



220 W. 23rd Ave.
Coal Valley, IL 61240
877-542-7257
support.prairiecat.info

PrairieCat Delegates Assembly Minutes October 29, 2025

The Delegates Assembly met on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm in person at the New Lenox Public Library District, Princeton Public Library, Freeport Public Library, Cherry Valley Public Library, and the RAILS Coal Valley Service Center. The meeting will also be available online via Zoom. Delegates Assembly participation is required of all Fully Participating and Basic Online libraries and the four Union List reps. As always, please remember that only officially designated Delegates or their Alternates can vote on behalf of their library. Substitutes will not be permitted to vote, and there are no proxy votes if a delegate is not present.

[Register to attend the meeting](https://support.prairiecat.info/events/prairiecat-delegates-assembly-meeting-2025-10-29) (https://support.prairiecat.info/events/prairiecat-delegates-assembly-meeting-2025-10-29).

1. Call to order and welcome

Present at Cherry Valley: Carolyn Coulter, Melanie Berg, Jason Shirley, Sue Stevens, Heather Black, Kristi Scherer, Stephen Bero, Amy Runkle, Jennifer Barton, Karen Sutera, Rylie Roubal, Mindy Long, Beth Ryan, Joanna Kluever, Kimberly Martin, Sondra Terry, Lou Carlile, Jon Mark Bolthouse, Stephanie Nissen, Barbara Posinger, Melissa Weidman, Kim Halsey, Megan Gove, Nicholas Weber, Kristine Ozyuk

Present at Coal Valley: Chelsey Knippel, Michele Thurston, April Hoste, Karen Lonergan, Bianca Sierra, Sherry Pilon, Pamela Ashdown, Claire Crawford, Bryon Lear, Christina Snyder, Kim Brozovich, Angela Campbell, Kathy Peschang, Victoria Blackmer, Britni Hartman, Tori Drews, Amy Fry, Beth Tepen

Present at Freeport: Elizabeth Smith, Emily Faulkner, Deb Kolenko, Ashley Huffines, Jenna Diedrich, Carolyn Miller, Laura Watson, Izzy Foltz, Mary Cheatwood, Elizabeth Green, Pennie Miller, Penny Bryant, Marie Monaco, Valerie Woodley



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Present at New Lenox: Shelby O'Hara, Kelly McCully, Jodie DePatis, Leah Bill, Renee Martinez, Alexandra Tyle Annen, Ashely Hopper, Jamie Lockwood, Cathy Palmer, Sarah Ehlers, Shalyn Rodriguez, Lauren Offerman, Shelley Augustine

Present at Princeton: Jason Jensen, Lynette Heiden, Jill Simpson, Emily Kofoid, Jourdan Wendt, Heide Trettenero, Connie Baele, Lynn Sheedy, Emily Schaub, Deanna Howard, Julie Wayland, Renee Kozeal, Marilyn Calbow, Laura Youngstrum, Tari Sangston, Beth Wood, Yana Serdyuk, Melissa Badger, Jaclyn Trujillo, Jill Kohlert

Present via Zoom: Jessica Parker, Julie Harte, Janice May, Laura Crisp, Emily Gundry, Jennifer Shugrue, Brenda Weinberg, Raina Dyck, Carol McSweeney, Sarah Flanagan, Janet Clark, Allison Beasley, Melissa Landis, Amy Walsh, Paige Frechmann, Julie Voss, Joe Filapek, Leila Heath, Anna Behm

Libraries represented: See vote and quorum sheet.

Gove (Chair-TF) started the meeting at 10:30 am. Gove welcomed everyone.

2. Introduction and welcome new delegates or alternates

Jon Mark Bolthouse (LP) introduced himself as the new Delegate for North Suburban Public Library District. Raina Dyck (BM) from Bertolet Public Library introduced herself as the new Alternate.

3. Introduction of guests

Knippel (PrairieCat) introduced the guests online; Joe Filapek, Anna Behm, and Leila Heath from RAILS who will be presenting later in the meeting.

4. Review of agenda for additions/changes

Coulter (PrairieCat) added the report from the October 22, 2025, Resource Sharing Committee

meeting to the agenda.

5. Consent agenda

5.1. Approve minutes for July 30, 2025, PrairieCat Delegates Assembly meeting

5.2. Central Site report including financial and statistical reports

5.3. Quarterly PrairieCat staff report

Motion #1: Nissen (RU) moved and Ryan (JO) seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. There was no discussion on the motion. Motion carries by vocal affirmation.

Ayes: 96

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

6. Administrative Council report

6.1. Finance Committee report – report from 9/18/2025

Coulter (PrairieCat) reported that the Finance Committee met on September 18, 2025, to review initial draft budgets for FY27. They reviewed four versions of the draft budget and narrowed it down to one of those versions to recommend to the Administrative Council. The recommended version has a draft, aggregate percentile increase of 3.82%. Coulter explained the reason for the four versions of the draft budget was because we wanted to try to fund the mobile app for all circulating members. However, funding it for all pushed the percentile increase too high. So, in FY27, the mobile app will remain an opt in option for membership.

6.2. Resource Sharing Committee report – report from 10/22/2025

Coulter (PrairieCat) stated that the Resource Sharing Committee met on October 22, 2025, and discussed the news out of Baker & Taylor, which RAILS will discuss later in the meeting, and an analysis into a Find More Illinois consortium membership. The Find More Illinois membership was too expensive for our budget, so the Committee decided not to pass

along a recommendation to the Administrative Council.

7. PrairieCat membership update, training and outreach report

Smith (PrairieCat) gave the membership update, stating PrairieCat currently has 138 members, 82 Fully Participating, 22 Basic Online, and 34 Union List. Four of our Union List members have reached out to inquire about upgrading their membership. We are still in the gathering phase for these inquiries, but we will update the Delegates Assembly if those projects move forward. Smith reminded the group of the remaining Delegates Assembly meetings, January 28, 2026, in multiple in person locations and April 29, 2026, at one location, Senica's Oak Ridge Golf Club in LaSalle, IL. PrairieCat also hosts quarterly New Director Welcome meetings via Zoom. The next one will be held on December 9, 2025, at 10am. If you are a new director at a PrairieCat library or new to the position of director, these meetings are a great overview of everything PrairieCat. We are also going to be hosting quarterly Mobil App Check-ins and Q&A for PrairieCat libraries who participate in the mobile app. The first check-in is scheduled for January 7, 2026. More information on that check-in will be sent out in the future.

Smith recapped the PrairieCat PUG Day for the Delegates. This annual conference was held in East Moline, IL last month. We had 260 attendees, representation from 60-member libraries. We offered 27 sessions plus a general session. Eleven presentations were hosted by PrairieCat members and five hosted by PrairieCat staff. The remaining sessions were hosted by outside presenters or other organizations PrairieCat works with, such as RAILS. Overall feedback was positive with a weighted average of 4.16 satisfaction. The 2026 event will be virtual.

Smith continued with a few more updates. The Vega Mobile App project has 71 libraries opted in. The new app is available for download in the app stores. The Capira OCLC app is now unavailable in app stores, services, and functionality. If you or your staff are submitting help desk tickets, it is helpful to know the device model and whether or not the device has been updated. This information is very helpful for troubleshooting issues. PrairieCat staff will be developing some training courses and continue to develop more support documentation and resources for members. Smith also stated that PrairieCat needs the eRead Collection Transition

form from all the membership. RAILS will be discussing the eRead situation later in the meeting. Please be sure to fill out this form and turn it in to PrairieCat as soon as possible.

8. Review, PrairieCat Annual Report

Smith (PrairieCat) shared the PrairieCat annual report stating this report can be found on the PrairieCat website under the About page. Both a pdf version and a web version are available. This is a document that we put together annually to highlight the services we provide to our members, the work we do to maintain the database and also the additional projects we are working on throughout the fiscal year. We encourage you to share this document with your board and any other interested parties.

9. Presentation: eRead Illinois status and transition, Leila Heath, RAILS

Filapek (RAILS) discussed the significant disruption caused by Baker & Taylor's closure, emphasizing the urgent need to preserve the eRead collection of over 80,000 titles on the Boundless platform, which may become unavailable in weeks. RAILS is prioritizing a quick transition to the Palace Project, a process usually taking months to years, due to the urgency of the situation. Heath (RAILS) discussed the transition from eRead to the Palace Project due to Baker & Taylor's closure. She explained that the shared collection would migrate to the Palace Project app by December 2nd, after the app's closure on November 17th, to avoid disrupting users during the Thanksgiving holiday. Layla emphasized the importance of library onboarding in the next two weeks and highlighted the Palace Project's benefits, including aggregated e-book and audiobook access, favorable licensing terms, and access to Audible titles. She also addressed questions about Boundless accounts and assured libraries that they could transfer these accounts to Palace Project if desired. Heath clarified that costs for patrons would remain unchanged, with RAILS subsidizing the project and a platform fee for Palace Project. Hold limits were set at five per patron, and patrons were advised to jot down their holds and checkout history, which cannot be transferred to the new app. The intended launch date was set for the December 2nd, with operations starting in the morning to ensure support if issues arise. Behm (RAILS) confirmed that the platform would be SOPA compliant for schools and that a new admin portal would be available upon platform setup, with training sessions planned by Lyrisis.



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Heath state that two webinars have been scheduled to discuss the new platform, November 10th at 11am and November 13th at 2pm. One session will be recorded with the recording available for those who cannot attend a live session.

9.1. ACTION: Approve request to withdraw from Union List Membership in FY27 for Dakota CUSD #201

Coulter (PrairieCat) explained that On September 25, 2025, PrairieCat received an email from the director of the Dakota CUS District #201, notifying us that they would like to withdraw from PrairieCat in FY27. Dakota is a union list member. They are currently not adding materials to the system and are not filling or requesting holds.

Motion #2: Ryan (JO) moved and Posinger (SA) seconded to approve Dakota CUSD #201 withdraw from Union List Membership in FY27. There was no discussion on the motion. Motion carries by vocal affirmation.

Ayes: 96

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

10. Review, PrairieCat annual financial audit results

Coulter (PrairieCat) stated that PrairieCat received, once again, a clean audit. There were no notes besides the notification of a couple of GASB rule changes for next year. Thank you to PrairieCat's accountants who do great work to ensure clean audits.

11. Presentation: Stephanie Nissen, Rockford University: My Library is...grant, Audio Lab project

Nissen (RU) gave a presentation detailing Rockford University's experience with the My Library Is....grant.

12. Public comments via previously submitted email (see above), in person or online

There were no public comments.



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13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:29 am.

14. Next regularly scheduled meeting, January 28, 2026