

MARINet Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 7, 2025



Meeting Held at: 375 Throckmorton Ave, Mill Valley, CA 94941

Present:

Board Chair: Crystal Duran (Belvedere Tiburon) transition to Anji Brenner (Mill Valley)
Board: Sarah Frye (College of Marin), Damon Hill (Larkspur), Lana Adlawan (MCFL), Linda Kenton (San Anselmo), Daniel Avalos (San Rafael), and Jeffrey Jackson (Sausalito)
MARINet Staff: Jessica Trenary

Duran called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

- I. Determination of a Quorum – Yes
- II. Public Comment Period – None
- III. Consent Agenda
 - A. Election of Executive Committee: Anji Brenner as Chair, Linda Kenton as Vice Chair, and Lana Adlawan (*Action*)
 - B. Board Resolution – County of Marin as MARINet’s FY25-26 Fiscal Agent (*Action*)
 - C. Approval of Minutes from the June 5, 2025 Board Meeting (*Action*)

There were no requests to remove items. Kenton moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Jackson seconded. Unanimously approved by a voice vote.

- IV. Business Topics
 - A. Assistive Listening Upgrades in Libraries (*Discussion*) - The Board discussed current accessibility needs, available technology options, and possible collaborations. Brenner provided an overview of upgrades to assistive listening systems at the Mill Valley Public Library. The library offers three options: T-coil, “Williams” Wi-Fi network, and assistive listening packs. The first two connect via Bluetooth directly to hearing aids or AirPods. Before programs, staff announce the availability of assistive listening options. Franklin (MVY) is creating a video on using the microphone for speakers. Belvedere-Tiburon Library has four or five listening packs. For each program, a QR code to connect will be displayed on slides, and listening packs will be placed out with signage. Challenges have been related to speaker participation. Belvedere-Tiburon in their speaker agreement notes the requirement to use the microphone. Larkspur is focusing on improvements on the new library project. San Anselmo uses a wireless microphone outside and could extend its use indoors. MCFL plans to install assistive listening systems during the October 2025 to May 2026 refresh. The MCFL Tech and Board rooms are also planned for upgrades, though no date is set. Sausalito will upgrade A/V equipment in September for use in the community room during council meetings, including improved speakers.
 - B. Jurisdictions for Student Success Cards (*Discussion*) – The Board reviewed school district boundaries to clarify library jurisdiction for Student Success Cards, particularly in areas

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of overlap between library service areas. The group discussed potential approaches to coordination and joint efforts. Updates to the chart on packet page 8-9:

- MCFL should be included in the Tam Union District
- MCFL will take the lead in the Larkspur-Corte Madera District and Sausalito-Marín City
- Ahmad/MCFL will coordinate with Kristen/Mill Valley for Mill Valley District, and with Lindsey/San Anselmo for Ross Valley. Trenary will connect Kristen and Lindsey with Ahmad.

- C. School Library as MCFL Branch Scope (*Discussion*) – Trenary shared the plan to add Martin Luther King Jr. Academy and West Marin’s Nicasio School libraries as MCFL branches under MCFL’s jurisdiction. The project was presented as a pilot focused on equity and access, with no changes to MARINet membership or dues, and no formal action was taken. Trenary noted that a long-term partnership between MARINet and more Marin schools, through their respective libraries, would warrant a JPA revision. Dan McMahon, working on behalf of MCFL and under Trenary’s oversight, will configure system settings to support the project.

Hill left the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

- D. eBook Task Force Report (*Action*) - Trenary presented the eBook Task Force recommendations, highlighting long-term circulation trends and imbalances in digital versus print collection spending. The Board reviewed each recommendation and determined whether to implement, revisit, or take no action. Adlawan also asked to explore more information on OverDrive Advantage accounts. Trenary said she believed splitting the OverDrive account would increase staff workload and increase wait times on average, but that she would gather more information. **Duran moved to approve Recommendation #1, Kenton seconded. Unanimously approved by a voice vote.**

The remaining recommendations require additional work before the Board can consider them for adoption.

Recommendation #1 – Adopted

Recommendation #2 – Returned to Task Force for further review. Board overall supportive of reducing holds from 25 to 15. Task Force will develop plan and bring back to Board for approval.

Recommendation #3 – Referred to Circ Working Group; to report back to Board

Recommendation #4 – Not advanced at this time

Recommendation #5 – Returned to Task Force for further review. Support for formally adopting a shared print holds ratio, even if funding is not diverted to eBook spending.

Recommendation #6 – Not advanced at this time

Recommendation #7 – Referred to Digital Resources Working Group; to report back to Board.

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Recommendation #8 – Not advanced at this time

Recommendation #9 – Not advanced at this time

The meeting was recessed from 11:00 to 11:10 a.m.

E. Board Resolution – Overdrive Funds FY25-26 (*Action*) - Trenary presented a financial overview showing strong reserve levels and recommended allocating \$250,000 from the reserve fund to support OverDrive purchasing in response to continued digital demand. **Adlawan moved to enlarge the budget object 80248671-522510 by \$250,000 with funds from Prior Year Fund Balance to support the purchase of additional OverDrive content in FY25-26, Duran seconded. Unanimously approved by a voice vote.**

F. Form Board Task Force about Library Support Groups (*Action*) - The Board agreed to form a task force to explore the role of Friends groups and Library Foundations in supporting each other. **Duran moved to form a Library Support Groups Board Task Force of Kenton, Duran and Adlawan, to explore the role of Friends groups and Library Foundations in supporting consortium-wide initiatives, Kenton seconded. Unanimously approved by a voice vote.**

G. Grand Jury Report (*Discussion*) - Trenary provided an overview of the Marin County Civil Grand Jury's June 2025 report, *Who's Minding the Store?*, which evaluated financial accountability and transparency among Marin's special districts and JPAs. MARINet was named in the report for initially lacking several website transparency elements but was noted as having responded quickly; recent updates were reviewed to confirm current compliance. Duran said Belvedere Tiburon will also be making updates to their website based on information in the report.

V. Standing Agenda Items

A. Library Advocacy (*Discussion*) – Duran asked the group for input on legislative priorities to share with her committee work for CA State Library. The group discussed Zip Book funding, book bans and challenges, and future of federal and state library funds.

B. Library Announcements (*Discussion*) –

- Kenton – First Partner of California, Jennifer Siebel Newsom, visited San Anselmo Library for an event and it was highlighted in the Marin IJ. HVAC and library refresh date TBD.
- Frye – Summer weeding is progress! Working on mapping out collection for move. Most likely collection will be suppressed from October 2025 to January 2026.
- Duran – Hiring Circulation Lead. Codesigned a sustainability initiative with patrons and community and will share more with Board in a future MARINet Board meeting. Adding new Library of Things – ice cream maker, pressure washer, highchair. Used patron/community input to choose items. 30-year celebration on Sept 7th.

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- Avalos – Adding several new staff positions. The Pickleweed branch renovation is moving forward, most likely in October. No news on Northgate status, as the mall moves forward with construction. Pop-up is closed and the library is back in Downtown, with a party to celebrate on Sept. 20th.
 - Jackson – Sausalito is adding the Library Speakers Consortium subscription. Their Zoom Room has been purchased, and they are waiting on shipping information.
 - Adlawan – MCFL will be embarking on a 10-branch refresh from October 2025 to June 2026. The County will discontinue requesting ID or address verification with new library card applications.
 - Brenner – Mill Valley is expanding their Library of Things collection. They will be hosting a Talent Show, similar to a program from the 1970s.
- C. Systems Administrator Report (*Discussion*) – Trenary gave a brief update – highlighting the eight grant applications through the CENIC Connectivity Program, including one for staff network training and seven to replace outdated firewall hardware. Additional updates included migrating the “lists” server to new hardware, completing fiscal year-end reporting, and coordinating system changes tied to SRPL’s branch closures and reopening.

Brenner adjourned the meeting at 11:57 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Trenary