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Outagamie Waupaca Library System

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Date: June 4, 2024
To: All OWLS member libraries' Boards of Trustees
From: Bradley Shipps, Director, Outagamie Waupaca Library System
Subject: Outagamie and Waupaca Counties Library Planning
Cc: All OWLS member libraries' Directors

Wisconsin counties that participate in public library systems are responsible for providing library services to county residents who reside outside of communities that maintain their own libraries. Because Outagamie and Waupaca Counties are members of the Outagamie Waupaca Library System (OWLS), each county is required to engage in regular planning to ensure that county residents have access to adequate library services.

While county library service plans can address any appropriate issues, *Wisconsin Statutes* Section 43.11 requires that the plan address at least the following:

- How public library service will be provided to residents of those municipalities in the County not maintaining a public library.
- The method and level of funding to be provided by the County in order to implement services described in the plan, including the reimbursement of municipal libraries for providing countywide library service.
- A method for allocating membership on the OWLS Board between Outagamie and Waupaca Counties.

The current 5-year Outagamie and Waupaca Counties Library Service Plans will expire at the end of 2024. Both counties' Boards of Supervisors have appointed members of the OWLS Board of Trustees to serve as their county library service planning committees.

County library planning committee meetings will be held concurrently with OWLS Board of Trustees meetings on June 20 and July 18, 2024 at 6:00 pm at the OWLS office and online via GoToMeeting. Agendas will be posted on the OWLS web site and distributed to libraries via email. Additional meetings may be scheduled as needed to complete a draft plan. Per statute, a public hearing will be held prior to submitting the plans for consideration to their respective County Boards of Supervisors.

Member libraries are invited and encouraged to participate in this planning process. Planning documents will be shared on the OWLS web site for your review. Meetings will include opportunities for public participation, and you are welcome to submit comments and questions for the committee to OWLS Director Bradley Shipps at bshipps@owlsweb.org or call 920-832-6368.