



Recollection Wisconsin Governing Board

Tuesday, May 12, 2026 | 1:00 - 3:00 pm

The Recollection Wisconsin Governing Board met virtually on Tuesday, May 12. Below is a summary of major topics discussed and decisions made.

Leadership

The Board confirmed that the Wisconsin Historical Society representative will serve as the incoming Governing Board Chair, beginning at the Joint Meeting in October 2026.

Strategic Initiatives

Work on the RW website is moving forward following a UX capstone project completed by Leah Goldblum, a graduate student from UW-Madison's Department of Computing and Artificial Intelligence. The project produced wireframes and user flow research focused on multiple RW audiences, including educators, researchers, content partners, and general users.

Traditional Knowledge (TK) notice work continues to progress, with current focus on adding a Rights field at the qualified Dublin Core level to surface TK Notices alongside other rights information.

Recollection Wisconsin is collaborating with two other DPLA hubs to create new DPLA Primary Source Sets, with educator contractors being paid to help develop them. A call for proposals is currently open.

Governance

The Board unanimously approved the annual WiLS project management MOU for 2026-2027, which includes a small addition reflecting WiLS' role in supporting the RW portal as migration from DPLA Local moves forward.

The call for Steering Committee nominations is open through July 1, 2026. Four seats are available. The Board is especially interested in hearing from those who represent collection users, in addition to digital practitioners. Nominations are open to individuals from any geographic area or organization type.

DPLA Transition Update

Board and Steering Committee members have been gathering feedback from RW governance about Recollection Wisconsin's DPLA membership status. Responses have generally been indifferent or supportive of potential departure, with no significant pushback.

At the national level, DPLA's transition to Cleveland Public Library (CPL) as fiscal agent is ongoing, with a new DPLA Transition Steering Committee being formed. CPL has indicated no plans to discontinue DPLA Local in the near term. Recollection Wisconsin has been invited to participate in that Transition Steering Committee and will engage to understand the committee's scope and authority.

To ensure long-term independence and flexibility in how users access RW digital collections, RW staff are researching replacement platforms for DPLA Local. Current platforms under initial investigation include Aspen Discovery, DSpace, CollectionSpace, Gallery Systems, and TIND. RW plans to send a request for information to those vendors. This research does not affect local collections, existing harvest processes, or current DPLA ingestion.

A draft communication to content partners about RW's DPLA status is in development, aimed at providing transparent information while acknowledging the ongoing value of national aggregation as a goal.

Budget

The Board approved the FY27 budget, which includes modest increases to project management and RWDI to address rising costs, with flexibility built in for one-time platform migration expenses if needed.

The Board also discussed a proposed 2027-2029 budget increase request, which would add support focused on the technical and infrastructure side of RW and fold in work

currently supported through LSTA funding for PreserveWI. The Board will spend time at the October Joint Meeting developing an advocacy strategy around this request.

Upcoming Meetings

- Joint Meeting in Milwaukee: Monday, October 5, 2026
- Governing Board Meeting (virtual): Tuesday, November 10, 2026