The October meeting of the North Central Regional Library Board of Trustees was called to order by Chairperson Deborah Moore, who joined the meeting by phone, as did Board Member Lynn Beltz. Board Members Jim Brucker, Gail Huntley, and Barbara Wolff were in attendance. Executive Director Dean Marney, Director of Public Services Dan Howard, Associate Director Marilyn Neumiller, Finance Manager Sue DeWitz, HR Manager Dixie Taylor, and Administrative Assistant Anne Brangwin were also present.

The Minutes and Agenda of the previous meeting were accepted as presented.

The Director’s report included Personnel, KOHA, Branches, Litigation, and Buildings. Taylor will be leading workshops on NCRL’s benefit plans on October 18th, 25th, and 27th at the Distribution Center, the Ephrata Library, and the Omak Library. The first group of staff will be trained on the new ILS, KOHA, on November 14-16. Howard and Marney will meet with officials from the City of George to discuss the new branch. Marney and Howard met with Ephrata City Administrator Wes Crago to discuss the Ephrata Branch and the possibility of annexation. Ephrata is currently a contracting city. Judge Shea has moved the hearing on the pending cross-summary judgment motions as they relate to the Washington Supreme Court’s ruling on the certified question to Tuesday, October 25th, at 3:00 p.m. at the Federal Courthouse in Richland. The Distribution Centers meeting rooms have been busy with outside groups. There have been more skate board barriers added at the front entrance of the Distribution Center to limit vandalism.

Howard presented the October Branch Report. Children’s Services Manager Angela Morris was selected by the Washington State Department of Early Learning to be a 2011 Early Learning Cohort. She also was awarded a $2,000.00 grant. Republic Library T-LAB has begun contributing book reviews to the Ferry County View, a new weekly newspaper. Amazon.com’s Kindle e-reader is now compatible with NCRL’s Overdrive eBooks. NCRL employees teamed up with the Manson Library Board and Friends to clear out the library in order to install new carpet, and then after the carpet was installed helped move everything back in. Architect Gale Britt developed a final version of plans to renovate the basement of the Wenatchee Public Library to create a new children’s area. Teen Book expert Jonathan Hunt presented his annual Books for Tweens and Teens workshop on September 27th at the Distribution Center with 30 NCRL employees attending. Neumiller presented basic computer skills training for the public at the Wenatchee Public Library and at the Leavenworth Library. 32 NCRL employees attended the Cultivating Volunteers workshop sponsored by the Washington State Library on September 20th.
A Financial Report including fund balances, a listing of bills to be paid, and payroll was presented. Fund balances at the Chelan County Treasurer's office as of September 30, 2011 were reviewed: General Fund $8,610,023.60, Automation Fund $433,513.58, Facility Improvement Fund $435,100.35, Payroll Fund $1,194,667.39 and Endowment Funds $431,769.49. Wolff moved that vouchers #56112 through #56223 in the amount of $481,490.86 and payroll in the amount of $294,447.99 be approved for payment. Huntley seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The Board reviewed expenditures from the Endowment Funds. Brucker moved that voucher #116 through #0117 in the amount of $75.40 be approved for payment. Huntley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The 2012 Budget was discussed including health benefits and salaries. Marney recommended that NCRL move from providing employees with Washington Counties Insurance Fund’s 200 plan to the 500 plan and to also offer the 750 plan and the High Deductible Health Plan. Huntley moved to accept the recommendation; Wolff seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The Board then discussed granting employees a COLA in 2012. It was decided that that a preliminary budget be drafted around a 1.9% cost of living increase.

The next meeting of the North Central Regional Library Board of Trustees will be November 10, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. at the Distribution Center in Wenatchee WA.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Dean Marney, Executive Director

Deborah Moore, Chairperson