



Sailor Advisory Committee

September 29, 2026

10:00 AM

MINUTES

Attendees: Michael C. Brown, Michael Johnson, Paula Maciel, Jason Marshall, Susan Payne, Ryan Rickels, Rudy Rodela (Chair), Stephanie Sopka, Liz Sundermann, Amanda Watson, Shane Williams.

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: There were no corrections or additions to the draft minutes from the May 19, 2026, meeting. The minutes were adopted as drafted without objections.

Advisory Committee Reset

Members agreed that formal Advisory Committee reporting largely duplicates SLRC Oversight Commission reporting and should be replaced with a more practical workgroup model.

The workgroup would focus on core Sailor matters, highlighting library perspectives and concerns needing SLRC (SOC) attention. Digital Maryland and other SLRC-level topics should be included on an as-needed basis.

The governing MOU should be revised as a charter that defines purpose, scope, membership, selection, SLRC representation, support, and participant expectations.

The SLRC Commission must vote to reopen the group's scope. The revised MOU would then be developed collaboratively, returned to the Commission for approval, and signed by Chad Helton (EPFL) and Morgan Lehr (MSLA).

Workgroup outcomes would continue to be reported to the SLRC Commission and through reports to MAPLA.

Sailor Network Infrastructure

Michael C. Brown is coordinating the Anne Arundel County Public Library (AACPL) Headquarters circuit move. Rudy confirmed that AACPL expects to take possession of the new spaces and begin moving in on February 1, 2027, allowing the circuit move to remain as scheduled.

Lumen is replacing the legacy upstream circuit with a newer circuit expected to cost nearly 50% less. It will begin at 10 Gbps, temporarily support up to 30 Gbps during Baltimore infrastructure work, and ultimately support up to 100 Gbps.

County circuits will continue to be monitored. Some have exceeded 95% utilization during early-morning backups, then returned to normal levels.

Operations, Service Desk, and AI Readiness

Shane reported stable customer-support and service-desk operations, with no significant issues requiring escalation.

A yearlong initiative is standardizing SOPs across Operations, IT, Facilities, and Security to improve consistency, close cross-team gaps, and speed onboarding. Broader rollout may begin within one to two months.

The team will prioritize data governance over the next year so data is reliable, well managed, and secure before AI tools or automation are evaluated or implemented.

Statewide Resource Sharing

The statewide resource-sharing platform went live August 31 after testing, training, and resolution of a final patron-access issue affecting Frederick's Carlex system.

The team completed about eight weeks of peer testing and delivered 22 statewide training sessions to approximately 1,997 staff over roughly six weeks.

The first 30 days were designated as hypercare. No major outages occurred, although local workflows were sometimes disrupted by changes elsewhere in the system.

Maryland's highly integrated, customer-facing model requires more customization than the vendor's typical implementations while preserving local autonomy.

The new alphabetical lending setup has concentrated requests at branches at the top of the A-to-Z list. An enhancement request was submitted to improve distribution.

Relay remains available for transaction completion and cleanup through October 4. A reminder will be sent through the Marina listserv.

Courier Contract Planning

SLRC coordinates statewide connection-point routes, including exchanges with Amanda's team and routes serving Western and Southern Maryland. BCPL supports the Northeast corridor, and the contracted courier covers other connection points and the Northwest corridor.

The three-year courier agreement is entering its final year. Beginning January 1, the team will assess a one-year renewal versus another arrangement.

Digital Maryland and Sailor Databases

Digital Maryland usage continues to grow through expanded outreach to museums, historical societies, and statewide partners.

The team will evaluate the new ContentDM release and alternative digital-library platforms because of limitations in the legacy version.

Ten additional Wilbur collections are now live in Digital Maryland. Remaining collections require continued metadata and image-file remediation.

Prior-fiscal-year usage was stable or slightly higher across Mango, Gale, and HeritageQuest. HeritageQuest showed a modest increase after several years of decline.

Michael Johnson and Tracy Jeffcoat are contacting school systems with very low database usage to identify barriers and improve adoption.

Eisenhower Library Reopening

Susan Payne reported that Johns Hopkins University expects to return to the renovated Eisenhower Library in January 2027. The exact date is pending, and Susan will provide an update when confirmed.

The meeting concluded at 10:55 am.