



Recollection Wisconsin Governing Board Meeting Summary Notes

Tuesday, May 20, 2025 | 1 - 3 pm

Leadership Updates

- The Governing Board welcomed new representatives from the Wisconsin Historical Society and UW–Madison, with additional transitions anticipated as several members prepare for retirement.
- Discussions included succession planning and long-term continuity for board representation.
- The board began conversations about a potential two-year term for the Board Chair to provide continuity and reduce transitions. A decision on the next Chair will be shared following further discussion.

Program Updates

Recollection Wisconsin Digitization Initiative (RWDI)

- The summer cohort is launching soon, with strong interest from both students and host sites. Program outreach continues through publications, presentations, and new online resources.

Metadata Working Group

- The group is gathering community input to help shape more inclusive and accessible metadata guidelines. Updated guidance will reflect this feedback along with best practices in the field.

Organizational Structure

The Foundations Working Group shared options for Recollection Wisconsin's long-term governance. Two potential paths were discussed:

- Adjusting the current structure to formalize DPI's role in fund disbursement and agreement sign-off
- Becoming a formal service of WiLS for administrative and financial operations

The Board agreed to continue exploring both options to support long-term sustainability and clarify roles.

Strategic Conversations

DPLA (Digital Public Library of America) Updates

- RW has a new representative to the DPLA Hub Network.
- DPLA will waive membership dues in 2025 and may offer funding support through hub assistance grants.

Digital Collections Migration

- Eight WHS-hosted digital collections managed by RW have successfully migrated to Milwaukee Public Library's system. Additional collections are on hold during WHS system transitions.

Exploring New Initiatives

Two emerging areas of work are being scoped for feasibility and alignment with RW's mission:

- **Newspaper digitization and hosting:** With recent changes to WHS and national funding shifts, statewide coordination is being explored.
- **Digital preservation infrastructure:** RW is participating in a cost-free pilot with APTrust to test workflows and potential future stewardship of statewide digital preservation efforts.

Budget & Agreements

- The FY26 proposed budget was reviewed, with funding expected to remain stable pending final state approvals.
- A revised MOU with WiLS was approved, clarifying that individual governing partners are not financially liable for project management costs.
- A new MOU with Milwaukee Public Library is in development and will be shared once finalized.

Save the Date: Joint Meeting

The next Governing Board and Steering Committee Joint Meeting will be held on **Monday, September 22, 2025** at the UWM Library Conference Center from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. An informal dinner will be arranged the evening prior for those arriving early.