



Structures Study Committee
March 26, 2007 - 5:30 P.M.
SELCO Building, Rochester, MN
Meeting Notes

Structure Study Committee In Attendance:

Don Regelman
Fran Johnson
Arlene Compton
Teri Hill
Jane Ryan
Marcy Irby
Bonnie Williams
Allan Nilson
Gretchen Schade

Structure Study Team in Attendance:

Ann Hutton
Aurora Jacobsen
Barbara Misselt
Donovan Lambright
Mary Beth Sancomb-Moran
Aimee Lake
Angela Taylor

Absent: Lorin Pohlman

Ann Hutton noted that Deb Westerland has resigned from this Committee.

There were no changes to the agenda.

Approval of meeting notes:

Motion by Gretchen Schade, second by Arlene Compton, to accept meeting notes.

Motion carried.

Discussion of Models:

The nine models are a melding of ideas and contributions by Structures Team members but there is a primary author of each. Ann stated that, while individual staff worked on a particular model, it does not mean that staff person advocates that model. An additional model was sent out in the packet for tonight's meeting and three of the nine models were presented.

1. *Community Representatives:*

- It may be difficult getting the legislature to make any statutory changes and approve any merger. However, if each member of this committee and their respective library were to go to their legislators, report on the study and request a change in the law, while it may be difficult, it is not impossible.
- What thought has been given regarding the perceived loss of identity for public librarians since this is listed as a concern in a majority of the models? Through this process, concerns will be identified via focus groups and that through adequate dialogue, this committee and staff team should be able to place safeguards that the librarians will know they were heard.
- Does our constituency understand *why* we are considering changes and how can we convey, without negativity, that there are reasons why our structure is being looked at? Staff will begin noting the kind of things we need to address on the blog. There are subtle differences in this region and more dramatic differences in other regions between the region and the multitypes.
- Generally not endorsed by Committee.

History from the time when SELS and SELCO operated administratively as two separate boards was discussed.

2. *Citizen Elected Multitype:*

- Obstacle - this model would immediately create another layer of government, ex. changing election procedures
- Model was not favored among the Committee members
- Liked including a Library Advisory Committee
- Liked merging SELCO and SELS
- Liked size of board
- Disliked method of electing board members

3. *Hybrid County Appointed-Citizen elected:*

- Two county appointees may be difficult to identify
- The board make-up would be a gamble
- Local boards or librarians best suited to suggest board members rather than the county
- Is there a way for the county to make the appointments from roster given to them by libraries/library boards?
- Important to stress the need to think regionally - board member is not just representing the public library they are appointed by

Questions raised pertaining to all models:

- What size board is optimal? Literature is saying optimum size is somewhere between 16 and 26. Need to look at what is manageable and still representative. Potential to continue adding new libraries and board members.
- How do librarians feel about the Executive Committee making decisions that affect them? There is a general sense of sharing information that works – no negativity about this Committee. It is important that the libraries feel they have representation, as a number of the models show this in the 'con' column.
- Is anyone even concerned about their representation on the SELCO/SELS Board? Generally have not had people from the library or the library board calling to inquire about what happens at the SELCO/SELS Board meetings.
- Do the librarians feel that the Advisory Committee provides enough representation? Advisory Committee could perhaps provide direct advice to the Board, with the Advisory Committee Chair sitting as a non-voting member.

Next Steps:

The Committee decided to wait until after all models have been discussed before asking a guest speaker to come in. Models will be discussed at the next meeting.

Other:

If anyone needs materials printed or have any questions, please contact the SELCO office.

Arlene Compton made motion to adjourn. Next meeting date: Monday, May 21

Transcribed by Angela Taylor
SELCO Administrative Services Manager