

Idaho Board of Library Commissioners Special Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 11, 2025, 10 a.m. MDT / 9 a.m. PDT

Zoom, with livestream access at

Idaho Commission for Libraries, 325 W. State Street, Boise, ID 83702

Attendees:

- Idaho Board of Library Commissioners: Chair Dave Mecham, Vice-Chair Janet Franklin, Michael Strickland, Dawn Wittman, and Norma Staaf
- Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) staff: State Librarian Stephanie Bailey-White, Deputy State Librarian Dylan Baker, E-Services Program Supervisor William Lamb, Development Services Program Supervisor Talela Florco, Public Library Consultant Clay Ritter, Digital Inclusion Consultant Chelsea Summerlin, and (serving as recorder) Management Assistant Masha Velichko
- Division of Financial Management: Deputy Administrator/State Financial Officer Justin Collins, Financial Management Analyst Sr. Katharine Hoehne
- Press: Idaho Press Statehouse Reporter Laura Guido, Idaho Education News Reporter Emma Epperly

I. Call to Order

Mecham called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. MDT.

A. Introductions Attendees introduced themselves.

B. Agenda Review / Approval – Action Item (Board Document 25-40) Wittman moved to approve the April 11, 2025, meeting agenda. Franklin seconded.
Motion carried unanimously.

II. General (state funds), Miscellaneous Revenue, and Library Services Improvement Fund (LSIF)

A. Finance – LSIF Approval Consideration – Action Item (Board Document 25-41)

Bailey-White shared context regarding the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Most IMLS staff were on administrative leave and then permanent leave after the executive order that came out a few weeks ago. Since then, three states had their federal Grants to States awards discontinued. With the shortage of IMLS staff there are issues with regular draws not being processed in a timely matter. The ICfL can only request a draw every 30 days. Ten out of 35 ICfL staff are federally funded. If the agency has to halt some services and reduce personnel, there are concerns about the costs of paying out vacation time and providing the required 15 days notice.

The good news is that several states have gotten their federal draws this week. The ICfL

is hopeful it will receive a draw any day now. The ICfL will continue spending its

current award through August or September. The ICfL has the Library Services and Improvement Fund (LSIF), and the Division of Financial Management provided approval to spend these funds on personnel if needed. The current balance of the LSIF is \$329,000. This cushion will help in case the ICfL does not receive federal draws in a timely manner.

There is news coming in daily. A lawsuit from 20 state attorney generals has been filed and the court hearing is next Friday. Bailey-White is happy to send more information and links. People will be able to watch it live, as it's being held in person. This case will give the ICfL more information regarding the next fiscal year.

Due to the Joint Finance–Appropriation Committee's intent language, state agencies that are currently receiving federal funds cannot shift them to state funds. For example, if the ICfL doesn't get the next federal fiscal year's award, then the Idaho Talking Book Service (TBS) would have to be shut down until the next legislative session. Twenty-eight percent of the ICfL budget is from the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) fund. There will be several other programs that would have to be looked at, existing personnel duties that would have to be moved, and reductions in personnel. The ICfL management team has been meeting with the Idaho Division of Human Resources (DHR) to explore various scenarios. It is a challenging time.

Motion: Staaf moved that expenditures of up to \$300,000 be approved to cover personnel costs over the next two to three months from the Library Services Improvement Fund. Strickland seconded. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Wittman asked earlier if the board tour is scheduled to continue. Bailey-White confirmed that it will take place in two weeks, along with the next board meeting at the Idaho State University library. Hopefully, there will be better news by then.

Franklin asked if the federal funds don't go through and programs are shut down, then would the ICfL would have to wait until the next legislative session to ask for them to be restored with state funds? Bailey-White said yes. A supplemental request could start in January, and then the ICfL, potentially, wouldn't have to wait until July 2025. Hopefully, the legislators would hear from the TBS patrons about the value and preservation of the program, which has been ongoing for more than 50 years, and the approval and funds would come through.

Staaf asked who is suing whom regarding the lawsuits. Bailey-White said there are several lawsuits currently in motion. The one going forward next week is from 20 state attorneys general; it is led by the Rhode Island attorney general and focuses on the IMLS Grants to States. The American Library Association (ALA) also has a lawsuit that asks for IMLS staff to be returned to their jobs.

Staaf asked if the lawsuit covers all states or just those from the 20 states that filed suit. Bailey-White says it covers all Grants to all States in the nation. It is a statutory responsibility of the IMLS.

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

III. Meeting Evaluation / Adjournment

Mecham moved to adjourn. Strickland seconded. Mecham adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m. MDT.

Next Regular Meeting: Friday, April 25, 2025 – 10 a.m. MDT
ISU Eli M. Oboler Library, Room 212, 850 S 9th Ave, Pocatello, ID 83201