

MARIGOLD LIBRARY SYSTEM

Board of Management

Saturday, November 17, 2012

High River

Present:

Lynda Lyster (Chair) – MD of Bighorn
Leslie Duchak (Vice Chair) – Okotoks
Shelley Sweet – Airdrie
Bob Painter – Kneehill County
Lil Morrison – Starland County
Ron Howe – Three Hills
Diane Osberg – Black Diamond/Turner Valley
Maxine Booker – Acadia M.D.
Cathy Watts – Hanna
Marilyn King – Chestermere
Kristen Anderson – Hussar
Mavis Holder – Canmore
Barb Beary – Foothills M.D.
Linda Schafer – High River (host)
Carrie Campbell – Linden
Barb Marshall – Delia
Darlene Raketti – Drumheller
Berniece Bland – Wheatland County

Staff:

Michelle Toombs
Laura Taylor
Lynne Thorimbert
Denise Fung
Steven Pattison
Carlee Pilikowski
Nora Ott (recording)
Lorraine Betts
Margaret Newton
Lynn Blain

Vacancies:

Acme
Beiseker
Carbon
Morrin
Special Areas 3
Special Areas 4

Guests:

Linda Mccauley – Sheep River Library Board
Tim Whitfield – Town of High River
Diane Porter – High River Library Board Chair

Regrets without notice:

Lyle Cawiezel – Munson
R. Bob Eccles – Consort
Lisa Constantini – Irricana

Regrets:

Elaine Michaels – Cereal
Pat Fule – Strathmore
Sandra Barker – Waiparous
Susan Billington – Kananaskis I.D
Jan Dyck – Longview
Christine Boyd – Ghost Lake
Gary Billings – Rockyford
Susan Roper – Cochrane
Debbie Habberfield – Rocky View County
Sheila Howe – Empress
Dayna Van Dam - Empress
Connie Fraser – Trochu
Helen Veno – Special Areas #2
John Getz – Standard
Lorraine Ruppert - Youngstown

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER – L. Lyster called the meeting to order at 9:33 am

1.1 Introduction of delegates, guests and staff

- Diane Porter, Board Chair of the High River Public Library, gave greetings from the High River Library board.
- There are vacancies in 6 locations: Acme, Beiseker, Carbon, Morrin, Special Areas #3 and Special Areas #4.

1.2 Greetings

Tim Whitfield, High River Town Councilor, gave greetings from the Town of High River. Tim welcomed everyone to the Town of High River and thanked Michelle for the quality of a report she had prepared for the High River Town Council regarding the levy process used by Marigold, public library service trends and the cost-saving benefits of belonging to Marigold.

Question for discussion:
What Service(s) that Marigold provides do you most appreciate?

In a roundtable forum, Board representatives and Marigold staff discussed the services that they found to be most valuable. These services include:

- Paperback deposits open 24/7
- Freegal
- RISE videoconferencing
- Opportunity to work with great people
- Consultation services
- ILL (Inter- Library Loan)
- LPE (Large Print Edition) selection
- Huge selection of materials as a result of being part of TRAC
- Technology innovations
- E-resources
- IT support
- Cataloguing
- Breadth of programs
- Responsive support
- Cadillac service
- Partnerships across the Province
- Two-way support between staff and Board members
- Leadership

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

SUGGESTION: Change the date of financials in sections 6.1.1 and 6.1.2 from September 30, 2012 to October 31, 2012

MOTION: L. Schafer / C. Watts
- To approve the agenda as amended CARRIED

3. MINUTES OF THE August 25, 2012 Board and Annual General Meeting

MOTION: M. King/ L. Morrison
- To approve the minutes of August 25, 2012 Board and Annual General Meeting CARRIED

4. BOARD TRAINING

4.1 Marigold Financials – Income Statement, Balance Sheet and how Marigold is funded
Loraine Betts prepared a document explaining how to decipher the Marigold Financials that are included at each Board meeting. Michelle Toombs provided an explanation about how Marigold receives and distributes funds.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

5.1 Transfer of agenda items from consent agenda
No items were transferred
5.2 Motion to accept remaining consent agenda items
MOTION: B. Beary/ L. Schafer
-To accept agenda items 5.1 to 5.4 CARRIED

5.3 Committee Reports
5.3.1 Executive
5.3.2 Building
5.3.3 Governance
5.3.4 Standards and Services
5.3.5 Human Resources
5.3.6 Advocacy
5.4 Policies and Plans
5.4.1 Contingency Plan for Finance - Executive

6. DECISION

6.1 Financial
6.1.1 Financial Statements to October 31, 2012
MOTION: L. Morrison/S. Sweet
- To approve the unaudited financial statements to October 31, 2012 and be received for information. CARRIED

6.1.2 RISE Financial Statements to
MOTION: C. Watts/L. Duchak
-To approve the unaudited RISE financial statements to October 31, 2012 and be received for information CARRIED

6.1.3 Marigold Draft Budget 2013, 2014 and 2015
MOTION: M. Booker/ M. King
-To approve the Marigold draft budget for 2013, 2014, 2015. CARRIED

6.2 Policies/Plans
6.2.1 Continuing Education Plan for Board Members - Governance
MOTION: K. Anderson
-That the Continuing Education Plan for Marigold Board Members be approved. CARRIED
6.2.2 Appointment of Marigold Board Members Plan – Governance
MOTION: K. Anderson
-That the Appointment Plan for Marigold Board Members be approved. CARRIED

6.2.3 Provision of Services Policy - Standards & Services

MOTION: M. Booker

-That the Provision of Services Policy be approved.

CARRIED

6.3 Vision 2015 Progress

Carlee Pilikowski presented a report explaining the progress Marigold has made towards achieving the 2012 goals that were listed in Marigold's three year strategic plan.

6.4 Freedom to Read Week declaration (February 24 - March 2, 2013)

Lynda Lyster read and signed the proclamation that declared the last week of February 2013 to be Freedom to Read week.

6.5 Nominating Committee – Call for Volunteers

K. Anderson and L. Schafer volunteered for the Nominating Committee

CARRIED

6.6 Upcoming Board Meetings:

- January 26, 2013 9:30 a.m. – Videoconference with Airdrie, Cochrane, Hanna, and Marigold Headquarters in Strathmore
- April 16, 2013, 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Strathmore Travelodge – Marigold AGM
- August 24, 2013, 9:30 a.m. – Canmore (upon approval of Canmore Public Library Board)
- November 16, 2013 9:30 a.m. – Chestermere (upon approval of Chestermere Public Library Board)

7. ITEMS FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

There were no items added to the consent agenda.

8. INFORMATION

8.1 ALTA Report

Diane Osberg shared information from the Alberta Library Trustees Association.

8.2 RISE Presentation

Denise Fung offered a presentation that outlined the history of the RISE network and gave examples of success stories that have resulted since RISE was launched in the fall of 2009. Denise explained how the RISE Project is extending its reach across the province and demonstrated how videoconferencing can contribute to better services and information for library staff and patrons.

8.3 Background Notes and Updates

Michelle encouraged Board members to collect stories that demonstrate how libraries add value to and change the lives of Albertans.

8.4 Information Sharing – Roundtable

Delegates shared information about their locations.

9. BOOK DRAW

The book, *100 Grey Cups: This is Our Game*, by Stephen Brunt, was won by M. Booker.

10. ADJOURNMENT - L. Lyster adjourned the meeting at 12:13 pm

Chair

CEO

**Marigold Board Meeting
November 17, 2012 Background Notes**

1. Marigold and RISE Financials

The **cash based accounting** method records revenue and expenses when 'cash' is exchanged; revenue is recorded when payment is received and expenses are recorded when invoices are paid. Sole proprietorships and small organizations use this method. The **accrual accounting** method records revenue and expenses when the information is entered into the accounting system. Revenue, such as levy payments, is recorded when invoices are prepared, not when the cheques are received. Expenses from purchases of goods and services are recorded by the date on the invoice, not when the invoice is paid. Marigold Library System uses this accrual accounting practice for financial procedures and reporting in accordance with GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles). Large to mid-sized organizations use this method.

Marigold Balance Sheet: Accounts receivable shows that 98% of the levies have been received as of November 8, 2012. Under capital assets, two SuperNet routers were added to HQ as a back-up in the event of failure. The year-to-date surplus is lower than 2011 because Lorraine has begun to do monthly amortization calculations as instructed by the auditors.

Marigold Income Statement: Revenue is on track with almost 100% of all budgeted revenue invoiced by the end of October. By the end of the year, interest revenue will exceed the budgeted \$25,000 because of better interest rates through Scotiabank. Expenditures are on track at 82% of the budgeted expenditures and 83% of the year completed. Reimbursements are higher than expected because our member libraries are purchasing goods such as stationary and technology through Marigold more often. Marigold is able to secure better pricing, which is passed along to member libraries.

RISE Balance Sheet and Income Statement: The bank account and the deferred revenue shows the receipt of \$170,000 (RISE Expansion Pilot money) from APLEN deposited on August 9, 2012. The funds were placed in deferred revenue as instructed by the auditors. Monthly invoices from Marigold to RISE will begin in November to cover the RISE Expansion Pilot expenses.

2. Marigold Budget for 2013, 2014 & 2015

Red colored cells are subject to change as more information becomes available, including current population. Some budget amounts will change when budgeted amounts are compared to YTD 2012 expenditures.

Marigold and its member libraries serve almost 250,000 residents and 81,486 registered borrowers with an annual circulation of 1.6 million items. There are 86 staff computers, 196 public computers, 5 self-check units and 20 servers maintained by Marigold HQ.

Overall: Three year budgets are becoming the norm for organizations receiving funding from the province. Assembling three years' worth of balanced budget projections is worthwhile and informative for our stakeholders, albeit challenging to prepare. A budget is a guide or a roadmap. It is expected that Marigold's budget will exceed \$4 million in 2014 and beyond. Revenue and expenses for Crossfield have been included.

Revenue: Municipal and library board levy amounts will be updated after the official Municipal Affairs' municipal population numbers are published (usually in December). Provincial grant revenue is announced in the spring and is based on a per capita rate multiplied by the municipal population of a 'specified' year. For example, Municipal Affairs increased the per capita amount of the system operating grant from \$4.55 to \$4.60 in 2012; however, this per capita rate was applied to the **2010** official population, and not 2011 population. In preparing our budget, PLSB advises us to use the previous year's grant amount because our budget needs to be approved before the province makes its announcement.

RISE has a budget number for 2013, but not 2014 or 2015 because we are hopeful that PLSB will provide some funding for the RISE bridge if the RISE Expansion Pilot is successful in demonstrating value in

videoconferencing between libraries throughout Alberta. RISE income is offset by a corresponding expense number.

Expenditures:

Admin/Finance: Simply Accounting (now called Sage 50) upgrade costs are much less than forecasted; Marigold was provided with a free upgrade in 2012 because of the contact that Lorraine Betts made with Sage. Cost of internal travel is expected to increase because Marigold has filled the vacant consultant librarian position and because Marigold will be increasing the number of consultation visits.

Board: A new budget line for professional fees (e.g., consultants and legal contingency) was created by separating these expenses from committee expenses (e.g., communication audit and rebranding as identified in the Strategic Plan). Conference costs are increasing (e.g., Alberta Library Conference).

Building: A renegotiated landscaping contract has saved money. Emergency repairs for the boiler, heating and cooling systems are on the rise, mostly because of the aging infrastructure. Health and safety costs are being tracked for future savings in WCB costs. Workflow enhancement, involving professional space planners, will result in a reconfigured work area that makes better use of available floor space and more efficient work flows.

Computers/Network: Marigold's Strategic Plan (Vision 2015) informs the Technology Plan, which outlines software and hardware computer purchase priorities. Replacement of essential network equipment on a scheduled basis is essential to maintaining reliability and capacity for expansion. Bulk purchases of computer software are done every two years when Marigold has access to 'Tech Soup' (non-profit license distributor). Monthly maintenance and printing expenses are expected to go down with the acquisition of a new photocopier in 2013. Marigold recently negotiated savings of 69% for Internet costs. Website costs were moved into this category as the ongoing costs are primarily for domain licenses.

Consultation: *Planning for more group meetings (e.g., local board chairs and member library staff) will be factored into the area forums budget. Telephone costs were reduced because of the new VOIP telephone installation and new cell phones for staff who travel on Marigold business.*

Contracts: World language materials managed through Parkland (AMBC -- Alberta Multilanguage Consortium) will discontinue in 2013. Annual TRAC levies will increase because of budgeted one-time expenses (e.g., need to purchase more staff client licenses in 2013). TRAC levies for 2014 and 2015 will be adjusted for population. TAL levies will also be adjusted with the upcoming approval of the TAL budget for 2013.

Delivery: Fluctuating fuel costs, repairs on older vehicles and additional delivery costs for Crossfield have been considered.

Marketing: Most marketing work for member libraries and for Marigold is done in-house with staff expertise (Carlee Pilikowski). Replacing the photocopier with a newer full-featured model will enable Marigold to maintain and improve its marketing materials.

Materials: Budgets for world language materials have been added in this category because AMBC service is ending in 2013. Collection HQ is a collection development reporting tool that works with Polaris (TRAC catalogue) to enable Marigold and member library staff to better identify needs for improved selection, weeding and collection management. Budgets for electronic resources and paperbacks have been increased to provide more choice for patrons.

Programs: Marigold is committed to providing more support to members by providing program resources such as videoconference programs.

Staff: Projected 10% increase in staff costs is because of added staff (vacant consultant position filled along with new hires for videoconferencing and cataloguing support for the Crossfield conversion); step increases; annual cost of living increases and the adjustment of the salary grid as a result of the job evaluation review. Benefit budget was calculated in accordance with salary budget, including projected costs for a health spending account and a defined contribution pension plan (which Marigold currently lacks). Training budget increased for more specialized IT training and required staff training for Occupational Health and Safety.

Supplies: Additional supplies for Crossfield and all members have been considered. Budget for freight was added to account for the cost of delivering equipment and supplies (not collection materials).

Transfer Payments: Marigold pays a grant to community libraries that is equal to what Municipal Affairs pays libraries in municipalities with low populations; this amount was increased from \$6,480 to \$6,540 to be in line with the provincial grant increase. A population adjustment will be applied to the services grants, which are based on the same formula as in past years. Crossfield service grant payment will be withheld as needed in 2013 to pay for conversion costs.

Reimbursement: Marigold pays for equipment, travel and some other expenses up front, and then repayment comes later, recorded as revenue. Budget revenue and expenditure projections must equal. The trend is for member libraries to request that Marigold purchase supplies and equipment on their behalf to take advantage of bulk purchase reductions and preferred pricing.

3. Power Back-up

Prior to lightning striking Marigold's transformer in August, which caused a power outage of about six hours, Marigold had been researching power back-up systems to replace the aging equipment in the server room. At the October meeting, the Executive approved the purchase of equipment for four hours of reserve power to be paid for by the RISE Expansion Pilot money from APLEN and by Marigold. When the equipment is received, Steven and his IT team will install it on a Sunday morning to minimize service downtime.

Polaris is housed at Spruce Grove at the Yellowhead Regional Library System HQ. When Marigold lost power this past August, our patrons still had access to the library catalogue from home and on their mobile devices. Supernet is supported by a 24/7 network operations centre in Calgary with a guarantee of 99.999% uptime. When any of our libraries lose their SuperNet connection because of power outages or line cuts, Marigold IT staff members are contacted immediately and Axia repair staff are dispatched.

4. GST Payback

Following Canada Revenue Agency's (CRA) decision that Marigold is eligible to receive rebates on 100% of its GST payments, Marigold received almost \$91,000 from CRA for GST paid in the past four years. The portion payable to RISE totals \$41,154.36. When the RISE videoconference vendor has provided firm pricing for the next three-year service agreements, the Executive will consider using this money to pay these costs for the videoconference equipment at Marigold member libraries. The cost of service agreements for the central site bridging equipment, which is located at Marigold HQ, will be shared between the three library systems (Marigold, Chinook Arch and Shortgrass).

5. Strategic Plan Progress

Public Services objective 1.4: by 2015, three new resources or programs to respond to the needs identified by member libraries.

- Addition of Freegal music resource responds to requests from member libraries: As of October 1, 2012, library cardholders in Marigold can download (to keep) three songs per week from a choice of over 3 million songs from the Sony and other Music Catalogues. There are about 400 genres including today's top hits as well as golden oldies. This resource will be available exclusively at www.marigold.ab.ca/eresources (not available through TRACpac)
- Marigold announced the purchase of Audio Cine previously.

Public Services objective 1.5: by 2015, 50% increase in access to digital media for Marigold Community members

- With the addition of the new Freegal music resource in October, Carlee has provided marketing material (including press release and posters) for HQ and member library websites and has Freegal to the various brochures that go out to member libraries.

Public Services objective 1.6: by 2015, an improved and well promoted *Library to You* program (paperbacks and more by mail)

- The new L2U catalogue has received great reviews from patrons. The larger format allows for more appealing ads which promote new services to targeted audiences and increase awareness of e-resources for Marigold's L2U patrons.

Leadership and Representation objective 2.1: By 2013, a website template for every member library and website development training for staff at every member library.

- Richard Kenig has created a website training manual for member libraries. Nearly all member libraries have operational websites that are at various stages of development. A website is included in the marketing plan for Crossfield. Cochrane Library would like to participate in the project and Canmore is giving it serious consideration.

Leadership and Representation objective 2.3: a strategy to develop and foster partnerships.

- While the written work to articulate this strategy has been deferred to 2013, there are a number of examples of how Marigold is actively involved in province-wide initiatives to build partnerships, expand available resources and services, and showcase Marigold:
 - Active partnership with Bow Valley College using RISE to develop cross-ministry initiatives to exchange information and learning opportunities
 - RISE Expansion Pilot to extend the reach of public libraries and find efficiencies and service enhancements through collaboration. RISE now has 97 member libraries.
 - Licensing Service Committee (TAL) and Provincial Resource Sharing Network Policy Committee – Michelle is on the committee
 - Attendance at trade shows such as AUMA to meet stakeholders and identify potential partnerships.

Leadership and Representation objective 2.6: By 2015, two tools to be refined and developed to effectively inform stakeholders and decision makers about Marigold Library System.

- *Board Orientation:* Marigold orientation information for board members has been updated and will soon be available on the website. An orientation session held at headquarters on September 15 was well attended (11 participants).
- *Discover the Power of Your Library Card:* This brochure (in two different sizes) is a hit with all the libraries and many municipalities. Carlee has developed website ads for eResources that combine Discover ... with information about eResources. This marketing campaign is ongoing
- *New Regional System Brochure* was created in collaboration with the CEOs of all the systems. The new brochure talks about the value of regional systems and will help to inform councilors and other decision makers.

Technology objective 3.2: By 2014, after-hours IT support increased to 20 hours per week.

- IT and videoconferencing support by Marigold staff has recently been increased to 2 days a week (5-8pm). Videoconferencing support and live monitoring has also been implemented 4 days a week until 8 pm with Marigold and Chinook Arch staff; Shortgrass staff are on call for videoconference support as needed.

12. Crossfield

Crossfield Mayor and Crossfield Library Board Chair signed the Marigold Agreement. Doug Griffiths, Minister of Municipal Affairs, has approved and Marigold has received a system operating grant of \$13,328.65 based on Crossfield's population. (This grant will be available next year as well.) Although Crossfield is joining Marigold on January 1, 2013, we are thankful that Crossfield prepared and sent this documentation early because this grant money will be put to good use to purchase Crossfield's Polaris license as well as conversion supplies such as item barcodes. Crossfield's library manager, Lorea Anderson,

came to Marigold HQ to plan the conversion process with the Marigold team. Denise Fung will be Marigold's project manager for this conversion and implementation.

13. Canmore decision

In September, Michelle Toombs and Laura Taylor were invited to present and participate in a dialogue with the Canmore Library Board on the topics of sharing DVDs, website presence and non-system members. In October, the Canmore Library Board passed a motion to fully share AV materials after the library moves into its new library facility in Elevation Place. The move is expected to take place in March.

14. Marigold Headquarters staff updates

Colleen Spurvey will be joining Marigold as a consultant librarian on December 3; she hails from Newfoundland. Colleen Tooth, Library Services Assistant submitted her resignation effective October 17, 2012. The posting for a temporary Cataloguer for one year, with the possibility of extension, has been posted. This position will assist with the conversion of Crossfield. James Vent has joined Marigold staff full-time as the videoconference specialist for the duration of the RISE Expansion Pilot from September 2012 to September 2013.

15. Building

Repairs on the roof, boiler, heating and air conditioning systems have been frequent this year as the infrastructure ages. The Building Committee met to compare quotes to hire a space planner; this project is intended to make use of the limited available space to provide for a more efficient workflow and a safer working environment.

15. RISE

Eighteen public libraries and library systems, including Calgary and Edmonton public libraries, have signed agreements to participate in the year-long RISE Expansion Pilot, which officially began September 1. This brings the number of RISE libraries to 98 (more to come)! Marigold has received \$170,000 from the APLEN Technology Fund for central site support (bridging). Maggie Macdonald and Michelle Toombs did a presentation (Beam Me Up Rise) at the Northern Lights conference in September, which enticed another participant from that region to look for funds to purchase videoconferencing equipment and join the pilot. The RISE Directors spoke about the recent program successes and organizational achievements at the APLEN Nodes meeting in October. A 'meet and greet' orientation for new members was held by videoconference on October 23 and a second session is planned for November 14.

16. Internet ISP costs

Marigold's Internet Service Provider (ISP) is Optic-Lynx and they have agreed to a 69% saving off the old rate for 40 Mbps. Bandwidth is measured in Megabits per second (mbps), which is the maximum volume in upload and download capacity that can be transferred at any time. The total Internet bandwidth Marigold uses is determined by the SuperNet bandwidth because Internet, videoconference and Polaris traffic are all sent through the SuperNet pipe. Marigold pays for the ISP costs for all of its member libraries.

17. Munson letter

Following the receipt of letters from Marigold and Marigold's auditors, Laura Taylor was informed by Munson's CAO, Lyle Cawiezel, that Munson Council would revisit the motion to leave Marigold at the end of this year. The latest email update from the CAO was dated November 8: *"Council has still not made a final decision. The issue was debated at the August and September meetings. At the September meeting it was decided that a survey would be sent to the residents. The survey included the services Marigold offers, our fees etc. this was sent in the October utility bills. The deadline for surveys to be returned was Nov 16 with Council discussing the issue again at the November Council meeting."* We hope that Munson residents will not have their Marigold-enabled borrowing privileges terminated as of December 31, 2012; however, if the motion is not rescinded after the survey results are reviewed by Munson Council, Marigold will contact

every Munson cardholder to advise them of an upcoming change in their borrowing record. A fact sheet will also be provided to Marigold libraries to outline the limited range of services that are available for non-system cardholders.

18. Freegal Launch

The Freegal Music e-resource with access to three million songs was launched on October 1 and is proving to be a popular service for Marigold cardholders. Technology Assistant, Alison McMillan, has provided videoconference training to member libraries to promote the service. Laura's interview in the Strathmore Times on September 29 also raised awareness and use.

19. AMBC Withdrawal

At a consortium meeting on September 18, it was decided that the Alberta Multilanguage Book Consortium would be discontinued for reasons of financial sustainability and limited online access to its print materials. While Marigold will save over \$11,000 each year that we paid to support AMBC (with a 1/3 of that amount to purchase new print materials), it is unfortunate that this resource for world language materials is disappearing when our population is becoming more diverse. Along with the other library systems, Marigold will be looking for other sources of world language material (e.g., e-books) and ways to meet the needs of our patrons. Marigold acquires and catalogues French and Spanish language collections, but we do not have the expertise on staff to catalogue other language materials that are in demand (e.g., Tagalog).

20. Eli Mina Training

Michelle Toombs, Laura Taylor and Lynda Lyster attended two day-long courses in Victoria, organized and presented by Eli Mina (meeting mentor and registered parliamentarian; he has been the parliamentarian for the American Library Assoc. for 10 years). The "101 Boardroom Problems and How to Solve Them" session focused on how to be an effective participant and leader in meetings. We learned that it is the role of any Board member to intervene if there is a problem; it does not always have to be the Chair. Eli reiterated that "collective suffering is optional." "Robert's Rules of Order Demystified" provided useful information on running an effective meeting. The content and sharing was considered so helpful that Marigold is considering inviting Eli Mina to present to the Marigold Community.

21. Board Orientation

The September 15th Marigold Board Orientation included Board training topics that were identified at the August Board meeting in Drumheller. The seven Board members who attended, including new and longstanding Board members, were pleased with the format, content and sharing. Some parts will be incorporated into the Marigold full Board meetings, including a presentation at the November Board meeting to explain how Marigold is funded and how to read Marigold's financial statements.

22. Training, conferences and external meetings

Denise Fung and Michelle Toombs attended a presentation by Bill Ptacek, Director of King County Library System (surrounding Seattle). Favorite quotes: "The library is more of a concept than a place." "Google beat us at the reference game, but libraries give us access to our neighbour's front porch, facilitating civic engagement, the arts [and more]..." Michelle and all the Library System Directors manned a display at the well-attended AUMA Tradeshow to meet and greet municipal councilors. The Directors connected with other agencies who might provide expert presenters for RISE programs (like the Red Cross Disaster Preparedness group who we met last year at AUMA and who later did a presentation at Chestermere). Michelle was among a group of TAL members invited to the TAL Office to exchange ideas on how Netspeed could evolve.

Lynda Lyster and Michelle attended the Public Library Resource Sharing Network Policy meeting in Edmonton on October 11, where consensus was reached on a network policy to promote sharing of public library resources throughout the province. The policy will be presented to the Minister of Municipal Affairs

for signing and will be the foundation for Alberta-Wide Borrowing (AWB). When the Alberta-Wide initiative is activated, Alberta public library cardholders will be able to use their home library card at other participating public libraries throughout the province and have the same privileges and user experience as local cardholders.

TAL's Licensing Service Committee met on October 17. As a recently appointed member to this committee, Michelle is working with committee members on a changed licensing process that will be relevant to Albertans.

Lynne Thorimbert and Barb Froese attended the Kaleidoscope Conference, organized by the Alberta School Library Council. The opportunity to learn from authors and illustrators, including Clare Vanderpool, Carol Gardner, Richard Schrimger, Marie Louise Gay and Lois Donovan, provided an opportunity to identify ways to promote reading, appreciate illustrations and understand the creative process.

Steven Pattison, James Vent, Alison McMillan and Denise Fung attended Netspeed in Edmonton. RISE had a display in the trade show to connect with existing and new RISE videoconference participants. Denise did a presentation on RISE, and everyone benefitted from the conversations and learning about new technologies and social media.

23. Minister's Awards Letter

Doug Griffiths, Minister of Municipal Affairs, sent a letter to Lynda Lyster (dated September 24) to invite the Marigold Library Board to provide submissions for the fourth annual Minister's Awards for Excellence and Innovation in Public Library Service. "These awards formally recognize great services at public libraries and promote knowledge sharing within Alberta's library community." Submission deadline is February 15, 2013. If interested, contact Marigold for more details.