

MEMORANDUM:

To: Winnefox Library System Trustees
From: Clairellyn Sommersmith, Assistant Director
Subject: Report of System activities
Date: 23 September 2020

The following is an update of activities since our last meeting. The best way to get a hold of me if you have questions regarding this report is by email, as I am still mostly working from home. I will be happy to provide any further details.

2021 County Funding: The counties are well into their budget processes. Libraries in all counties but Marquette are fairly sure about their counties' contribution. Counties' contributions range from a 5% cut to increases in library funding; financial difficulties of the pandemic are more acute in certain places than others.

Grants: Winnefox received \$45,000 of CARES funding. This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services [include IMLS grant number when space allows]. The intention was to address needs exacerbated by the pandemic. Most of the money will go towards increased bandwidth in Winnefox's rural libraries, though other funds will pay for web-cameras for librarians, the Oshkosh Public Library chat feature, and additional Merakis which will extend a library's Wi-Fi signal.

In the second run of the Wisconsin Humanities CARES Act Grant, eight Winnefox libraries were awarded funds to cover the cost of PPE and additional staffing costs related to the pandemic.

Library News: Becky Pfile, previous director of the Endeavor Public Library, has resigned and is now working as an Adult Services Librarian at the Ripon Public Library. Her replacement has not been hired at this time.

Since July, Winnefox librarians have been meeting monthly to discuss responses and concerns related to the pandemic. All of Winnefox libraries are now open to the public. Policies at each individual range from requiring appointments to open browsing. Almost all the libraries are still offering curbside.