# Lynx! Directors' Meeting

Date:  December 7, 2000
Location:  Boise Public Library
Facilitator:  Dian Hoffpauir
Note taker:  Camille Wood


Present:  June Johnstun, Patty Younger, Camille Wood, Dian Hoffpauir, Heather Clark, Anne Gallinger, Ann Tabler, Marilyn Poertner. There was no representative from Caldwell.
Additional Staff: Laurel White

Laurel handed out a report showing the balance in the consortium account of $8,630.00

### Old Business

**Options for computer upgrade – replacement and time line.**  Marilyn reported that the BPL board of trustees endorsed the Boise city council's approval of four new branches for BPL. They also approved part of the proposal for a continued use of the Providence Consulting company to develop a comprehensive technology plan, including planning for BPL's new branches and main library, and perhaps Ada. This plan will also need to consider the libraries in the consortium, and some possibly outside the consortium, such as BSU and ISL. BPL would assist in creating an RFP to go out to vendors. Bill Wilson of Providence would seek input on needs from each library.
Laurel said that the consortium is at the maximum at 300 licenses now. BPL will have to expand to accommodate branch libraries, and may just go ahead and purchase a larger box (800 licenses) as an interim step so they will be ready for demand. Consortium members may not need to partner in this cost. Laurel stressed that we wouldn't want the new box to limit our options for a possible new system.
Dian asked for a timeline on technology plan completion. Marilyn thought it might happen spring 2001 and might take about three months to complete. Camille expressed an interest in ensuring that each consortium member has a voice in the process of deciding priorities for the transition to a new system (or another epixtech product), the RFP, and the actual decision-making. Marilyn said that consortium members should be part of the technology plan information gathering process too.

**Questions/Comments on the Valnet presentation.** Dian asked for questions or comments. Marilyn liked the approach to sharing costs by using the number of workstations rather than circulation figures. Heather pointed out that smaller libraries might find that model a deterrent to adding more terminals. June wondered  about counting a terminal that is not used very much during the day as opposed to one that is heavily used. Laurel said circulation in the future may not be an accurate measure of providing service, because more people are using electronic resources. Valnet has provided for smaller libraries a multi-year buy-in program. Marilyn mentioned that the levels of membership approach might be helpful. Laurel liked the Valnet continuously growing fund that would be available for future upgrades, so the consortium would be self-sustaining. June would like to make sure support continues to be available for system problems, unlike the Valnet program, which appears to offer little or no system support.

### New Business

**SW Idaho Consortium Interest Group report.** Dian distributed a copy of the written report. Participants represented a wide variety of library types, from the state library to school districts. Two committees were formed to focus on specific issues. Dian reported preliminary information from the System Feature Committee of important elements:
Ready access to technical support & training.
Collective purchases of resources by consortium or selective members.
Reciprocal borrowing with provision for some deviation to include individual library's policies.
Different membership levels available.
Cooperative reference services.
Open membership to all types of libraries in a specified geographic area.
Development fund to assist libraries that have meager funding.
Provision of guidelines for migrations into the new system by new members.
Area courier service or statewide service.

Governance Committee:

Meeting scheduled for next Thursday. Have been consulting with consortia all over the country. Results will go out to all consortium members or interested parties.

**Endeavor Presentation.** Dian announced that Endeavor will do a presentation at BSU the third or fourth week of January 2001.They will be able to accommodate up to 34 participants. This is the system that Valnet is migrating to. Lynx members are encouraged to attend. Please communicate to Tim Brown if you plan to attend so he can plan accordingly: tbrown@boisestate.edu.

The school districts are really interested in joining, but BSU and ISL are not really interested at this point. There is the possibility of locating the box elsewhere. If other Lynx members are interested in being part of this exploratory group, they are certainly welcome.

**Epixtech Recall Training.** One day of training will be held the 11th of January. Most libraries indicated the desire to send one or more persons, resulting in the idea of a second day of training*. **I believe Dian indicated that Robin (Ada) would check with epixtech to find out if a second day (the 12th) can be scheduled enabling attendance by all who are interested.** To keep the cost down to $100/per person June Johnstun moved that the cost for this training above the $100/person be paid out of consortium funds, not to exceed $1,000.00. The motion was seconded by Heather Mather. The motion carried. Ada would like to send 3, Meridian 2, Garden City 2, Eagle 2, Twin 1, Nampa 2, Hailey 1, and Boise 1.

**Consortium services.** Dian was approached about the consortium joint purchasing Gale's *Business & Company Resource Center* database. Although the consortium probably can't afford it at this point, it is something to consider in the future. Dian was also asked about 24/7 online reference service available from a library's home page. A question submitted by a patron can be answered by email any time of day or night. The consortium could help pay for this service, or those libraries that were interested. Marilyn would love to see this happen. Patrons may be finding questionable or incomplete information on the Internet without library help. This service would allow them to use professional expertise. Camille mentioned the need to have some kind of evaluation mechanism. Dian thought we might be able to get an LSTA grant for a year. The group expressed some interest in more information, including the cost. ***Dian will investigate and report back to the group.***

**Northwest Children's Home (Nampa).** Dian shared the email Karen forwarded regarding this organization's interest in participating in some way in the consortium. The issue of different levels of service really needs to be addressed before this can be answered. Dian said it was important to know that there was an interest out there.

**Telecirc II.** Laurel was not prepared to give report at this time. Some questions include: Can it be initiated at separate sites? Marilyn asked if epixtech recommended a certain threshold before the service was needed. June asked if it could be used in Twin without a long distance call?

Heather said her board expressed an interest. This product includes ENS, so needs to allow for dialing out and dialing in. Each site would need dedicated line. Laurel has been unsatisfied with the ENS system so far.

Dian thought we should ask Endeavor if they have a mechanism to accomplish this same thing. Laurel wondered if we stayed with Epixtech if Telecirc could be part of a system upgrade. Dian reported that postage costs have risen for Ada after they joined Lynx.

June mentioned email notification would be useful – Laurel said Barb was supposed to have it ready by the first of the year. **Laurel will report back to the group immediately when she receives answers to these questions from epixtech.**

**Issuing and renewing library cards at any consortium library.** The question is one of system capability rather than policy at this point. Can the computer do it without each library becoming an agency of BPL? Laurel stated she was waiting for information from epixtech. Can the primary agency be Lynx with all the libraries who wish to participate as secondary agencies? Heather said it would be important to her that certain statistics for her agency still be available. **Laurel will report back to the group immediately when she hears from epixtech.**

**Meeting day change.** June asked that meeting day be changed from Thursdays to another weekday. The group consented to the first Friday instead of the first Thursday of the month. Meeting dates for 2001:  9 March 2001, 1 June 2001, 7 Sept 2001, 7 Dec 2001. The spring meeting date was changed to the 9th to allow Marilyn Poertner to attend.

### Tabled Items

Governance structure
Resource sharing and levels of membership
Statewide reciprocal borrowing

**Date and Location of Next Meeting:  9 March 2001. 10-12.** *Dian will ask Caldwell if we can meet there.*

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 am. Informal sharing of news at each library ensued.