Sailor Advisory Committee
May 20, 2025
10:00 AM

MINUTES

Attendees: Michael C. Brown, Jason Marshall, Carla Moore, Susan Payne, Rudy Rodela, Stephanie Sopka, Rachael Stein, Liz Sunderman-Zinger, Amanda Watson

Call to order: The meeting started at 10:05 am.

Adoption of the Agenda: There were no changes to the announced agenda.

Approval of Minutes: Approval of Minutes: Rudy led the approval of the minutes from the March 18, 2025, meeting, with Jason motioning to approve and Bill seconding. The minutes were approved.

SLRC Oversight Commission Report: Rudy mentioned that the SLRC Oversight Commission recently met and the quarterly cycle report was linked in the meeting invite. There were no questions from the committee regarding the report.

Deferred Reports: Rudy noted that some members were unable to attend the meeting, so the MSLA report and the State Broadband Committee report would be deferred to the next meeting.

State Library Resource Committee Conference: Liz announced that the State Library Resource Committee is hosting a conference next week, with a virtual day on Tuesday and an in-person day on Wednesday. The conference will focus on disabilities, access, and libraries, and will feature a keynote speaker from the Department of Disabilities in Maryland.

Conference Details: Liz announced the upcoming conference hosted by the State Library Resource Committee, focusing on disabilities, access, and libraries. The conference will have a virtual day on Tuesday and an in-person day on Wednesday.

- The keynote speaker for the conference will be the Secretary of Operations for the Department of Disabilities from Maryland, who has 20 years of experience in the field.

- Liz mentioned that the conference will feature many excellent speakers and interesting vendors, showcasing technology and resources available for people with disabilities.

- Liz highlighted the accessibility features at the conference, including signs with QR codes for different disabilities, providing directions and information through modified text and audio.

State Library Resource Committee Exhibits: Liz shared that the committee is preparing an exhibit for Malcolm X's 100th birthday and plans to create more small traveling exhibits for branches and other locations around the state.

Future Exhibits: Liz shared plans to create a catalog of small traveling exhibits that can be lent to branches and other locations around the state. These exhibits will include two-sided pull-up banners and other compact displays.

Sailor Network Updates: Michael Brown provided updates on the Sailor network, including the operational status of the Eastern Shore regional pop and the new Leonardtown point of presence. He also mentioned that the redundant pop in Baltimore is nearing completion, but there are delays with the Hagerstown library fiber installation.

Operational Status: Michael Brown reported that the Eastern Shore regional point of presence (POP) and the new Leonardtown point of presence are operational. Michael mentioned that the redundant POP in Baltimore is nearing completion, with Comcast successfully testing the fiber splice. The final turn-up of the circuit is pending. Michael noted that Comcast has delayed the fiber installation near the Hagerstown library until August, which is later than initially anticipated.

Sailor Customer Service Update: Shane reported that there are no major updates for the Sailor customer service, and everything is stable at this time.

Marina Resource Sharing RFP: SLRC provided an update on the Marina resource sharing RFP process, stating that they are currently checking references and aim to select a vendor by the end of the fiscal year. They plan to announce the selected vendor by the next SAC meeting. SLRC outlined the implementation timeline, with preliminary meetings and project development starting after the vendor selection, and active implementation beginning January 1, 2026.

Statewide Delivery Vendor Issue: Rachael informed SLRC that their current delivery vendor, Hub City Express, dropped their contract with Southern Maryland. SLRC will follow up with Susan Grant for more information and to address any potential issues.

Digital Maryland Projects: Michael Johnson shared updates on Digital Maryland, including reaching 300,000 items and ongoing projects with the MD-250 Commission and the Maryland State Archives. They are also exploring new platforms to replace Content DM for better flexibility and functionality.

State Archives Collaboration: Michael shared that Digital Maryland is collaborating with the Maryland State Archives on a project to support community and participatory archives, providing archival training and support.

Platform Exploration: Michael mentioned that Digital Maryland is exploring new platforms to replace Content DM, aiming for better flexibility and functionality, including special exhibits and enhanced file management.

Sailor Databases Update: Michael Johnson provided an update on the Sailor databases, with the new selections set to launch on July 1. Additions include Chilton's, American Sign Language,

and Little PIM for young learners. Michael mentioned that they have met with all vendors and are finalizing setups and links for public libraries, with plans for marketing and training before the official launch.

Meeting Schedule and Vice Chair Proposal: Rudy mentioned that the proposed schedule for FY26 meetings will be sent out soon and suggested discussing the idea of having a vice or assistant chair for the committee at the next meeting.

Acknowledgment of Sailor Network Improvements: Amanda thanked Mike Brown and the Sailor Committee for getting their point of presence operational, which has provided stable internet after months of struggle.

Future Meeting Dates

Sailor Advisory Committee	SLRC Commission
August 27, 2025	September xx, 2025
November 18, 2025	December xx, 2025
February 17, 2026	March xx, 2026
May 19, 2026	June xx, 2026

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 10:44 am.