Timetable**

For Annette

- Prepare summary of 2/6 meeting and distribute to participants;  
Report back to each Admin Council  
NBCLS meets 2/7/08  
MVLS 3/13/08  
NSCLS 3/14/08
- Do background research: CLSA requirements; legal considerations
- Outline proposed timetable
- Financial implications

For Group

- Identify potential resource sharing partners (academics)
- Identify other models , other states
- Reconvene in April or May (have the meeting in North State region if possible?)

### **Summary**

- Review the benefits
- Take the three questions for their discussion
- Explain the commonalities that surfaced today

What are the current academic library resource sharing mechanisms (LinkPlus) and what meetings are taking place for the academic libraries? How do we engage the academic libraries?

Potential joint programs such as:

- staff training
- seamless resource sharing
- e-books and downloadable media collections

Look at other states' resource sharing—beyond the basics. Let's don't reinvent, let's use what others have done especially in regards to entrepreneurial activities.

Regional grant opportunities

Wrap up