A special session of the Great River Regional Library (GRRL) Board of Trustees was called to order on Wednesday, May 6, 2015, at 4:00 p.m. in the St. Cloud Public Library Mississippi Room with President Mark Bromenschenkel presiding.

Kevin Maurer informed the Board of his resignation. Commissioner Randy Winscher was appointed to the GRRL Board at the Morrison County Board meeting on May 5. Mark Bromenschenkel welcomed Randy to the GRRL Board.

ADOPTION/AMENDMENT OF AGENDA
Following a motion and second to adopt the agenda as presented, the motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPLICANT IN-PERSON INTERVIEWS
Mark Bromenschenkel explained to the Board that the same set of interview questions will be asked of each applicant. Julie Henne, Associate Director – Public Relations stated that Mark will ask the applicant questions. Each Board member has a folder of applicant materials which will be collected along with the Board member’s interview notes following the meeting.

Jim Shovelain asked if the applicant discussion following the interviews would take place in closed session. Julie Henne responded the meeting needs to remain an open meeting. He then asked if selection for the Executive Director position will be by ballot. The consensus was the Executive Director would be selected in that manner.

First interview at 4:15 p.m. – Karen Pundsack
Second interview at 5:00 p.m. – Kari May
Third interview at 5:55 p.m. – Maria McCarville

To facilitate discussion, John Keister passed out ballots for each of the following five areas: leadership, management, library operations, community relations and interest. Each Board member was to list their
first, second and third applicant choice for each area. Once collected and tallied, the ballots indicated the top two applicants for the Executive Director position. John then suggested the Board to consider what their priorities were at the beginning of the search process and were and what they wanted to achieve in hiring.

Extensive discussion followed including attributes of the applicants and the desire for the Executive Director to implement changes and move GRRL forward. Board members also expressed the need to give direction to the Executive Director and hold that person accountable.

After the discussion, John Keister provided a ballot to each Board member for their vote on which applicant to select for the Executive Director position. The ballots were collected by Julie Henne and counted by her and Mark Bromenschenkel. Vote results were Karen Pundsack 8 and Kari May 6.

Randy Winscher made a motion to unanimously vote for Karen Pundsack as the new GRRL Executive Director. Seconded by Michael Potter, the motion carried unanimously.

Mark Bromenschenkel stated the Board considered at a previous meeting having a psychological profile administered for the Executive Director applicants. He added it has been recommended GRRL not move forward with the profile as it was not originally stated as part of the application process. Upon Board request, Julie Henne had obtained quotes for administering a profile. The consensus of the Board was to not conduct a psychological profile as it was not part of the original search process.

Further discussion took place regarding the search process in general.

There was a consensus that a letter be sent to Kari May and Maria McCarville on behalf of the Board, signed by Mark Bromenschenkel, thanking them for their interest in GRRL and taking the time to be part of the interview process.

Karen Pundsack then joined the meeting and was congratulated by the Board. She thanked the Board and stated her acceptance of the Executive Director position.

**NEXT MEETINGS**

The Great River Regional Library Board of Trustees announced the next regular Personnel Committee meeting will be Tuesday, May 19, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. in the St. Cloud Public Library Mississippi Room. The next regular Board of Trustees meeting will be Tuesday, May 19, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Cloud Public Library Mississippi Room.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Laura Hayes moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. Seconded by Bernice Berns, the motion carried unanimously.

_________________________________  __________________________________
Mark Bromenschenkel, President   Spencer Buerkle, Secretary
A. APPLICANT INFORMATION

1. Regional public library system name and address:

Great River Regional Library
1300 West St. Germain Street
St. Cloud, MN 56301

2. Name, title, phone, fax, and e-mail address of regional public library system’s chief administrator:

Karen Pundsack
Executive Director
320-650-2512
Fax 320-650-2556
karenp@grrl.lib.mn.us

3. Educational background (including degrees, dates and institutions) and library work experience of the regional public library system's chief administrator:

1995 BS, Mass Communication, News Editorial Emphasis, St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, MN
2013 MLIS, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI
1999–2002 Branch Librarian II, Great River Regional Library, Sauk Centre, MN
2002–2009 Branch Manager, Great River Regional Library, Albany
2009–2015, Associate Director, Patron Services, Great River Regional Library, St. Cloud, MN
2014 Adjunct Reference Librarian, St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, MN
2014– May 2015 Interim Executive Director, Great River Regional Library, St. Cloud, MN
May 2015- Current Executive Director, Great River Regional Library, St. Cloud, MN

4. Number of FTE staff paid with RLBSS funds: 36.80

5. Attach a copy of all organizational agreements defining service expectations of membership, signed by participating political entities that were signed and/or updated since last year’s application. Please check appropriate box:

☐ Organizational agreement(s) that are new or have been updated since the last application are attached.

☒ There are no updates to organizational agreements.

6. Strategic Plan:
Regional Public Library Systems are required to provide State Library Services a long-range strategic plan in even numbered years. Because planning cycles vary and planning is continuous, please provide one of the following with this aid application.

Please indicate which is attached:

☐ A new long-range strategic plan.

☐ A brief report on the status of the current plan. The report details any changes to the current plan or indicates that there are no changes.

☒ A narrative describing a long-range planning process that is underway. Please include planning activities completed to date and a time frame for completion. The approved strategic plan is due to State Library Services by December 31, 2015.

7. Proposed Program Activities:

Regional Library Basic System Support is given to support services that include but are not limited to: communication among participants, resource sharing, delivery of materials, reciprocal borrowing, and cooperative reference service.

Briefly highlight the programs, services and activities that will take place during State Fiscal Year 2016, using the format below. Activities identified in this section should reflect Program Expense categories in the budget, provisions of the organizational agreements and your organization’s strategic plan. Potential program areas include automation systems, databases, ebooks, professional development, and interlibrary load/delivery.

For each activity, please include these four components, limiting that narrative for each activity to 200-250 words:

- Brief description of the activity
- Objectives
- Intended audience(s)
- Intended outcome(s)

Activity: Delivery of library materials and interlibrary loan services

Objective, Intended Audience, and Intended Outcome:

- Delivery between 32 libraries that will serve an estimated 190,000 borrowers in the region. Goal of delivering available requested items within the region within a 2- to 3-day turnaround period.
Activity: Resource sharing throughout the six-county region

Objectives, Intended Audiences, and Intended Outcomes:

- Parents and caregivers will continue to have targeted literacy efforts, such as the Every Child Ready to Read program, available to assist them with preschool aged children’s reading readiness; expanded offerings will be made available when opportunities allow them. All 32 libraries will offer programs with incorporated Every Child Ready to Read programs with a goal of reaching 100 parents and caregivers and 1,000 preschool aged children.

- School aged children will continue to have targeted literacy efforts, such as the Summer Reading Program, available to assist them with maintaining or increasing their reading levels. All 32 libraries will offer the regional summer reading program with a goal of registering 1,000 preschool children, 9,000 school-age children and 1,800 teens.

Activity: Cooperative reference service

Objectives, Intended Audiences, and Intended Outcomes:

- Adults will continue to have targeted digital literacy efforts, such as basic Internet classes, available to assist them with maintaining or increasing their technology skills and accompanying confidence levels through the Book a Librarian service. A goal of serving at least 125 individuals through classes and one-on-one sessions.

- Children, teens and adults will have professional library assistance for homework help and digital literacy questions available to them virtually through cooperative chat service. A goal of answering 1,100 questions through chat reference services.

Activity: Provide an enhanced ebook and database collection

Objectives, Intended Audiences, and Intended Outcomes:

- The GRRL Digital Library will provide electronic materials to users throughout the region. Goal of providing access to 194,000 items for 37,000 unique users.

- Provide access to enhanced database collection with the goal of 35,000 unique pageviews, indicating individual user access, for the GRRL Databases page.

Activity: Provide a unified integrated library system experience for GRRL users

Objectives, Intended Audiences, and Intended Outcomes:

- The library website and catalog will provide remote access to library services to users throughout the region. Goal of providing access to 600,000 requested
items through the online catalog and website usage to reach 2,500,000 pageviews annually.

**Activity: Enhance communication among staff around the region and provide professional development opportunities.**

Objectives, Intended Audiences, and Intended Outcomes:

- All new library staff will participate in a track-based training program which will increase their knowledge regarding effective, courteous, and efficient library service. Goal of training all new employees in the region, an estimated 51 newly hired and promoted staff members annually.

- The library will set aside 8 hours of staff training time per employee for an All Staff Training day covering topics such as new technology, reader’s advisory, and customer service. Goal of providing training to 250 employees.
8. List local governmental units (cities and counties with branch or member libraries) participating in the region as of June 30, 2015 and the amount of funding that the governmental unit provided for operating purposes of public library service during the preceding year. This information is used to determine compliance with state-certified level of library support requirements (Minnesota Statutes 134.34).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Participating Governmental Unit</th>
<th>2014 Dollar Amount Provided for OPERATING Purposes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRRL Signatories:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benton County</td>
<td>$ 492,767.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morrison County</td>
<td>$ 453,707.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sherburne County</td>
<td>$ 1,236,823.00</td>
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<td>Stearns County</td>
<td>$ 2,070,394.00</td>
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<td>Todd County</td>
<td>$ 315,785.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wright County</td>
<td>$ 1,819,424.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRRL cities with supplemental levy:</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of Big Lake</td>
<td>$ 31,898.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Buffalo</td>
<td>$ 71,316.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of Elk River</td>
<td>$ 119,992.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of Monticello</td>
<td>$ 36,368.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of St. Cloud</td>
<td>$ 378,405.01</td>
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<td>GRRL cities without a supplemental levy, but a separate library line item in budget:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Cold Spring</td>
<td>$ 1,291.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Delano</td>
<td>$ 851.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of Eagle Bend</td>
<td>$ 610.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of Little Falls</td>
<td>$ 53,836.00</td>
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<td>City of Paynesville</td>
<td>$ 279.00</td>
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<td>City of Pierz</td>
<td>$ 57.00</td>
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<td>City of Rockford</td>
<td>$ -</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of Waite Park</td>
<td>$ 892.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRRL cities without supplemental levy or budget line item for library, but do contribute to library operations from their general fund:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Cokato</td>
<td>$ 203.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Foley</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Sauk Centre</td>
<td>$42,618.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Staples</td>
<td>$26,686.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

9. If a participating governmental unit (city or county with branch or member library) has changed its library levy status (i.e., city levy transferred back to county levy, moved from associate, unaffiliated or stand-alone status to full membership status, etc.), please specify governmental unit, change and effective date:

None

10. Please list names of all nonparticipating (unaffiliated or stand-alone) public libraries that are not a member of the designated regional public library system submitting this application:

None

11. Please provide contact information, name and location of any new libraries completed or any buildings that underwent substantial remodeling in the last calendar year. State Library Services collects information on newly constructed or renovated library buildings and encourages the completion of the Library Journal Architectural Questionnaire for Public Libraries. State Library Services will contact each location when the online submission period opens, usually in late August.

Cokato Public Library
B. ASSURANCES.
The regional public library system assures that it will comply with the following:

- Funds shall be used only for purposes for which granted as specified in the approved grant application or approved by the Director of State Library Services in an amendment to the original application submitted under provisions of Minnesota Rules, Chap. 3530. Approval by the Director of State Library Services shall be obtained for expenses in a category that reflect more than a 10% change from the proposed budget in the approved application.

- A narrative report indicating program or project results accomplished and a report of expenditures shall be filed with State Library Services on forms supplied by the State Library Agency no later than 90 days after the completion of the project or program, or the end of the state fiscal year, whichever is earlier, provided that such period shall not be less than 90 days. (Minnesota Rules Chapter 3530.0200, Subp. 4(B)).

- If participation by a regional public library system or a member local governmental unit is discontinued, ownership of the discontinuing system’s or unit’s assets, including cash or the fair market value thereof of such assets cannot be transferred by the applicant, if acquired during the last three years of participation from Regional Library Basic System Support funds, and shall revert to the Minnesota Department of Education for reassignment for library services elsewhere. (Minnesota Rules Chapter 3530.0200, Subp. 4(C)).

- The provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, (42 USC Sec. 2000d et seq.), its regulations and all other applicable federal and state laws, rules and regulations. (Minnesota Rules Chapter 3530.0200, Subp. 4(D)).

- That the regional public library system and its branches/members are in compliance with Minnesota Statutes 2004, Chapter 134.50 (a) so that all public library computers with access to the Internet available for use by children under the age of 17 must be equipped to restrict, including by use of available software filtering technology or other effective methods, all access by children to material that is reasonably believed to be obscene or child pornography or material harmful to minors under federal or state law, and section (c) so that the library prohibits, including through the use of available software filtering technology or other effective methods, adult access to material that under federal or state law is reasonably believed to be obscene or child pornography.

- That the regional public library system and its branches/members are in compliance with Minnesota Laws 2000, Chapter 492, Article 1, Section 49, Subd. 5A, and has adopted a policy to prohibit library users from using the library’s Internet access workstations to view, print, or distribute material that is obscene within the meaning of Minnesota Statutes 1998, Chapter 617, Article 241.

- An independent auditor’s report of the systems’ general purpose financial statements in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. The audit shall be submitted no later than 180 days after the close of the system’s fiscal year. (Minnesota Rules Chapter 3530.1200)
I certify that I have read the application (narrative, assurances, budget and attachments) and will comply with all provisions including any additional state, local, federal regulations and policies governing the funding that apply to my agency.

Printed Name: **Mark Bromenschenkel**

Signature:

Chair, System Governing Board

Date: **May 19, 2015**

I certify that I have read the application (narrative, assurances, budget and attachments) and will comply with all provisions including any additional state, local, federal regulations and policies governing the funding that apply to my agency.

Printed Name: **Karen Pundsack**

Signature:

Regional Public Library System Administrator

Date: **May 19, 2015**

**Attachments**

- FY 2016 Proposed Budget (required)
- Strategic Plan Document (required)
- Organizational Agreements (as needed)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regional Library System Name: Great River Regional Library</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Fiscal Year 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposed Budget</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salaries and Wages $1,522,573</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benefits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff Development, Tuition and Other Reimbursements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Personnel $1,522,573</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total FTE Supported</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Expenses</td>
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<td>Telephone (voice and data)</td>
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<td>Telecommunications</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer Software and Software Licensing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Technology Equipment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Printing and Copying</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postage and Delivery</td>
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<td>Travel and Mileage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating Leases or Rentals</td>
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<td>Utility Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repairs and Maintenance Services</td>
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<td>Insurance</td>
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<td>Dues and Memberships</td>
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<td>Audit</td>
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<td>Board expenses, including per diem</td>
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<td>Materials and Supplies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
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<td>Total Operating Expenses $0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Expenses</td>
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<td>Consulting Fees/Fees for Services</td>
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<td>Services Purchased from Other MN Joint Powers Agencies</td>
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<td>Automation System</td>
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<td>Delivery</td>
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<td>Vehicles</td>
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<td>Equipment</td>
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<td>Travel and Mileage</td>
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<td>Scholarships/Direct Member support</td>
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<td>Library Materials and Collections</td>
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<td>Communications and Marketing</td>
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<td>Staff Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Materials and Supplies</td>
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<td>Workshops and Events</td>
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<td>Other Contracted services</td>
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<td>Food and Beverages</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Program Expenses $0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Anticipated State Aid Expenditures $1,522,573</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

13.4b - ON THE TABLE RLBSS FY2016 Proposed Budget 5/20/2015
Strategic Planning Process

BACKGROUND

The current GRRL Strategic Plan extends through December 2015. An updated plan is due to State Library Services by Dec. 31, 2015 and is required for Regional Library Basic System Support funding.

The current plan was developed as a 9-year framework through 2021 using input from community leaders, patrons from around the region, and GRRL staff. We aim to incorporate GRRL’s Technology Plan into the final Strategic Plan document as well.

2015 PROCESS

- Maintain current Service Priorities – create new goals.
- Add Operational Priorities/Internal Goals such as:
  - Maintaining systems
  - Basic competencies for staff
  - Stabilize funding
- Move objectives and measures of progress to Department Work Plans.
- Extend plan to five-year length (2016-2020) to align with state requirements.
- Incorporate Technology Plan into Strategic Plan

PROCESS – FOCUS ON GOAL SETTING

- Community meetings/feedback – include community stakeholders, board members, patrons
- Additional patron feedback mechanisms – SCSU Library User study being conducted in February/March
- Staff meetings/feedback
TIMELINE

APRIL / JUNE 2015

Identify Community Needs
- Community meetings/feedback
- Patron meetings/feedback
- Library User study results

JULY / AUGUST 2015

Evaluate Library Mission & Vision
- Synthesize community & patron feedback
- Staff meetings/feedback

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2015

Write Goals & Objectives
- Leadership Support Team (LST) finalizes Service Priorities/Operational Priorities & develops goals based on feedback received.

NOVEMBER 2015

Obtain Approval
- Final recommendation to GRRL Board at November meeting.

DECEMBER 2015

Communicate results of the plan
- Submit updated GRRL Strategic Plan to State Library Services.
- LST incorporates goals, objectives and competencies into Department Work Plans.
May 15, 2015

Ann Hutton, Chair
Council of Regional Public Library System Administrators
c/o SELCO
2600 19th St. NW
Rochester, MN 55901

Dear Ann,

Thank you for your April 7 letter, sent on behalf of the Council of Regional Public Library System Administrators. Your letter outlined two concerns related to the management of regional public library system administrators – the organizational and financial practices of the Plum Creek Library System (PCLS) and Pioneerland Library System’s (PLS) application for regional library telecommunications aid. MDE is responsible for the appropriate use of state and federal funds and we take both situations very seriously.

State Library Services and the department’s finance staff have completed their review of PCLS. We are awaiting the results of the county attorney’s investigation before determining if we will complete additional review and seek return of additional funds. The PCLS board has responded to our findings and indicated that it will be addressing the issues raised with a number of board actions.

Staff are now reviewing PLS’ regional library telecommunications application. We have asked PLS to provide documentation related to the cost and services provided under its contract with Warner Connect. Our goal is to ensure that all of the costs included in their RLTA application are eligible for reimbursement and that their contracting process meets the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 134.355 Subd. 8 - 10.

The situation in both regions is deeply concerning. I appreciate that all other regions have taken the step of extra step of reviewing credit card, grant expenditure and reporting policies to verify good management practices. Please be assured that we will continue to closely monitor all state and federal funds that are directed at regional library systems to ensure a high degree of accountability.

Thank you again for contacting me.

Sincerely,

Kevin McHenry
Assistant Commissioner

CC:
Jennifer Nelson, State Librarian
CRPLSA members
Board chairs, Minnesota regional public library systems
GRRL Board of Trustees Strategic Plan Input Worksheet

1. What are the most important driving forces that will affect Great River Regional Library in the next 5-10 years?

2. What opportunities exist for Great River Regional Library to serve the six-county region in the future? What should we preserve? What should we change?

3. What are the implications of these forces, opportunities and changes for the future mission/purpose of Great River Regional Library?

4. How well do Great River Regional Library services meet your community’s needs?
   - Extremely well
   - Very well
   - Somewhat well
   - Not so well
   - Not at all well

5. Rank the importance of the library to your community:
   - Very important
   - Somewhat important
   - Neither important nor unimportant
   - Somewhat unimportant
   - Very unimportant
6. Do you feel that GRRL’s mission of Explore, Learn, Connect accurately represents the work of the organization?
   - ( ) The mission accurately represents the organization’s work
   - ( ) The mission somewhat represents the organization’s work
   - ( ) The mission does not represent the organization’s work
   - ( ) Other (please specify)

7. Do you feel that Explore, Learn, Connect should continue to be the GRRL’s priority?
   - ( ) Yes
   - ( ) No
   - ( ) Other (please specify)

8. If GRRL had unlimited money and staff time, what new direction, focus, goal and/or programming should it take?

9. What organizational competencies do you feel that GRRL could work on to be more successful? (you can select more than one)
   - ( ) Organizational Focus
   - ( ) External Partnerships
   - ( ) Marketing and Public Relations
   - ( ) Operational Efficiencies
   - ( ) Policies
   - ( ) Governance
   - ( ) Measurement and Evaluation
   - ( ) Staff Development and Training
   - ( ) Organizational Structure
   - ( ) Fundraising
   - ( ) Financial Management
   - ( ) Other (please specify)
10. What do you think success looks like at GRRL?

11. Which community organizations are you aware of that would be strategic partners for the library?

12. Which local or county projects or initiatives are you aware of that the library could be an active participant?

13. What other comments or thoughts do you have about GRRL? (Things you would like to see changed, things you think need to be addressed, goals you think the organization should have, etc.)

Please return by June 19, 2015 to Executive Director Karen Pundsack, 1300 West St. Germain Street, St. Cloud, MN 56301.
A membership in MLTA is a membership in MLA.

When you join MLA as a trustee, you receive:

- Connections with other library leaders and professionals
- Monthly MLA Roundup e-mails and other announcements about issues and events in the library community
- Access to the membership directory and other members-only materials on the MLA website
- Discounted membership registration rates for the Annual Conference and other MLA events
- Opportunities to develop leadership skills through committee, event planning, and subunit involvement
- Weekly legislative updates during the legislative session
- Updates from the ALA Chapter Councilor
- Waived fees for posting job listings on the MLA job board (post for free!)

Sponsored by the Minnesota Library Trustees and Advocates Division (MLTA) of MLA.

400 South 4th Street
Suite 401-223
Minneapolis, MN 55445

612-264-6548 x108

www.mnlibraryassociation.org

Minnesota Library Trustees and Advocates

Thief River Falls Public Library

Litchfield Public Library children's area

Litchfield Public Library computer center

Winona Public Library
If you serve on a local library board or a regional public library board, or if you advocate for libraries, MLTA membership should interest you.

MLTA membership is open to any person who is or has been a library trustee or member of the board of directors of a library agency. Membership is also open to anyone who is aligned with and advocates in the public interest for libraries.

MLTA dues of $25 are paid to MLA (as a Trustee membership). MLTA receives a portion of the dues for each member.

MLTA meetings are held twice a year. The annual meeting is held during the MLA Annual Conference in the fall and the spring meeting is held during MLA Legislative Days in late February or March.

MLTA works with the Minnesota Association of Library Friends to hold Regional Workshops on Advocacy.

Whether your library is large or small, MLTA membership can help improve your governance and advocacy skills!

Join today on the MLA website: www.mnlibraryassociation.org
Library sees increase in use

By Jason C. Brown,
Publisher/Editor

Published:
Wednesday, April 1, 2015 2:47 PM CDT

The Long Prairie branch of the Great River Regional Library has been a busy place.

The Library recently gave its annual update to the Long Prairie City Council, which showed an overall increase in usage.

For 2014 the library saw circulation increase 5.4 percent. A total of 34,388 books were checked out and people listened to 4,315 audio books. Videos were just as popular with 23,893 being checked out.

Internet usage was down by 12 percent with 5,311 people using the public computers, however the library’s wireless network was accessed 2,207 times, which was a 34 percent increase over 2013.

For more, see this week’s edition of the Long Prairie Leader.

The art of rock balancing was one of the more recent programs suitable for both children and adults at the Long Prairie branch of the Great River Regional Library. Use of the library across the board continues to rise in Long Prairie.