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The Board reviewed the 2013 financial picture prior to audit. An unexpected surplus of $54,000 ($48,000 after audit) is projected due to less than budgeted costs for personnel. Three employeessuffered non-work related injuries and there was a staff vacancy for three months. The surplus will be transferred into the depleted Technology Reserve.

The Board discussed long-term sustainability for Peace Library System. Despite a balanced budget in 2014, deficits are expected in 2015 and beyond to continue current services. This is largely due to regular staff salary increments, and increasing costs for technology support and regional library collections. As well, capital funds (currently sitting at $296,000) will be depleted by 2018. The Board approved two actions to ensure long-term sustainability:

* Beginning in 2015 – Use $.50 per capita of the library allotment funds to help fund regional collections.
* Beginning in 2016 – Increase the municipal local appropriation by five per cent per year.

Information about these plans will be going out to library boards and member municipalities in the coming months.

Dwight Nagel, President of the Alberta Library Trustees’ Association (ALTA), reviewed ALTA’s mandate and membership base, and discussed the challenges of working with a very slim budget. He also reviewed the results of an ALTA trustees survey made available in September, 2013. He thanked PLS for its support for ALTA over the years.

The Board reviewed the *2014 Annual Survey and 2013 Annual Report of Public Library Systems in Alberta*. Statistics show steady activity in ordering, cataloguing, training for member libraries, and items lent from the PLS collection.

The Director reported that she has scheduled 22 presentations with member Councils to orient new councilors and review PLS services and benefits.

A Communities Initiative Program (CIP) matching grant of $15,940 has been received to purchase a vehicle for staff who provide consulting, technical or board support.

The Consulting Services Manager reported that a new Library Consultant will be joining the System on May 5th to fill a position left vacant in February.

The Technical Services Manager reported that staffing is back at full strength after non-work related injuries, and the resulting cataloguing backlog is being addressed as quickly as possible.

The IT Services Manager reported that a new feature called Community Profiles has been added to Polaris. Community organizations & events can be displayed in the library catalogue.

## Present:

## Veronica Bliska (Chair) MD of Peace

Mary Hermans Town of Beaverlodge

## Lorrie Shelp MD of Big Lakes

Terry Carbone Birch Hills County

Ray Skrepnek (Vice Chair) MD of Fairview

Larry Chorney Town of Fairview

Lynn Farrell Town of Falher

## Chris Stadnyk Town of Fox Creek

Brock Smith County of Grande Prairie

Tom Burton MD of Greenview

Michael Morgan (by phone) Town of High Level

Murray Kerik MD of Lesser Slave River

Philippa O'Mahony Town of McLennan

Cheryl Novak Village of Nampa

## Carolyn Kolebaba Northern Sunrise County

Elaine Manzer Town of Peace River

Claude Lagace Town of Sexsmith

Philip Lokken Town of Slave Lake

### Raoul Johnson MD of Smoky River

### Elaine Garrow MD of Spirit River

### Warren Stewart Town of Valleyview

Tara Jones Town of Wembley

## Regrets:

## Peter Frixel Clear Hills County

Vacant Village of Donnelly

Lynne Coulter Grande Prairie Public Library

Dirk Thompson Town of Grimshaw

###### Donna Deynaka Town of High Prairie

Linda Halabisky County of Northern Lights

### Reta Nooskey Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement

Dollie Anderson MD of Opportunity

Paul Smith Town of Rainbow Lake

Tom Villeneuve Village of Rycroft

### Cindy Clarke Saddle Hills County

Brenda Stanich Town of Spirit River

**Absent:**

## Ron Longtin Village of Berwyn

Dwight Logan City of Grande Prairie

Sharilynn Dionne Village of Hines Creek

## Carol Descoteaux Village of Hythe

Brenda Kerr Town of Manning

**Quick Facts 2014**

Population Served: 153,400

Members: 37 municipalities & 1 Metis Settlement

Member Public Libraries: 45

Contracting Schools: 51

Director: Linda Duplessis

*Connecting libraries, people and resources through teamwork, technology and training*

**Board Meeting Highlights**

**March 22, 2014**

*This summary is an awareness tool designed to keep you informed about Peace Library System activities and Board decisions. It is distributed to member councils, library boards and the Peace Library System Board of Directors after each Board meeting.*