



**PrairieCat Finance Committee  
Minutes  
Thursday, Jun 17, 2021  
2:00 p. m. – 3:00 p.m.**

The committee met virtually due to the coronavirus pandemic in accordance with SB 2135.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Members of the public will be able to chat or speak during the virtual Zoom meeting during the public comment. Public comments may be submitted via email to [Carolyn.Coulter@railslibraries.info](mailto:Carolyn.Coulter@railslibraries.info) at least two hours before the meeting.

Register online at L2 or at the following URL:

[https://railslibraries.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlkcemqz0qH9H6KGnuks30R8I5\\_hwmnhNV](https://railslibraries.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlkcemqz0qH9H6KGnuks30R8I5_hwmnhNV)

1. Call to Order, introductions  
Present via Zoom: Angela Campbell (RP), Carolyn Coulter (PrairieCat), Maria Meachum (WL), Lauren Offerman (Chair-TC), Elizabeth Smith (PrairieCat), Bryon Lear (MX), Nick Weber (WO), Laura Watson (HC)  
  
Absent: Jay Kalman (UE), Chelsey DeSplinter (PrairieCat), Penny Bryant (PT), Michael Skwara (HC)  
  
Offerman (TC) called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.
2. Introduction of Guests and Public Comment  
There were no guests or public comments.
3. Approve minutes of March 18, 2021 meeting  
**Motion #1: Meachum (WL) moved and Campbell (RP) seconded to approve the March 18, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. There was no discussion on the motion. Motion carries by vocal affirmation.**
4. Review and discussion, FY22 Pay scale  
Coulter (PrairieCat) recommended a 1.7% pay scale increase based on recommendations from HR Source and their annual Article on Structure Adjustments. Adjusting the pay scale ensures against wage compression.

This would go to Administrative Council and then to Delegates Assembly for final approval. The committee agreed to recommend the pay scale to the Administrative Council.

5. Discussion, finance meetings going forward  
With Illinois in Phase 5 of recovery and the end of remote meeting waivers, the Finance Committee will need to meet in-person due to OMA requirements since it is a board committee.

There is an in-person quorum requirement of five attendees. Coulter said she can put a call out for additional members if any current members want to step down. We may want to move the meeting time earlier in the day if we have to meet in-person such as 10 am.

Meachum (WL) suggested checking with the RAILS lawyer just to be sure the committee does need to meet in-person. Coulter will follow-up on that.

6. Review and discussion, Innovative Vega SaaS agreement, and possible membership level options  
Coulter (PrairieCat) explained Innovative would like us to sign a SaaS agreement for their Vega patron enhancement suite, as well as upgrade to their Vega Discover in our new contract year. Discussion about our involvement going forward, as well as how we will approach funding, needs to be considered.

Coulter (PrairieCat) shared the details in the packet that show the cost estimates for Vega and the cost savings of products that would be replaced by Vega. Discover is about 90,000. The Engagement Suite that includes Connect, Interact, and Promote is about another 65,000. The difference between moving to Vega is about 62,000.

Coulter (PrairieCat) wants to discuss options that would allow the membership to opt-in to the Engagement Suite as not all libraries would be interested. Perhaps another level of PrairieCat membership – PrairieCat Plus that would include these additional products.

Offerman (TC) suggested comparing costs from the patron engagement tools like Patron Point, LibraryWare etc. so that it is easier to compare adding the Vega patron engagement products. Offerman said she thinks looking into PrairieCat Plus is a worthwhile idea.

Meachum (WL) asked if there would be a la carte pricing. Coulter (PrairieCat) said this is priced for the whole consortium and is a three-year contract. Coulter asked the Innovative Sales Representative what the costs would be if only twenty members were interested, but has not heard back yet. As a development partner, PrairieCat has the opportunity to emphasize the need for individualized options. Coulter said the Vega

products are heavily integrated with the discovery layer so it will depend on what the software is capable of. Since PrairieCat is a development partner, the Vega products are discounted as shown in the packet.

The committee agreed it is worthwhile to investigate the idea of the PrairieCat Plus level. Coulter (PrairieCat) said the membership has a breadth of budgets and needs so she is trying to balance the need to be progressive with software while allowing the libraries who cannot afford it to opt out.

Coulter shared for FY23, RAILS is going to start charging PrairieCat for in-kind services. Meachum (WL) asked if PrairieCat is able to apply for any of this COVID relief funds, or grants through ILA.

## 7. Adjournment

Next meeting: September 16, 2021, 2:00 – 3:00pm, location TBD and online.