

Incentives Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 3, 2019 | 10:00am

1) Roll Call

- ✓ Richard Swierat, Chair (D)
- ✓ Stuart Auchincloss (U)
- ✓ Sharon Davis (C)
- ✓ Priscilla Goldfarb (P)
- ✓ Mary Linda Todd (G)
- Mark Wilson (ex officio) (C) [excused]
- ✓ Rebekkah Smith Aldrich (Staff Liaison)
- ✓ Casey Conlin, MHLS (Staff Liaison)

2) Review of process for Construction Grant Award Recommendations

- a) Rebekkah reported that the Governor has signed into law the restoration of the \$20 million to the State Aid for Library Construction Program as well as the three year extension of the 75/25 reduced match opportunity.
- b) Staff provided an overview of the funding program, noting that these funds are for both member library and library system capital needs. Within the Commissioner's Regulations that govern the administration of this grant program 40% of the aid allocation is eligible to fund System projects. Rebekkah explained the pre-application work, which provided the member libraries the necessary information and criteria to apply. The pre-grant application process started in April and continued through the grant deadline with a number of training sessions in person and by webinar. The grant portal was open in June and the deadline was August 2nd.
- c) The Committee agreed to proceed with ranking member library applications using the priorities approved by the MHLS Board of Trustees at the March 2019 MHLS Board of Trustees meeting which are posted at <https://midhudson.org/nysconstructiongrant/>
- d) The committee agreed to assign one "point" per priority addressed by the applicant to generate the rankings of applications.

3) Presentation of MHLS' Construction Grant Applications

- a) Rebekkah presented the MHLS application for funding through the program this year, as recommended by the Facilities Committee and endorsed by the full board. The total amount sought for funding of MHLS projects through this program this year is 2.4% of the available 40% of the MHLS Allocation: Replacement of second floor condenser and air circulation units with

equipment meeting MHLS energy conservation useful life maintenance guidelines. Total project cost: \$61,796. The committee recommends this project for funding in amount noted on the attached chart.

ACTION: The Incentives Committee recommends that the MHLS Board approve the MHLS application for replacement of the second floor condenser and air circulation units.

- 4) **Review and Ranking of Member Library Construction Grant Applications**: The committee ranked the nine (9) member library applications received using the process described in item #2 above and directed MHLS staff to develop an equitable funding formula based on those rankings. It was noted that all libraries' whose chartered service population meets the [board approved definition for an "economically disadvantaged community"](#) receive a higher award amount because of this via the formula. The award amount recommendations are attached to this report for the board's consideration.

ACTION: The Incentives Committee recommends that the MHLS Board approve the recommended award amounts presented in the attached document for the MHLS portion of the 2019-2020 State Aid for Library Construction program.

- 5) **Guidance on Assignment of Additional Funds**: The committee directed MHLS staff to reallocate any funds a) turned down by members recommended for funding or b) offered by NYS in addition to MHLS' allocation as equitably as possible across all libraries recommended for funding.
- 6) **Debrief/Suggestions for 2020 Process**: The committee reviewed its own process and identified items to consider for the 2020 grant program and beyond:
- a) The committee discussed enhancing the "increase in access" priority to explicitly note that more access to ESL segments of the community as well as those projects that are co-located with other facilities fall under this priority.
 - b) The committee discussed how best to help libraries with new construction projects receive the energy conservation point in future grant cycles.
 - c) The committee reviewed the Reduced Match Opportunities:
 - i) 75/25 match: Economically Disadvantaged Community Definition
 - (1) The Committee agreed to allow libraries to use more recent data available from the American Community Survey (ACS) through the US Census next year.

- (2) The Committee would like the definition reviewed after we receive the data from the 2020 Census
 - ii) 90/10 match: defined by NYS legislation, likely to begin in the 2020-2021 grant cycle
 - d) The committee encouraged staff to create a professional development opportunity that showcases the latest developments in library design and furniture.
- 7) **Public Comment:** none
- 8) **Other Items:** none