

MVLS Governance Structure Review Committee

Meeting, May 7, 2025

Meeting Notes (DRAFT)

Present: Bill Bonner, Mary Donohue, Susan London, Terry Pavoldi, Madelyn Thorne, Eric Trahan, Erica Wing. **Excused:** Bev Osborne, Haileab Samuel. **Guests:** No guests

Call to Order: MVLS President Bill Bonner called the meeting to order at 2:32. Bill welcomed and thanked all.

Future Meetings: Members reached consensus that the next meeting will be May 28 at 2:30. If all continues to go well, this may be the last committee meeting in 2025.

Previous Meeting Minutes: The committee voted to approve the April 23 meeting minutes. Motion: Madelyn Thorne; Second: Mary Donohue. All approved.

Conflict of Interest Policy:

The committee agreed to use the Mid Hudson Library System policy as a model. Specific changes were suggested in Article I and Article III. Eric will compile a draft policy for distribution to the committee and to Cole Adams. The expectation is that the policy will be approved by the committee on May 28, for subsequent presentation to the MVLS board for their action.

Ethics Statement

The committee discussed draft Ethics Statement that was distributed before the meeting. The draft statement was based on the ALA/United for Libraries statement, but was altered to include content from a variety of other sources. The Committee made several specific suggestions for changes to the wording in some sections. Eric will compile the edits for distribution to the committee and to Cole Adams. The expectation is that the statement will be approved by the committee on May 28, for subsequent presentation to the MVLS board for their action.

The committee members then performed an extensive review of both documents, making sure they incorporate all relevant concepts.

Bylaws Housecleaning Items

The committee reviewed various updates to the MVLS Bylaws. Seven specific proposed amendments were suggested, most adding new content to the bylaws. These include:

- Include a reference to the Ethics Statement and COI policy
- Addressing board evaluation and CEO evaluation
- Addressing trustee attendance and trustee education requirements
- Adding information on the President and Director speaking for the board
- Adding a 3-year review of bylaws requirement

Bill Bonner adjourned the meeting at 4:01.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 28, 2:30 at MVLS.