Members Present:

Anoka: Maggie Snow  Ramsey: Lynn Wyman
Carver: Heidi Hoks  Saint Paul: Catherin Penkert
Dakota: Margaret Stone  Scott: Jake Grussing
Hennepin: Janet Mills  Washington: Amy Stenftenagel

Staff Present: Kate Brown, Sarah Hawkins, Kathleen James, and Scott Vrieze

I.  CALL TO ORDER
Chair Hoks called the meeting to order at 9:00AM.

II.  APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA
Motion by Stone to approve the agenda. Second by Snow. Motion carried.

III. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS
A. Conversation with Jennifer Nelson, State Library Services
Nelson encouraged member libraries to participate in the upcoming census and voter registration initiatives. The Directors were asked to send the contact information for system deputy directors to Nelson. They were also encouraged to invite Minnesota Department of Education Commissioner Riker to some of their programs. Nelson requested to be copied on those emails.

Once the advocacy language has been crafted by MDE, Nelson will share it with the Directors.

Since it is a bonding year in legislature, Nelson explained the criteria and process for Library Construction grants. The application process opens July 1st, 2020. All funds will be distributed at the end of the construction project.

IV. 2020 MELSA ADVISORY BOARD ANNUAL MEETING
A. Review of Advisory Board By-Laws
The Directors reviewed the By-Laws and decided no changes were needed at this time.

B. Review of MELSA Groups
The Directors reviewed the list of MELSA groups and will notify MELSA staff of any changes that need to be made to memberships.

A possible Collections Team/Interest Group was discussed. The goals of the group should include:
1. Discussing how member systems balance eBooks versus print collections across all platforms and how they affect budgets.
2. The group should also look at opportunities in increasing equity in collection development purchasing.
Hawkins will share the 2004 MELSA document that describes the differences between Teams, Interest Groups and Task Forces with the Directors. There was a short discussion on the need to revisit the document since it has not been revised since 2004.

Motion by Stone to form a Collections Team with a refined charge based on input from members of the Collections Team. Second by Grussing. Motion carried.

V. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS
A. MELSA response to Macmillan Publishing eBook embargo
The Directors went around the table and discussed what each of their systems are doing in response to the embargo. Snow reported that ACL has decided to stop purchasing all electronic materials from MacMillan Publishing. Every other system has plans to discuss the issue internally.

Three actions were offered as options by Vrieze:
1. Stop the purchase of CloudLibrary eBooks published my Macmillan
2. No longer contract with Macmillan-based authors through the Club Book or Teen Lit Con programs

The pros and cons of all three options were discussed. Stone will share the Urban Library Council’s webinar on the Canadian response to the publishing embargo.

Motion by Penkert to support MELSA no longer contracting with Macmillan-based authors for the Club Book or Teen Lit Con programs as directed by the MELSA Board of Trustees. Second by Snow. Roll call of the vote: The motion passes with Directors Snow, Stone, Mills, Wyman and Stefntenagel voting yes and Hoks and Grussing voting no.

Based on the directive from the MELSA Board of Trustees, the Directors believe they should look at the business practices of all publishers and not just Macmillan.

Vrieze will discuss the issue with the members of the Council of Regional Public Library Administrators (CRPLSA) and report back to the MELSA Advisory Board.

Motion by Grussing to direct Vrieze to complete two tasks:
1. Define the characteristics of publishers who are working in support of public libraries.

2. Compose a letter to Macmillan CEO, John Sargent, voicing support of the American Libraries Association Digital Content & Libraries Working Group that is undertaking a coordinated effort across the library field to advocate for access to eBooks for library lending by all major publishers.

Both items are to be brought to the next MELSA Advisory Board meeting in February. Second by Hoks. Motion carried.
B. Discussion on the ACHF Completion Report for FY2018
In lieu of time, Hawkins gave a very abbreviated report. Based on the ACHF Completion Report, it was decided that member libraries would benefit from system wide training. A possible outcome-based training was proposed in April. After completing the report Hawkins noticed that systems were under-reporting expenses and could also use additional training in that area.

VI. REPORTS
Vrieze asked the Directors if they would like to see system updates added to the agenda. It was decided that Vrieze will add that item to future agendas. Vrieze also discussed his goal for the upcoming MELSA Strategic Plan. He would like it to go very in depth with input from the Trustees and possibly hire an outside consultant.

Vrieze asked the Directors to share what they are doing internally in terms of marketing.

Snow reported that MLA, ITEM, MALF and MLF have formed a small group to discuss ways in which they can work together.

VII. ADJOURN
Motion to adjourn by Grussing.
Second by Stone.
Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 11:40AM