

MID-MICHIGAN LIBRARY LEAGUE
LIBRARY COOPERATIVE PLAN OF SERVICE
Incorporating Constitution, Board By-Laws and Plan of Service

I. NAME

This Library Cooperative shall be known as the Mid-Michigan Library League, hereafter in this document referred to as MMLL.

II. AUTHORITY

This Cooperative is established as authorized by Michigan Public Act 89, 1977, known as State Aid to Public Libraries Act. In all things not herein specified, the MMLL shall be governed by P.A. 89, 1977, and any amendments thereto relating to library cooperatives.

III. PURPOSE

MMLL is dedicated to coordinating cooperative library services and resources and to providing leadership, education, communication, information and support to member libraries.

IV. COOPERATIVE LIBRARY

A. Definition

“Cooperative library” defined by P.A. 89: the service center designated by the cooperative board from which established services are provided to members.

B. Eligibility for formation:

The MMLL is eligible to form a cooperative library under provisions of section 6 (a) of P.A. 89 since it includes two or more counties with a total population of at least 100,000.

D. Area of membership:

The area to be served by the MMLL consists of the following counties and parts of counties:

Antrim	Benzie	Clare (partial)
Gratiot (partial)	Lake	Leelanau
Manistee	Mason	Mecosta
Montcalm (partial)	Missaukee	Osceola
Oceana	Roscommon (partial)	Wexford

E. Standards:

The cooperative library shall conform to requirements established by the Library of Michigan in order to qualify for state aid. Additional standards for membership may be established by the MMLL Board.

F. Funding:

1. The fiscal year shall be October 1 through September 30.
2. Services and programs provided by the cooperative library shall be paid for from direct state aid paid the cooperative library board and other funds received from grants, and by state aid to public libraries as listed in P.A. 89, Section 16, Item 4. Costs shall be considered on an annual basis by the MMLL Board which shall consider the state aid available directly to the Cooperative and to public libraries. If funds are insufficient to provide service requested by members, members may be required to pay for services in a priority order established by the MMLL Board and Advisory Council.

- b. Non-members may enter into an Affiliate Agreement to receive services for an annual fee as determined by the MMLL Board.
- c. A budget shall be prepared annually by the Director taking into consideration the recommendations of the Advisory Council and presented to the MMLL Board for adoption prior to the beginning of the fiscal year.
- d. Financial records and activities shall be maintained in accordance with 1977 P.A. 89, all other applicable statutes, and accepted accounting practice.
- e. An annual audit shall be performed in compliance with State of Michigan regulations.

G. Core Services:

The cooperative board shall provide, directly or through a written contract, services to member libraries within the cooperative area. These services are listed below.

1. **Administrative Services:** Administrative Services are essential to the operation of MMLL and to the delivery of the Plan of Service. Costs, procedures and personnel will be reviewed on an annual basis to insure fiscal responsibility.

Administrative functions include:

- a. Policy development,
- b. Finance,
- c. Personnel,
- d. Grant writing and management,
- e. Information technology,
- f. Consultation, and
- g. Advocacy.

2. **Continuing Education:** In conjunction with the Continuing Education Committee, MMLL staff will select and arrange for training on specific topics of interest to the membership.

3. **Interlibrary Loan/ILS:** MMLL will lead member libraries by assisting them with the technology and procedures for patron-initiated interlibrary loan via the statewide MeLCat resource sharing system. MMLL will assist members with ILS technology and shared systems as needed. Interlibrary loan service for materials not found in MeLCat will be provided via an arrangement with the White Pine Library Cooperative for a per item request fee billed directly to MMLL members on a quarterly basis.

4. **Advisory Council:** The Advisory Council is comprised of the director of each member library and is established as the key method of communication between the members, the board and administration. (See Section VI. Advisory Council)

5. **Discounts:** Negotiated discounts for library materials, databases, supplies, telecommunication services, and other volume-based purchases shall be achieved and offered to member libraries either by posting the direct contact information for the member with the discounted pricing, or by the cooperative paying the vendor invoice and then re-invoicing the membership.

6. **Website/Listserv:** MMLL shall maintain both a website and listserv as communication and resource tools for member libraries and MMLL trustees. Content shall include minutes, policies, budgets, discounts, training and grant opportunities.

7. **Delivery:** MMLL shall pay the cost of participation in the statewide delivery system, "RIDES" for each member library. Class size I-IV will have up to three

days of delivery paid for by the MMLL, and class size V and VI shall have up to five days of paid delivery. Additional payment of delivery to branch locations may be negotiated between the MMLL Board and member library.

8. **Reference:** MMLL shall provide reference and consulting services to member libraries.

9. **Technology support:** MMLL shall provide consultation on broadband connectivity, public access computing, integrated library systems, and other library technologies to its members. When the budget allows, a stipend for each member library shall be provided for payment of tech support. MMLL shall arrange for third party service at a discounted rate. In addition, MMLL shall arrange for a discounted rate for E-rate consulting.

10. **Service Initiatives:** As funds allow, MMLL will provide service initiatives to benefit the membership, such as grant programs and rotating special collections.

11. **e-Resources:** As the budget allows, MMLL will purchase access to subscription e-resources such as language learning and downloadable e-audio content. This will be provided to all members as a benefit of membership in the cooperative.

12. **Employee Support Services:** As funds are available in the annual budget, MMLL may provide employee support services such as an Employee Assistance Program (EAP), to be made available to any staff employed by a member library.

13. **Legal Assistance:** MMLL shall provide basic consultation and resources as requested by its members. When the budget allows, an allocation of ONE HOUR of professional legal services for each member library per fiscal year shall be provided, with an agreement for a reduced hourly wage for further needs.

V. MEMBERSHIP

A. Eligibility for Membership:

1. Full Membership - To be eligible for full membership in the cooperative library with access to all services provided, a public library shall:

a. Receive a minimum local support of 3/10ths of a mil on taxable value, as taxable value is calculated under section 27a of the general property tax act, 1893 P.A. 206, MCL 211.27a, in the fiscal year before October 1 of the year before distribution.

b. Participate on the Advisory Council.

c. Loan materials to other libraries participating in the cooperative library.

d. Adhere to all Michigan law pertaining to public libraries.

2. Affiliate Membership - Non-public libraries or public libraries not qualifying for full membership that wish to belong to the MMLL to be eligible for services provided, may request Affiliate Membership. The MMLL Board shall set forth a menu of services and pricing for Affiliate Members. Affiliate Members may not vote nor hold office.

B. Becoming a Member:

The local library board and/or municipal governing or appropriating body shall adopt by resolution the MMLL Plan of Service, requesting that their library become a participating member. The membership must be approved by the MMLL Board and the Library of Michigan.

C. Relinquishing Membership:

In order to withdraw from membership in the Cooperative, the local board of a

public library must adopt a resolution to that effect, duplicate copies of which resolution, certified by the local board, shall be filed with the Cooperative Board and the Library of Michigan six months prior to October 1. On termination of the six months' notice, the public library may withdraw from the Cooperative provided that the local board and the Cooperative Board submit evidence to the Library of Michigan that all obligations to the Cooperative have been satisfactorily fulfilled. If a library withdraws to join another Cooperative, the procedure is different and involves working with the Library of Michigan as well as MMLL Headquarters.

D. Disputes:

In the event of a dispute the procedures outlined in Appeal Process in the State Aid Guidelines shall be followed.

VI. ADVISORY COUNCIL

A. Purpose:

The Advisory Council is established as the key method of communication between members, board and administration. The Advisory Council shall provide a place where member libraries can express their views, state their needs and suggest actions which would benefit them. The council shall recommend to the Cooperative Board programs needed by local libraries as well as the total cooperative area.

B. Members:

Each member library is entitled to one voting member on the council. The member may be a library director or library employee.

C. Meetings:

The Advisory Council shall hold a minimum of four meetings per year, one of which shall be the annual meeting.

D. Representation to the Board:

The Advisory Council shall appoint a member of the Council on an annual basis to be their representative to the Board.

E. Committees:

Advisory Council committees may be formed as needed upon approval of the majority of members present. Standing committees may be established to annually review and revise the Plan of Service. At the discretion of the MMLL Board of Trustees, Advisory Council members may be appointed to join the Personnel Committee and the Finance Committee, as well as any Board-created ad hoc committees. . All committees shall make their reports available to the Advisory Council.

VII. REPRESENTATION OF MEMBER LIBRARIES ON GOVERNING BOARD

A. Number of Representatives:

P.A. 89 requires that a Cooperative Board have 9 voting members. The MMLL service area will be divided into 9 areas for representation.

B. Designation of Areas:

Libraries in the MMLL service area shall be grouped geographically for representation as follows:

Group 1: Antrim and Leelanau Counties (all)

Group 2: Benzie Manistee Counties (all)

Group 3: Wexford County (all)

- Group 4: Missaukee (all), Roscommon (partial), and Osceola (partial) Counties
- Group 5: Mason County (all)
- Group 6: Lake (partial) and Osceola (partial) Counties
- Group 7: Oceana and Lake (partial) Counties
- Group 8: Mecosta (partial) and Clare (partial) Counties
- Group 9: Gratiot (partial), Mecosta (partial), and Montcalm (partial) Counties

Group 1 - Alden District Library, Bellaire Public Library, Central Lake District Library, Glen Lake Community Library, Leland Township Library, Leelanau Township Library, Mancelona Township Library

Group 2 – Benzie Shores District Library, Benzonia Public Library, Betsie Valley District Library, Darcy Library of Beulah, Manistee County Library (Arcadia, Kaleva, Keddie-Norconk, Onekama, Wellston Branches)

Group 3 – Cadillac Wexford Public Library (Buckley, Manton, Mesick, Tustin Branches)

Group 4 – M. Alice Chapin Memorial Library (Marion), McBain Community Library, Missaukee District Library, Richfield Township Public Library

Group 5 – Mason County District Library (Scottville Branch)

Group 6 – Chase Public Library, Ewart Public Library, LeRoy Community Library, Luther Area Public Library, Reed City Area District Library

Group 7 – Hart Area Public Library, Pathfinder Community Library, Pentwater Township Library, Shelby Area District Library, Walkerville Rural Public School Library

Group 8 – Barryton Public Library, Big Rapids Community Library, Surrey Township Public Library

Group 9 – Morton Township Public Library, Richland Township Library, Seville Township Library, Walton Erickson Public Library, Wheatland Township Library, White Pine District Library

C. Selection of Representative:

Library Directors and/or Trustees of member libraries within each grouping shall select one representative for their area or group of libraries.

D. Representation:

Each Board member shall represent all the member libraries of his/her designated area.

VIII. GOVERNING BODY - BY-LAWS OF THE COOPERATIVE BOARD

A. Cooperative Board

1. The MMLL Board is the governing body of the cooperative as established in P.A. 89, 1977. The Board shall be representative of the participating libraries. It shall consist of 9 voting members as approved by a majority of the participating libraries.
2. Eligibility to Serve on Board – Individuals serving as representatives to the Board may be Library Directors, Library Trustees, Library Employees or lay individuals. Lay individuals must reside within the Cooperative Service area.
3. Selection of Board Members - Library Directors and/or Trustees of member libraries shall select one representative for their area or group of libraries.
4. Term of Office - The term of office shall be three years. The term shall run from October 1 through September 30, or until the annual meeting at which a

change in Board officers is made. If the representative cannot be present at any meeting, a substitute may participate in the discussions but shall not be allowed to vote or make motions.

B. Powers and Duties of the Board:

1. The cooperative board is a body corporate and may sue and be sued.
2. The cooperative board shall do all of the following:
 - (a.) Operate the cooperative library and manage and control the cooperative library's funds and property.
 - (b.) Select a chairperson
 - (c.) Establish, maintain, and operate cooperative services for public libraries in the cooperative library's area.
 - (d.) Appoint a director or coordinator to administer the cooperative library, fix that person's compensation, and delegate to that person those powers the delegation of which is in the best interest of the cooperative library, including the power to hire necessary employees.
 - (e.) Acquire books, periodicals, library materials, equipment, supplies, or other personal property by purchase, installment purchase contract, or lease with or without an option to purchase, or enter into a loan agreement and borrow money for that purpose.
 - (f.) Erect buildings or acquire real property, including buildings and fixtures, by purchase, land contract, installment purchase contract, or lease with or without an option to purchase, or enter into a loan agreement and borrow money for that purpose.
 - (g.) Enter into contracts to receive service from or give service to libraries in the state, including public, school, academic, cooperative, or special libraries, and political subdivisions of the state.
 - (h.) Exclusively control expenditures for the cooperative library.
 - (i.) Accept gifts and donations of property for the benefit of the cooperative library and for the purposes for which donated.
 - (j.) Adopt bylaws and rules not inconsistent with this act for its own government and do those things necessary to carry out the purposes of this act.
3. All of the following shall apply to an installment purchase contract, land contract, loan agreement, or lease purchase contract entered into pursuant to subsection(2):
 - (a.) The contract shall not constitute and indebtedness of any member of the cooperative library within any constitutional, charter, or statutory limitation.
 - (b.) Principal and interest are payable solely from the revenues of the cooperative library.
 - (c.) No member of the cooperative library shall pledge its full faith and credit to the payment of principal and interest on the contract
 - (d.) Interest on the unpaid principal amount of the contract shall be treated as excluded from gross income under the internal revenue code.
4. An installment purchase contract, land contract, lease purchase contract, or loan agreement entered into pursuant to subsection(2) shall contain a statement setting forth the provisions of subsection (3).
5. An installment purchase contract, land contract, lease purchase agreement, or loan agreement entered into by the cooperative board for a purpose discussed in subsection (2) that occurred prior to the effective date of the 1995 amendatory act that added this subsection is validated and made legal for all purposes.

C. Officers of the Board:

1. The officers of the Board shall be Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, to be selected for a term of one year or until successors are elected.
2. Their duties shall be as follows:
 - a. Chair: shall preside at all meetings when present, shall exercise general supervision over the affairs of the organization, and shall serve as member ex-officio on all committees.
 - b. Vice-Chair: shall assume the duties of the Chair if the Chair is absent or disabled.
 - c. Secretary: shall cause all MMLL records to be properly maintained with advice and consent of the Board.
 - d. Treasurer: shall provide oversight in financial aspects of MMLL concerns.
3. Bonding of Officers: Adequate bonding shall be purchased for Officers and Director as needed.
4. All officers shall be elected by the MMLL Board members at the November meeting, to serve for a term of one year, and shall assume office immediately.
5. No member shall hold the same office more than twice in succession.
6. Should an officer resign before their term has expired, the Chair shall appoint another member of the Board to assume the office for the remainder of the year.
7. If a vacancy occurs in the office of Chair, the Vice-Chair shall succeed to the office.
8. Should a member of the MMLL Board resign or be unable to serve, the libraries which elected the member shall be notified and requested to elect another person to fill out the unexpired term.

D. Meetings and Quorum:

1. A minimum of five (5) meetings per year for conducting MMLL business shall be held, as called by the Chair or Director. One of these meetings, in the fall of each year, shall be designated as the Annual Meeting.
2. Special meetings may be called by the MMLL Board or on written petition of eight (8) member libraries.
3. Five (5) members of the MMLL Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
4. Trustees are expected to attend meetings. A trustee missing three (3) consecutive meetings without notification is deemed to have resigned and may be replaced by the libraries he (she) represents.
5. Meetings of the MMLL Board and its committees shall be open to the public and otherwise held in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, Act 267 of 1976.
6. Roberts Rules of Order (revised) shall be the parliamentary authority on all meeting procedural matters not covered in this document.
7. The agenda for regular meetings shall include:
 - Call to order, roll call, introductions
 - Approval of the agenda
 - Public participation, communications
 - Preceding meeting's minutes
 - Financial reports, approval of bills
 - Director's report
 - Committee reports
 - Other reports
 - Old business

New business
Adjournment

E. Committees:

1. The Chair shall be empowered to appoint committees, either Standing or Ad Hoc, as deemed necessary at any time or, on the majority vote of the members at any meeting, the Chair shall appoint committees as they direct. Personnel and Finance shall be the areas of concern of two Standing committees.

2. Standing committees shall meet annually at minimum, or more often as necessary, to develop plans and make recommendations to the Board. Such committees shall include at least 3 Trustees and the Chair as an ex-officio member, and may include Advisory Council members. The Finance Committee shall include the Board Treasurer.

a. Personnel Committee - works with the Director to review, plan and make recommendations to the Board concerning such matters as personnel procedures, benefits, policies and job descriptions, development of annual objectives and performance appraisal of the Director and other personnel-related issues as requested by the Board; provides leadership in the recruitment and hiring of a Director, when necessary, providing recommendations to the Board.

b. Finance Committee - works with the Director to review, plan and make recommendations to the Board concerning such matters as amendments to the budget, long range financial planning, implementation of audit recommendations and Plan of Service objectives such as fee structure to libraries for services; and other finance-related issues as requested by the Board.

F. Amendment of By-Laws:

Any amendment to these By-Laws may be proposed at any regular meeting of the MMLL Board to be considered at the following meeting, at which they may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the 9-member Board.

G. Suspension of By-Laws:

These By-Laws may be suspended in case of emergency by unanimous vote of all those present at a meeting at which a quorum is present.

IX. REVIEW OF PLAN OF SERVICE

The Plan of Service shall be reviewed annually by the Advisory Council and MMLL Board with any substantial revisions submitted to the member libraries and the Library of Michigan for approval.

Amended and approved by a two-thirds vote of the Mid-Michigan Board of Trustees on September 22, 2016

Amended and approved by a two-thirds vote of the Mid-Michigan Board of Trustees on September 21, 2017

[Reviewed in September 2018 with no changes recommended]

[Reviewed in September 2019 with no changes recommended]

[Reviewed in September 2020 with no changes recommended]

[Reviewed, amended, and approved September 2021]

[Reviewed, amended, and approved March 2022]

[Reviewed, amended, and approved May 2023]