I. CALL TO ORDER
Chair Thompson called the meeting to order at 1:23 PM.

II. CONSENT AGENDA
A. Approval of Agenda
Additions to agenda by Nemitz to discuss the Citizen’s League under III.D. and by Thompson to include discussion of 2016 meeting dates to be added under III.E.

B. Approval of Meeting Minutes (August 7, 2015)
Motion by Nemitz to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Second by Grussing. Motion carried.

III. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS
A. Edge Assessment results and supplemental tech metrics.
Ben Trapskin, Dakota County Library, represented the Tech Measures Task Force. He reviewed the results from the second Edge Assessment and a proposal from the Task Force for the collection of supplemental information (not included in the Edge) for comparison at the regional level. For background, the directives received by the Task Force in November 2014 were:

1. Provide guidance and/or definitions of terms to better ensured consistency among responses the next time the Edge Assessment is completed.
2. Determine if the information gathered for the Assessment, and other reports such as the State Annual Report, provide the measurements needed by the systems. Is anything missing?
3. Determine if the service gaps identified in the assessment make sense to address at the MELSA level(Examples suggested: a metro wide community technology survey, computer training for non-English speakers, etc.). The Task Force will make a recommendation to the Advisory Board.

Issues raised during the discussion:
• Is there value in collecting more output data without outcomes? (Is it the role of the Task Force to determine outcomes?)
• Would the information be useful for planning purposes and in discussions with stakeholders about adequate service levels?
• Does collecting this data justify the staff time involved?
• How do the Edge assessment, supplemental tech metric and LSTA grant survey relate to each other?
• If all library systems do not participate in the collection of additional data are results are less rich and meaningful?

More discussion about overall goals for gathering additional information and how various projects connect is needed before further instructions are provided to the Task Force. The directors will continue the discussion at an upcoming Advisory Board meeting.

The Advisory Board discussed sharing the systems’ Edge Assessment results with the Board of Trustees and decided to wait until they can be presented with analysis of the information, i.e., how could MELSA assist the systems with filling gaps in service areas?

There was a request from Thompson to include the description and sample contract for the LSTA Grant in the October 2015 Advisory Board Packet.

B. Fund Balance Expenditures
Scott was looking for direction on spending the $285,000 assignment from the fund balance for E-Book purchases: there are instructions from 3M on specific content for purchases, and will funds be spent before year end? A discussion followed on the procedure for determining content selections. Nemitz would like to expand the collection beyond bestsellers and go in the direction of acquiring more K-12 curriculum support materials and non-fiction titles. 3M provides a list of what is currently selling around the region and purchases are made based on that information.

It was decided that all board members talk to their selector by September 25 and ask what they recommend for the next step in E-Book purchasing and report their findings at the next board meeting.

Phase allocations were discussed. Scott asked if the funds should be allocated by YE2015 or in January 2016. All directors agreed that the Phase funds will not be needed until 2016.

C. Assistive Technology Interest Group
Scott reported that a suggestion for the appointment of an Assistive Technology Interest Group to address the needs of patrons with disabilities came out of the discussion with the Tech Measures Task Force. The representative from Hennepin shared her focus on this benchmark in the Edge Assessment and provided a suggested directive for the Interest Group.

Moulten-Janssen brought up the loss of equalization in the 2016 budget and the ability to do special projects. Before proceeding with formation of the Interest group, a more detailed description of the goals for the group was requested. Thompson will confer with staff.

D. Citizens League
Nemitz spoke about meeting with Sean Kershaw from the Citizens League about an initiative to engage the community on talks about aging and hosting those discussions at
libraries. Nemitz inquired if MELSA ever has official partners and how those partnerships are determined. Nemitz would like to have the library as a place of civic discourse and hopes to partner with different groups in order to share resources. The difference between groups using a meeting room at a library versus partnering with the library was discussed. By partnering with community groups, library directors can show stakeholders that libraries are more than places to check out books and can be places of community discourse. The possibility of putting together a partnership agreement for MELSA was discussed.

E. Upcoming Meeting Dates
Thompson would like to set the 2016 schedule at the next Advisory Board meeting on October 2nd.

IV. REPORTS
A. Interim Executive Director Report
Brechon reported on several updates:

- MLA is convening on September 25 with partners about issuing a RFP for a Legislative Lobbyist which includes MLA, CRPLSA, Multitypes and ITEM.
- CRPLSA determined that State Park Program Pass will not be enacted. CRPLSA will leave $30,000 in its budget as line item until a replacement statewide program is found.
- CRPLSA has withdrawn $83,000 from a statewide program with Minnesota Historical Society’s History Day program. MELSA will be increasing funding of this program to $20,000 and integrating more programming into regional libraries.
- MELSA will not issue partial RLTA distribution payments in September. One distribution payment to the systems will be made after State Library Services releases the final grant amount.
- Brechon is on a committee that is reviewing the possibility of a statewide library card system. The committee consists of Barb Misselt, ECRL and Karen Pundsack, GRRL. If one region does not want to participate in a statewide library card, then there will be no statewide library card application.

B. Staff, Team and MELSA Group Updates
None

V. ADJOURNMENT
Motion to adjourn by Behringer.
Second by Grussing.
Motion passed.
The meeting was adjourned at 2:54 PM.