

Marigold Library System
Board of Management
Saturday, January 29, 2011
Videoconference via 4 Locations

MINUTES

At Strathmore	At Hanna	At Airdrie	At Cochrane
<p>Maxine Booker – MD of Acadia Marilyn King – Chestermere Pat Fule - Strathmore Berniece Bland – Wheatland County</p> <p><u>Staff</u> Clara Cao Kari Colville Alison McMillian Steven Pattison Carlee Pilikowski Sarah Stephens (recording) Sandy Watson</p>	<p>Elaine Michaels – Cereal Helen Veno – Special Areas #2 Lil Morrison – Starland County</p> <p><u>Staff</u> Laura Taylor Shona Gourlay</p>	<p>Shelley Sweet – Airdrie Al Campbell – Three Hills Debbie Habberfield – Rocky View County</p> <p><u>Staff</u> Lynne Thorimbert</p>	<p>Lynda Lyster (Chair) – MD of Bighorn Carney Raitz-Wakaryk – Canmore Arn Hoffman – Kananaskis I.D.</p> <p><u>Guests</u> Marilyn Foxford - Canmore Dale Chenoweth –Cochrane</p> <p><u>Staff</u> Michelle Toombs Denise Fung</p>
	<p><u>Vacancies:</u> Cochrane Longview Morrin Special Areas #3</p>	<p><u>Regrets without notice</u> Dianne Phillips – Beiseker John Serkiz – Drumheller Glen Keiver – Kneehill County Lyle Cawiezel – Munson Rosana Ramos – Special Area #4 Henry Jackson – Youngstown</p>	<p><u>Regrets</u> Marj Olafson – Acme Diane Osberg – Black Diamond/Turner Valley Sherri Rice – Carbon Lisa Myers-Sortland – Consort Donna Isaac – Delia Dony Habich – Empress Barb Beary – MD of Foothills Christine Boyd – Ghost Lake Cathy Watts - Hanna Linda Schafer – High River Kristen Anderson - Hussar Lisa Constintini – Irricana Kathie Putman – Linden Gordon Thomson - Oyen Alison Roppel – Rockyford John Getz – Standard Ellen Vickerman – Trochu Sandra Barker – Waiparous</p>

1. Call to Order

L. Lyster called the meeting to order at 9:33 am.

1.1 Welcome – All Locations

- L. Lyster thanked everyone for coming out on this snowy day. She asked the hosting locations to provide a short greeting. L. Lyster provided some videoconference tips.

1.2 Introduction of Delegates, Guests, and Staff

- Marigold Board Members and Marigold staff introduced themselves from each of the locations.

1.3 Welcome to New Board Members

- L. Lyster welcomed new Board member, Shelley Sweet from the City of Airdrie. There are Board vacancies in Cochrane, Longview, Morrin and Special Area #3.

1.4 Review of Documents – M. Toombs

- M. Toombs reviewed the documents for the meeting.

2. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: M. Booker/L. Morrison

To approve the Agenda as amended.

CARRIED

- Moved: 4.4.1 Contingency Plan for Finance to 5.2.3
- Added: 5.4 2011 Minister Award for Excellence and Innovation
- Added: 5.4.1 Application for RISE Network Project
- Added: 5.4.2 Application for Teen Summer Library Experience

3. Minutes of the November 20, 2010 Board Meeting

MOTION: B. Bland/M. King

That the minutes of the November 20, 2010 Board Meeting be accepted as amended. CARRIED

- An error noted, change wording 5.1.3 “RISE funding will conclude in April 2011, but videoconferencing will continue.”

4. Consent Agenda

4.1 Transfer of Agenda Items from Consent Agenda

- There were no remaining items transferred from the consent agenda.

4.2 Motion to Accept Consent Agenda

MOTION: P. Fule/S. Sweet

That consent agenda items 4.3 - 4.5 be approved as presented, and filed for information.

CARRIED

5. Decision

5.1.1 Financial Statements to December 31, 2010

MOTION: D. Habberfield/A. Hoffman

To approve the unaudited Financial Statements to December 31, 2010. CARRIED

- M. Toombs explained the Financial Statements for December 31, 2010
- A. Hoffman asked what goes into training. M Toombs explained account # 5840 that it is for staff training.

5.1.2 RISE Financial Statements to December 31, 2010

MOTION: D. Habberfield/L. Morrison

To approve the unaudited RISE Financial Statements to December 31, 2010 CARRIED

- M. Toombs provided explanation for New Board Members. Marigold handles the accounting for the three Regional Library Systems.
- M. Toombs also explained that the funding for this project ends in April 2011.
- All three Regional Library Systems carry “in kind” expenditures of about \$20,000 each which works out to be \$180,000 of “in kind” expenditure’s over three years.
- A. Hoffman inquired if there is a functioning problem with the cameras is it covered in the service agreements. S. Pattison mentioned a clause about “due care,” if the cameras are dropped or mishandled then there is no coverage. He also mentioned that when the cameras have received repairs, there have been no additional costs associated.
- L. Lyster stated that RISE is an incredibly successful project.

5.1.3 2011 Budget – Final Draft

MOTION: A. Hoffman/E. Michaels

To approve the 2011 Budget – Final Draft. CARRIED

- M. Toombs spoke to this budget; there have been changes since the second draft.
- Column G shows an increase in fees

- The actual population numbers were released January 19th from Municipal Affairs. Marigold originally budgeted for a 3% increase and there is only a 2% increase in population.
- Strategic Planning (row 42) is being carried over into 2011.
- A. Hoffman asked about the progress of getting the policy and plans online. M. Toombs stated that the orange binders are being phased out and the policy and plans are on the Marigold website.
- L. Lyster commented on the 2011 Budget, it is a “best guess” and thanked M. Toombs for her hard work on preparing this final draft.

5.2 Policies and Plans

5.2.1 Schedule B – Materials Allocation 2011 (Collection Management Policy)

MOTION: C. Raitz-Wakaryk/M. King

- To approve Schedule B Materials Allocation 2011 as presented. CARRIED
- M. Booker, Chair of the Standards and Services Committee presented Schedule B.
 - M. Booker stated that the formula for 2011 has been revised and is based on \$3.50 per capita. For the past 3 years libraries received a 10% increase in their base allocation because of establishment funds. These funds were possible because of new municipalities that joined Marigold. In 2011, the additional funds will not be available. For small libraries, the base allocation is 140 items. The schedule was tentatively approved by the Standards and Services Committee in the fall with 2009 population numbers. The official population figures were not released until late last week which is why the schedule needs approval at this time.
 - M. Toombs added that the formula was changed because it was based on the Standards. Many libraries in Marigold have met and/or exceeded the Standard for collection size. The new formula will make it more sustainable and it also more closely resembles how other library systems allocate materials for member libraries.

5.2.2 Schedule A – Services Grant 2011 (Transfer Payments Policy)

MOTION: H. Veno/P. Fule

- To approve Schedule A Services Grant 2011 as presented CARRIED
- M. Booker presented Schedule A.
 - Marigold does not direct how library boards allocate the grant, but it is recommended that libraries use the money to assist with costs associated with resource sharing. Resource sharing is an important component of the library that results in libraries sending out and receiving thousands of materials each year to over 155 libraries in the province through the TRAC consortium. The schedule is reviewed annually to compensate for population changes.

5.2.3 Contingency Plan for Finance

MOTION: D. Habberfield

- To approve the Contingency Plan for Finance as presented. CARRIED
- D. Habberfield presented on behalf of the Executive Committee.
 - The Executive Committee reviews the plan annually to ensure funding is available to support the services and programs as outlined in the budget. The plan also provides direction for the Board Committees and staff in case of drastic revenue cuts or changes. Revisions to the plan include changing the length of time when committees meet if a municipality announces its plans to withdraw from Marigold. The section in reserves for Building, Equipment & Furniture appropriate for conducting operations was increased to \$750,000 from \$500,000 and the last statement about value of the building was removed.

5.2.3 Advocacy Policy – Advocacy Committee

MOTION: L. Morrison

- To approve the Advocacy Policy as presented. CARRIED

- Advocacy, which includes community relations, marketing, lobbying, public relations, and publicity, is a high priority for Marigold Library System. The policy has been reviewed several times by the Committee but has not been reviewed by the Board for a number of years. Some statements were taken out that were no longer applicable to the existing operation of Marigold. The policy may be reviewed again upon the completion of the Strategic Plan in 2011.

5.3 Marigold Board Committees

5.3.1 Nominating Committee – Volunteer needed

- L. Lyster explained that at the November Board Meeting, D. Chenoweth from the Town of Cochrane and E. Michaels from the Village of Cereal were nominated to the committee. Unfortunately, D. Chenoweth is no longer able to participate on this committee and another volunteer is required.
- The Nominating adhoc Committee finds the Chair and Vice-Chair plus the members-at-large for the Executive. Call for nominations are done after the Board meeting in January and the slate is brought to the AGM in April.
- E. Michaels added that there are usually two phone meetings and it can also be done by email. She stated that she will call K. Anderson to see if she is willing to volunteer again on this committee.

5.4 2011 Minister’s Award for Excellence and Innovation

- M. Toombs stated that in 2009 a committee of MLA’s recommended in the Framework for the Future report on the future of Alberta’s libraries, that the Government of Alberta identify and recognize public libraries that develop innovative programs, services or technologies.
- An award from the Minister responsible for public libraries was implemented in 2010. The awards program is a way to identify, acknowledge and encourage best practices, and to capture and communicate ideas that can be replicated by libraries across Alberta.
- Last year Okotoks Public Library was one of the recipients of the award in the “Excellence in a larger library” category.

5.4.1 2011 Application for RISE Network Jointly with Chinook Arch, and Shortgrass Regional Library Systems

MOTION: D. Habberfield/S. Sweet

To approve the application and acceptance for the 2011 Minister’s Award For Excellence and Innovation in Public Library Service by the RISE Network CARRIED

5.4.2 Application for Teen Summer Library Experience

MOTION: P. Fule/A. Campbell

To approve the application and acceptance for the 2011 Minister’s Award for Excellence and Innovation in Public Library Service for the Teen Summer Library Experience program. CARRIED

- M. Toombs explained that the Teen Summer Library Experience was an initiative by the Consultants at Marigold to create a more relevant and responsive summer program for teens. Last year, over 500 teens participated in the program in the summer. The teen website is still active and teens contribute artwork, and writing to the Teen Zine publication which is already in its second issue. Teens are currently submitting posters for the poster art contest that will design the look of the 2011 Teen Summer Library Experience.
 - Both Lynne and Denise commented on this project, and stated that they are very excited about its progress and future.
 - L. Lyster stated that she has high hopes of winning this award.

5.5 Upcoming Board Meetings

- Tuesday, April 19, 2011; AGM in Strathmore: 5:00-9:00pm., Strathmore Travelodge
- Saturday, August 27, 2011; Sheep River Library
- Saturday, November 19, 2011; Chestermere Library

- M. King volunteered the Chestermere Library to be the host of the November 19 Board Meeting

6. Items from the Consent Agenda

There are no items from the consent agenda.

7. Information

7.1 Meet the Staff – Sandy Watson - Acquisitions

- S. Watson provided information to the Board about the Acquisitions Department.

7.2 Updates

- See Background Notes – at end of minutes.

7.3 Information Sharing - Roundtable

- February 26, 2011 - Marigold Board Orientation will be held at the Strathmore Travelodge from 9:00-4:00pm
- S. Sweet – Airdrie, mentioned that the library just embarked on purchasing several Kobo readers and they will be having a library training session on them.
- D. Habberfield – Rocky View, wanted to commend Marigold on the articles written in the publication Vantage Point, and said the articles are an extremely valuable tool.
- L. Taylor mentioned that she writes the articles and will be happy to cater the articles to specific libraries or municipalities.
- A. Campbell – Three Hills, stated that everything is good right now.
- M. King – Chestermere, mentioned that in 2009 the Town Council did a language census and there are 62 languages being spoken in Chestermere other than English or French, and is very happy to see the world language book budget. She stated that they have a new library board member and there are 6 applicants for the vacant Director position.
- P. Fule – Strathmore, would like to increase the membership at the library and stated that there are a large number of international students who just hang out at the library. He would like to get them interested in the public library. He mentioned some concerns with the building that it is not large enough, whether they need to relocate or expand, the building does have issues and the Town of Strathmore will be looking at repairing them.
- M. Booker – Acadia, mentioned that the Paperback Deposit was moved from the bunk house in Bindloss to the community hall in Buffalo.
- C. Raitz-Wakaryk – Canmore, stated that it looks like the new library will happen. The new library will be part of a multiplex (library, climbing wall, community area). Currently, plans are to break ground in April 2011 with hopes that by 2012-2013 they will be in the new library. The current library is very well run and beautiful, but it is just too small for the community.

7.3 Book Draw, Display Draw

- Strathmore: M. Booker won the book, P. Fule won the display
- Hanna: E. Michaels won the book, but gave it to L. Morrison as she had won it recently, H. Venno won the display
- Cochrane: D. Chenoweth won the book, C. Raitz-Wakaryk won the display
- Airdrie: S. Sweet won the book, D. Habberfield won the display

9. Adjournment

- L. Lyster adjourned the meeting at 11:59 am.

Chair

Secretary

Marigold Board Meeting
29 January 2011 Background Notes: Michelle Toombs

1. Strategic Planning (4.4)

The Strategic Plan Planning Committee (Diane Osberg, Lynda Lyster, Debbie Habberfield, Barb Beary, Alison Roppel, Laura, Carlee and Michelle) met on 2 Dec at Airdrie Public Library. We spoke with consultant Anne Smith for almost an hour by videoconference. Anne has experience with strategic planning at Grande Prairie Public Library, Strathcona County Public Library and Spruce Grove Public Library; she is willing to navigate the entire strategic planning process for us from beginning to end, from January to April 2011, using the Sandra Nelson *Strategic Planning for Results* process which the Public Library Services Branch endorses. Because Marigold is a regional library system, not every part of Nelson's process is a good fit; however, there is a strong focus on finding out our communities' needs and preferences and then seeing how Marigold can best meet those needs and preferences. When the committee met again on 13 Jan, Anne reviewed her detailed Draft Process Guide and assisted with formulating the survey questions.

The stages of the Strategic Planning Process include:

1. Survey to be completed by 11 Feb.
2. Community Planning Event on 12 Mar (all day)
Feedback from survey questions which focus on the current situation and future directions will be used during the community planning event on 12 Mar.
3. Focus group feedback sessions for HQ staff and Member Library Staff on 21 Mar.
4. Goals and objectives session for the Planning Committee on 26 Mar (all day).
5. Draft final presentation for goals and objectives adjustments and approval to Executive Committee on 9 Apr
6. Plan of Service final report presentation to Marigold Board members at the AGM on 19 Apr.
7. Release of report to all member libraries and partners.

We look forward to and appreciate your participation in completing the survey and attending the Mar 12 Community Planning meeting. In fact, we need your involvement and participation! We are distributing invitations at the January Board meeting and have a sign-up sheet. For those who are not in attendance, we will mail the invitations.

2. Board Orientation

A Board orientation for Marigold Board members will be held on Saturday, 26 Feb at the Travelodge. Pat McNamee is coming from the Public Library Services Branch in Edmonton to give a session on Board governance from 10:00 to 2:30 pm. Leslie Duchak will do an introduction and a brief history of Marigold. Lunch will be provided. Marigold will pay for travel incurred by Marigold Board members.

3. 30th Anniversary plans

Marigold staffs, led by Carlee, are making plans to recognize and celebrate Marigold's 30th anniversary in 2011 at two events: the AGM on Apr 19 and the Member Library Workshop on May 4.

Our 30th anniversary is the perfect year to launch Marigold's Excellence in Library Service Award with two awards: one for a small-medium library and one for a medium-large library.

Carlee and Laura are also arranging for a plaque to be made and presented which acknowledges the important contributions of three founding Board members: Gaye Ross, Lucille Dougherty and Edith Helton.

4. RFP for Auditor

A motion was made by the Marigold Board on 20 Nov 2010 to approve the audit tender for the 2011 fiscal year. Based on documents prepared by other regional library systems, Michelle prepared an RFP (Request for Proposal) which has been reviewed and approved by our Treasurer, John Getz, and Executive Committee members. The RFP will be sent to a select list of auditing firms so that a recommendation for an auditing firm can be ready for a decision at the 19 Apr AGM. This is regarded as a good business practice and not a reflection on our relationship with our current auditing firm, Gregory Harriman and Associates, who has served us so well for many years.

5. Establishment Funds

There is \$445,007 in the Establishment Fund as of 17 Jan 2011. In the past year, \$57,452 was spent for materials expenditures in accordance with the 2010 Materials Allocation Schedule B. This 10% top-up from the Establishment fund was applied to the Materials Allocation budget for the last three years, concluding last year.

\$200,000 in the Establishment Fund has been earmarked for new library outlets in Rocky View County.

The Executive Committee passed a motion on 19 Jan to allocate \$50,000 from the Establishment in the 2011 Budget. This amount will be used for website development and training upon recommendation from the Standards and Service Committee, as well as contingency for bringing on a new library and RISE equipment expenses to support the Central Site.

There is no requirement that Establishment funds be spent within a specified timeframe or for a specified purpose.

6. New Websites for Marigold and Member Libraries

A website is an essential asset to an organization: to establish an identity; to provide services; to market those services; and to communicate and stay in touch with your community. In the past year, Marigold has been preparing a plan to provide websites for those libraries which do not currently have a website (25 out of 35 member libraries do not have a website). This has already been done by a number of regional library systems with good results. The websites will be hosted and maintained by Marigold, and the member library staff can add as much information (e.g., upcoming programs) as they wish or have time to input. Marigold will ensure that basic information, such as current opening hours, is current. For those libraries which already have websites, there is an option to exchange these websites for a Marigold template to gain access to the added functionality and services, such as being able to place a hold on a title in Polaris that is being promoted on the website.

Hybrid Forge is a web design and e-commerce software developer based in Alberta that is working with Yellowhead, Parkland and Chinook Arch regional library systems. Hybrid Forge was chosen as the vendor to create the infrastructure for Marigold's website templates because it is the only vendor that has developed website applications that are integrated with TRACpac and the Polaris database. By acquiring services from Hybrid Forge, Marigold will be able to partner with the other regional library systems to develop and maintain website applications and widgets.

Hybrid Forge will provide a platform for a centralized content management system and distributed article publishing; therefore, Marigold can develop and provide website templates for our member libraries that have interactive capabilities and yet are easy to refresh and maintain. Working in collaboration with Hybrid Forge, five websites will be launched in the first phase: Marigold HQ, Chestermere, Sheep River, Irricana and Carbon. After this pilot, groups of five will continue to be deployed until the project is finished. Marigold's teen website will also be part of the project and will have its own distinct cool look. Richard will be involved on the technical side with Hybrid Forge throughout the entire project. Carlee will work on content/design with the support of and feedback from staff and other stakeholders.

There are optional "widgets" including "This Day in History," "Current News," "Readers' Advisory," and "Polaris API Authentication" – they are all linked to TRACpac. Marigold staff members are excited to start work on this project and we will strive to have something to show everyone at the 19 Apr AGM.

It is recommended that each library have its own registered domain and Marigold intends to pay this cost for libraries at an approximate cost of \$10.00 per library per year.

Examples of Hybrid Forge's work with the other library systems include:

<http://www.chinookarch.ca/>

<http://www.yrl.ab.ca/>

<http://www.stonyplainlibrary.org/>

According to the quote received from Hybrid Forge, the projected cost of the initial phase of the project will be \$22,463 with GST. For each additional set of 5 sites (times seven because there will be additional sites such as the Teen Library site), the cost is \$1,569 with GST, to a total of \$10,983. The total project cost is \$33,446. We have inquired and this total is in line with what Hybrid Forge is charging other library systems.

This project has been budgeted with \$17,500.00 on line 92 of the 2011 Budget. In addition, there is \$10,000 earmarked from the APLEN Capacity Grant (to be spent by 31 Dec 2011) and \$11,000 from the Establishment Fund. That gives a \$5,000 cushion to cover interactive features that are developed and shared among the participating library systems.

7. Schedule C meeting (4.1.12)

The Ad Hoc Schedule C Committee determines the levy rate that municipalities and Library Boards are charged for membership in Marigold Library System and the current Schedule C concludes at the end of 2011. At the November Board meeting, L. Duchak (Okotoks), B. Beary (Foothills MD), and G. Thomson (Oyen) volunteered to be on the Schedule C Committee. M. Booker (Acadia Valley) also agreed to be on the committee if we hold the meetings by videoconference. An initial meeting will be scheduled by videoconference in early February.

8. Marigold Headquarters Staff news

Alison McMillan was hired as the Technology Assistant and began employment at Marigold on Monday, Dec 6. She graduated with a Library Technician Diploma from SAIT Polytechnic in 2008. Her library experience includes working at Jasper Public Library where she gained familiarity with TRAC & Yellowhead Regional Library System and working at the SAIT Library. She also worked at a middle school in Cochrane where she looked after a variety of computers and other technical equipment. Alison's primary duties will be to assist the IT and Network Specialist, Consultants, Consultation Assistant and Administrators with the provision of training and general IT support for Marigold Library System.

Kari Colville also began employment as the Accounting Administrator on Dec 6, replacing Natasha Shave who left on Oct 28. She was, most recently, an accounting technician at BDO Canada and has also worked for Gregory, Harriman and Assoc., our current auditing firm.

Jane Smith's last day was December 16 after 23 years of employment at Marigold. A celebration for Jane was held in January.

Work experience student, Kayla Knopf completed her term at Marigold at the end of December. Kayla was a great assistance with the Teen Reading Program and website and compiling information for the Strategic Plan.

Administrative Assistant Kristen Goebel resigned at the end of December. Former Administrative Assistant, Sarah Stephens, agreed to assist Marigold on a temporary basis during her days off until Marigold no longer needs her services. Sarah has been a tremendous asset during the month of January completing necessary tasks for the audit, Marigold Board and Executive meetings.

Presently, there are two vacancies at Marigold: the Administrative Assistant and Consultation Assistant positions. Postings in the Strathmore papers and the Foothills Library Association website have concluded and interviews have been scheduled.

9. RISE

Steven Pattison connected with AEMA (Alberta Emergency Management Agency) staff to plan for their use of RISE videoconferencing in southern Alberta communities. AEMA's goal is to train municipal officials and emergency response personnel in every community. This is an amazing opportunity that will enhance our RISE profile and bring attention to libraries. Other organizations are also taking notice of RISE and have contacted us to partner with them. On 24 January, Michelle and Laura attended a question and answer presentation led by MLA Arno Doerksen and Minister Lindsay Blackett. Mr. Blackett is familiar with the RISE project and its success.

A RISE Videoconference Advisory Meeting was held, by videoconference, on Nov 30. Expecting this to be our last meeting, I was surprised and pleased that the group wanted to continue. The Advisory group began meeting in Mar 2010 and has built a good practice of consultation and collaboration to promote, expand and sustain the use of videoconferencing by developing a "culture of use." The group includes consultants and directors from the three library systems as well as representatives from member libraries (Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Hanna and Sheep River), Alberta Parks and AXIA (SuperNet providers). After a SWOT analysis, members were assigned to four sub-committees, each of with a mandate to produce deliverables such as the RISE Tool Box (best practice resources for libraries on the new RISE website: <http://risenetwork.ca/resources/RISE-Toolbox/>). The subcommittees include: 1) contention development

and promotions/marketing; 2) partnerships and sustainability; 3) technology usage; and 4) evaluation and long term planning.

10. **TRAC**

A Polaris upgrade (our library system software) was successfully carried out on 19 Jan. New features and functionality include:

- Text messages to alert patrons about available holds; this is an option for patrons in addition to automated phone messages or email notification.
- Better “google-style” searching in TRACpac.
- More Titles/Authors Like This – expanded links to Novelist showing “where it is”
- Mobile access for Blackberries and other smart phones.
- Social network bookmarking

11. **Crossfield meeting**

Bonnie Gray from the Public Library Services Branch arranged a meeting with the Crossfield Library Board members on Jan 12 to discuss rejoining Marigold. Michelle and Laura shared information packages, presented for two hours to all 10 Board members and responded to many good questions about the process to rejoin, the impact of resource sharing and how collection selection would be handled. Joining Marigold would provide Crossfield residents with access to over three million items on TRAC, online customer convenience and e-resources, downloadable e-books and audio books, computer and network services and much more -- all for (less than) the cost of one paperback each year (levy amount per resident). The decision is presently under review by the Crossfield Board.

12. **Fortis collaboration**

Fortis Alberta has donated at least one power monitor to every member library in Marigold. They will be catalogued to appear in TRAC and will circulate to patrons. These monitors record and project the cost of power consumption on appliances. Fortis also plans to promote our collaboration, so we look forward to Marigold Libraries being featured in local newspapers. Steven successfully tried out the power monitor at his home and discovered that it costs \$5.77 to run his fish tank every month.

13. **University of Calgary Press Partnership**

Grey Matters, a Guide for Collaborative Research with Seniors was recently published by the University of Calgary Press to engage older adults in personal and/or group research projects. In addition to free print copies to participating libraries in Marigold, training will be provided to Marigold member library staff and community members using videoconference and in-person presentations. The training by the authors will focus on how to go about this research and how to draw out people’s stories. There will be a website to post this research and to share photos. For example, someone might want to know more about how and why their relatives settled in Alberta. A community might want to prepare for an upcoming anniversary. (This year Strathmore is celebrating its 100th Anniversary.) Take a look at this website for more information:

<http://www.uofcpress.com/books/9781552382516>

Donna Livingstone, the Director of the University of Calgary Press, will be doing a presentation at the Jasper Conference this year based on our collaboration, and I have offered to assist her.

This title is also unique in that it is the University’s first Open Access book and can be found completely online. There is already a lot of interest already, including quite a few hits from faraway Russia.

14. **Building Review**

Williams Engineering Canada was awarded the contract to do a building inspection of Marigold HQ on Tuesday, Oct 12. The report will go to Alberta Infrastructure first and then to the Public Library Services Branch, which is paying for the inspection. There is no firm deadline by which Marigold will see the report, but I am hoping that the report will come to Marigold sometime in March or April.

15. **TAL (The Alberta Library)**

An ad hoc committee has been formed to come up with a draft strategic plan for the TAL Executive Committee. Michelle was invited to participate in this committee and agreed to be the Chair. The committee, with representatives from UofA, UofC, Concordia College, Calgary Public Library, Edmonton Public Library, TAL and APLEN, is examining input from the awe-inspiring NEXT Futures Symposium, survey responses and discussions at past TAL meetings. We are currently working on coming up with an audacious, inclusive, forward-thinking VISION statement to recommend to the TAL Executive and TAL Board.

16. Rocky View County website

Marigold is featured on the Rocky View County website:

<http://www.rockyview.ca/Default.aspx?tabid=261>.

We are ready and willing to tailor information about Marigold and public libraries for other municipal websites. Please let us know who we could talk to about this for your area.

Laura has been writing compelling articles about public library service for the *Vantage Point* magazine, which is distributed to Rocky View residents. Take a look at her recent article entitled ***Libraries, an important part of your community*** on pages 26 and 27:

http://www.vpmagazine.ca/Jan_2011/index.html#/26.

17. Bouquet for Laura

Feedback about Marigold and about our individual staff efforts to enable our member libraries to achieve success is always welcome. Thank you for the many times that you have acknowledged the staff and given us valuable advice.

Here is a quote from Trudy Whitfield, Chair of the Irricana Library Board:

“Laura, thank you for the significant role you have played in our Council realizing the importance in increased funding to our library. You and Marigold provide not just an essential service to our library - you go above and beyond that. Your support is paramount in our efforts to bring our little library's standards to the next level... The comment that was closest to my heart that I heard from Council is that “the library is an essential service to our community.” Thank you again. I could not have done it without you.” Thanks Trudy and Laura!

18. New CEO for Shortgrass Regional Library System

The new CEO for Shortgrass Library System, Petra Mauerhoff, started January 3, 2011. Petra has experience in a variety of libraries across Canada including as Chief Librarian/CEO for Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL) in Nova Scotia where she was responsible for overseeing all library operations for the geographically largest library region in Nova Scotia. Prior to her Nova Scotia position, Petra was the Manager of Nunavut Public Library Services for the Government of Nunavut. She is currently serving her 3rd year on the Executive Council for the Canadian Association of Public Libraries (CAPL). In addition to her time spent in public libraries, Petra also has experience working in academic libraries, most recently as Manager of College Library Services for the College of the Rockies in Cranbrook, British Columbia, as well as in various positions at Dalhousie University, St Mary's and Mount Saint Vincent University Libraries in Nova Scotia, as well as special Library experience from the Goethe-institute in Montreal. We wish her well in her new position based in Medicine Hat.

19. MLA Framework Report update

This information was found on the new website created by Ken Feser at the Public Library Services Branch – a good site to find a great deal of current and useful library information:

<http://www.albertalibraries.ca/>

"Framework for the Future," the Report of the MLA Committee on the Future of Public Library Service in Alberta, was discussed in the Legislature on December 2, the last day in session.

An exchange between Teresa Woo-Paw, MLA for Calgary-Mackay, and the Honourable Hector Goudreau, Minister of Municipal Affairs, went as follows:

Ms Woo-Paw: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many of our public libraries are the focal point of community life. In 2008 an MLA committee on the future of public library services in Alberta was created. After consulting 11 communities throughout the province, the committee proposed 18 recommendations, and the government accepted 15 of them. All of my questions are to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Of the 15 recommendations that the government committed to, how many of them have been implemented?

Mr. Goudreau: Mr. Speaker, the government has implemented several of the 18 recommendations. For example, we've significantly increased the operating grant funding to library boards, and we've increased the bandwidth to public libraries through the Alberta SuperNet, and we've taken a much broader leadership role in public library policy and planning. As a government we're developing an integrated library policy to guide decision-making, strategic planning, and investment.

Ms Woo-Paw: Well, how will the minister ensure that the library experience continues to improve in our province so that Albertans can take advantage of the excellent library resources that our province has?

Mr. Goudreau: That's an excellent question. We're developing a provincial public library technology plan that will improve access and make more digital resources available. This way we can take advantage of technologies to improve service and reduce duplication. It's also worth noting, Mr. Speaker, that we're collaborating with key partners to increase services to print-disabled Albertans, our francophones, the aboriginal communities, and our new Canadians.

Ms Woo-Paw: My last question is to the same minister. How does your ministry work with other departments to support learning initiatives for children in Alberta?

Mr. Goudreau: Mr. Speaker, libraries are a key component of Alberta's strong communities, especially in tougher economic times. We are working with other ministries to develop a provincial approach to better position publicly funded libraries to meet the needs of Albertans. Our vision is that all Albertans, regardless of where they live, work, or read, will have improved access to information resources and expertise from our publicly funded libraries.