



Via Teams and Administrative Services
5205 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, WA 98226

WCLS Vision: *An engaged community where curiosity is cultivated, literacy flourishes and democratic ideals thrive.*

1. 9:00 a.m. **Call to Order.** Quorum determined. Land Acknowledgement.
We are on the ancestral homeland of the Nooksack, Lummi and other Coast Salish peoples. They have been its stewards since time immemorial, respecting the land, river and ocean with the understanding that everything is connected, related and alive. We acknowledge the elders and their collective and individual plights and achievements. We consider the legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together today. And we pursue ongoing action, to build lasting relationships and grow together so that all may prosper.
2. 9:05 a.m. **Open Public Comment Opportunity**
This period is set aside for persons wishing to address the Board. Each person may have up to three minutes for this purpose. Written comments may be submitted to Rheannan.Pfnister@wcls.org prior to the meeting.
3. 9:10 a.m. **20 Year Service Anniversary Recognition – Lisa Gresham**
4. 9:25 a.m. **Consent Agenda**
 - a. Meeting Minutes
 - b. Expenditures
5. 9:30 a.m. **Facilities Plan**
6. 10:00 a.m. **Closed Executive Session to Discuss 2025-2029 Bargaining Unit Contract and 2025 Wage & Benefit Negotiations**
Collective Bargaining Update per RCW 42.30.140 (4)(a). No final action will be taken during the Closed Session. At the beginning of the session, the Library Board Chair will state the time when the session is expected to end. If the session ends early, the Board will not reconvene in open session until the stated time. If the session is not over at the stated time, the Library Board Chair will briefly reconvene the Board in open session at the stated time to announce the time to which the session will be extended.
7. 10:20 a.m. **2025-2029 Bargaining Unit Contract and 2025 Wage & Benefit Agreements**
8. 10:25 a.m. **BREAK**
9. 10:35 a.m. **Financial Report and Resolutions**
 - a. Finance Committee Report
 - b. Resolution 10/22/24-12 Amending the 2024 General Fund Budget
 - c. 2025 General Fund Budget Draft
10. 11:00 a.m. **Trustee Education: Open Book**
11. 11:20 a.m. **Staff Reports**
 - a. Executive Director
 - b. Deputy Director
 - c. Youth Services Manager

Board of Trustees Meetings are open to the public in accordance with RCW 42.30. The Board is currently holding meetings with options for in-person or remote participation. Persons wishing to be provided with an internet link or telephone number to access the meeting are asked to please email Rheannan.Pfnister@wcls.org before 4:00 p.m. Monday, October 21, 2024. Written comments may be submitted to Rheannan.Pfnister@wcls.org prior to the meeting.

d. Community Relations Manager

12. 11:30 a.m.

Performance Measures and Committee Reports

- a. Performance Measures
- b. IT Services Committee
- c. Personnel Committee – ED Performance Evaluation
- d. Whatcom County Library Foundation

13. 11:40 a.m.

Announcements and Adjourn

- a. Open Book – Sunday, Nov. 3 from 12-5 p.m. at the Ferndale Events Center
- b. Citizens Advisory Committee – Thursday, Nov. 14 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Ferndale Library

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Board Meeting Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Meeting Date:	10/22/2024
Committee or Department:	Administration Department
Subject:	Consent Agenda – Board Meeting Minutes, Monthly Expenditures
Prepared By:	Jackie Saul
Impact upon Budget?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Supporting Documents:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Recommendation or Request: Approval of consent agenda items

Suggested Motion for Consideration: Move approval of consent agenda items as presented

Summary:

Meeting Minutes:

- September 17, 2024 Regular Board Meeting
- October 2, 2024 Special Board Meeting

Expenditures:

General Fund:

- August 16-31, 2024 payroll: check nos. 1040004102-1040004108 and voucher nos. 559958-560109 totaling \$237,833.78 and September 1-15, 2024 payroll: check nos. 1040167199-1040167204 and voucher nos. 560115-560266 totaling \$229,520.48.
- ACH transactions for employee benefits, telecommunication services and monthly sales/use tax filings totaling \$98,289.93; \$48,056.40 of this is for employee funded contributions to dental insurance premiums, Health Savings Accounts, PERS and deferred compensation plans (made via payroll deduction).
- Claim 2024-35G: warrant nos. 1198961-1198973 totaling \$41,796.45
- Claim 2024-36G: warrant nos. 1199290-1199301 totaling \$128,915.18
- Claim 2024-37G: warrant nos. 1199631-1199655 totaling \$54,124.47
- Claim 2024-38G: warrant nos. 1200103-1200126 totaling \$31,679.50

Capital Fund:

- Claim 2024-16C: warrant nos. 1199656-1199657 totaling \$22,481.05
- Claim 2024-17C: warrant no. 1200127 totaling \$1,878.07

Alternatives: N/A

Fiscal Impact: Expenditures for approval paid from available 2024 budgeted funds.

Comments: The Finance Committee has reviewed the General and Capital Fund claims listed above. They reviewed that there were no General Journal entries in September.



Location

This meeting was held in a hybrid manner, with remote attendance via Microsoft Teams and in-person attendance at Administrative Services, 5205 Northwest Drive, Bellingham, WA 98226.

In Attendance

Trustees: Rodney Lofdahl, Chair; Matthew Santos, Vice Chair; Holly Robinson, Secretary; John Miller and Danielle Gaughen. Absent: None.

Staff: Christine Perkins, Executive Director; Michael Cox, Deputy Director; Jackie Saul, Director of Finance and Administration; Thom Barthelmess, Youth Services Manager; Mary Vermillion, Community Relations Manager; Lisa Gresham, Collection Services Manager; Geoff Fitzpatrick, IT Services Manager; Ryan Cullup, Facilities Services Manager; Beth Andrews, Human Resources Manager; Dianne Marrs-Smith, Lynden Library Manager and Friends of the Birch Bay Library (FOBBL) President; Jennifer Rick, Foundation Development Director; Maggie Mae Nase, Learning Coordinator; Rheannan Pfnister, Records Management Specialist & Executive Assistant.

Guests: None.

Call to Order

Rod determined quorum and called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., followed by a reading of the WCLS Land Acknowledgement by Michael.

Open Public Comment

No public comment.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda included minutes of the August 20, 2024, Board of Trustees Regular Meeting as well as the following:

Expenditures:

General Fund:

- July 16-31, 2024 payroll: check no. 1039615804 and voucher nos. 559650-559798 totaling \$234,852.71 and August 1-15, 2024 payroll: check nos. 1039826357-1039826363 and voucher nos. 559804-559952 totaling \$238,804.18.
- ACH transactions for employee benefits, telecommunication services and monthly sales/use tax filings totaling \$98,461.35; \$48,365.18 of this is for employee funded contributions to dental insurance premiums, Health Savings Accounts, PERS and deferred compensation plans (made via payroll deduction).
- Claim 2024-31G: warrant nos. 1196972-1196986 totaling \$55,926.45
- Claim 2024-32G: warrant nos. 1197200-1197227 totaling \$112,856.22
- Claim 2024-33G: warrant nos. 1197491-1197514 totaling \$83,969.32

- Claim 2024-34G: warrant nos. 1198543-1198569 totaling \$94,695.44

Capital Fund:

- Claim 2024-13C: warrant no. 1197228 totaling \$9,842.70
- Claim 2024-14C: warrant nos. 1197515-1197516 totaling \$6,738.96
- Claim 2024-15C: warrant nos. 1198570-1198571 totaling \$5,858.20

Holly moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded. Passed unanimously.

Financial Report and Resolutions: Finance Committee Report

Jackie reviewed her report, including the August Notes and Highlights section. Property tax revenue peaked earlier this year for the first set of tax payments. WCLS had to dip into the cash reserves before the second half of the tax payments for 2024 arrive and will likely have to do this again in September. The Board should expect a budget amendment in October. This amendment will not be for additional expenses, but to move money between accounts to offset new costs.

Office supplies have increased in price; specifically, printer toner. Utility expenses are running behind budget for the year because we overestimated rate increases and have experienced mild weather so far this year. Fees for professional services are higher than usual in August. This increase is due to a few one-time payments that will not be recurring. Christine reminded the board that our attorney Dan Gottlieb is retiring this year. The two new attorneys taking over for him, Jessica Kerr and Christi Jacobsen, will not be offering the same discounted rate that Dan has been providing WCLS over the years. WCLS uses a separate attorney for HR related issues and their fees will also be increasing next year as well.

Jackie reviewed the schedule for the 2025 budget development with the Board. Jackie and Ryan have already begun collecting data from branch managers about the needs for branches next year. She will have more to show the Board about this topic at the budget retreat in October.

Rod asked if WCLS has received the PEBB rates for 2025 yet. Jackie and Beth spoke about the change in PEBB benefits for eligible staff and the options that they are looking into to supplement the changes.

Rod inquired about the box truck that was recently auctioned off. Ryan reported that the truck sold for about \$7,500.

Jackie spoke about Resolution 09/17/24-11 and explained to the Board the need for it. One of the requirements in RCW 42.56.070(3) is the indexing of all public records created and owned by WCLS. This requirement creates an undue burden and interferes with agency operations. WCLS is adopting this resolution in compliance with RCW 42.56.070(4).

Holly moved to approve Resolution 09/17/2024-11 declaring public disclosure indexing as unduly burdensome and interfering with agency operations as presented. Seconded. Passed unanimously.

Trustee Education: IBBY and Not If But When

Thom recently attended the 39th Congress of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) in Italy. He spoke about the roots of this organization and its journey to the present day. He was one of 120 presenters from around the world.

Thom delivered his IBBY session presentation, about books dealing with loss and death for children and teens, “Not If But When”. Families recognize that books can be valuable tools to help children and teens work through the complexities of loss. Books offer opportunities to ask questions and help kids make sense of loss and death. However, families often do not seek resources until after a loss has happened. This topic resonates with people and his session was incredibly well received by attendees. “Not If But When” is a collaborative effort between WCLS, WWU libraries and the WWU Palliative Care Institute.

The board commended Thom for the valuable work that he and the extended partnership with WWU do through this initiative.

Power of Sharing Video

The board watched the Power of Sharing video that recently debuted on YouTube and WCLS social media accounts. Mary spoke about the partnership with WCLF to create this video and the decision-making process to create it. This video will be shared throughout the next year via social media and our website to bring awareness to WCLS and all the services we provide.

Break

Rod adjourned for a break from 10:04-10:15 a.m.

Policy Updates

Overtime Pay/Compensatory Time Policy 12.43 – Jackie presented this policy update, with a language change to make the written policy align with the current practice and to distinguish between exempt and non-exempt employees.

John moved to approve the updated Overtime Pay/Compensatory Time Policy 12.43, as presented. Seconded. Passed unanimously.

Staff Reports: Executive Director

In addition to her written report, Christine spoke about the 2023 Washington Public Library statics that were released. She passed out a handout in which she highlighted some comparisons of other library systems that are similar to WCLS in terms of population served. She briefly reviewed the comparison sheet for the board. Christine will send out the statistics to the Trustees. There is more room for comparison if we would like to pursue that further.

Staff Reports: Deputy Director

In addition to his written report, Michael shared more details on the effort to establish a dedicated meeting space in the North Fork library. The building needs a public meeting space, but WCLS would also like to keep the flexibility the building currently has of offering an open area for larger gatherings. Michael shared the design schematics created by the architectural firm and reviewed the cost estimate of the project. The project is now entering the funding phase. WCLS has applied with the Foothills Community Alliance for a grant for this project and will be looking for funding from other community organizations to help offset costs.

Staff Reports: Youth Services Manager

Thom shared his written report and focused on the outreach efforts that Children's Services Coordinator Theresa Morrison oversees. She recently visited the Lummi Nation Health Center and had a very positive experience. The building itself is a beautiful combination of architecture and nature. The clinic received a donation of gently used, withdrawn materials for children to interact with when visiting, along with *Explorations* and WCLS Welcome Brochures.

Staff Reports: Community Relations Manager

Mary discussed her written report. Each quarter, Mary, Thom and Claire meet to discuss the upcoming Power of Sharing campaign. This quarter's campaign is stories. She highlighted the Ferndale Library staff and their enjoyment of creating videos promoting WCLS on social media. Their latest video, *Leveled Up with a Library Card*, has close to 4,000 views already.

Christine mentioned that the 100-year-old patron who donated funds to purchase the meeting pod for the Blaine Library recently passed away. Christine is thankful WCLS was able to honor her donation at an event before she passed.

Performance Measures & Committee Reports: Performance Measures

In addition to his written report, Michael shared that statistics in library usage have gone up. The small decrease in use of physical materials was offset by the increase in use of digital materials. Door counts increased at most branches in August. Digital magazines are still exceeding expectations and increasing in checkouts. Database usage has declined slightly after plateauing. There is no immediate explanation for this, however, it could be that people's habits may have changed.

Performance Measures & Committee Reports: Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee reminded the board that the Executive Director annual review process usually starts in September. Christine will reach out to Personnel Committee members, John and Holly. The review usually takes place at the November Board meeting. Rod will not be attending the November meeting and has asked that the review be moved to the December meeting.

Performance Measures & Committee Reports: Whatcom County Library Foundation

Branch Out took place on September 6. Jenn reported that there was a 20-25% increase in donations this year including 41 new donors. She will have the final numbers after all the invoices have been paid. The average gift was up about 30%. When receiving donations, Jenn looks at trends in giving and said that when donations increase, it says something great about the services WCLS is providing and the impact the library is making. Foundation Board members were very excited to see the Power of Sharing video at Branch Out. WCLF funded the video and are happy with the result.

Announcements and Adjourn

There are many announcements for upcoming events.

- Intro to Interest Based Bargaining (IBB) Training – Thursday, Sept. 19 from 2-4 p.m. at Administrative Services
- Budget Retreat - Wednesday, Oct. 2 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at the Deming Library
- All Friends Gathering – Thursday, Oct. 10 from 2-4 p.m. at the Deming Library
- Union Negotiations – Oct. 14-16 with a backup date of Oct. 21 at Administrative Services
- Open Book – Sunday, Nov. 3 from 12-5 p.m. at the Ferndale Events Center
- Citizens Advisory Committee – Thursday, Nov. 14 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Ferndale Library

The board discussed the possibility of rescheduling the November Board meeting due to predicted trustee absences. It was decided that the November Board meeting date would remain November 19.

Rod adjourned the meeting at 11:12 a.m.

Next Meeting

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on October 22, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. online via Microsoft Teams and at Administrative Services, 5205 Northwest Drive, Bellingham, WA 98226.

Holly Robinson, Board Secretary

10/22/2024

Date

Rheannan Pfnister, Exec. Assistant



Location

This meeting was held in a hybrid manner, with remote attendance via Microsoft Teams and in-person attendance at the Deming Library, 5044 Mt. Baker Highway, Deming, WA 98244.

In Attendance

Trustees: Rodney Lofdahl, Chair; Matthew Santos, Vice Chair; Holly Robinson, Secretary; John Miller and Danielle Gaughen. Absent: None.

Staff: Christine Perkins, Executive Director; Jackie Saul, Director of Finance and Administration; Thom Barthelmess, Youth Services Manager; Mary Vermillion, Community Relations Manager; Geoff Fitzpatrick, IT Services Manager; Ryan Cullup, Facilities Services Manager; Beth Andrews, Human Resources Manager

Guests: None.

Call to Order

Matthew determined quorum and called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m., followed by a reading of the WCLS Land Acknowledgement by Christine. Rod joined the meeting shortly after the call to order.

Review Agenda and Meeting Objectives

Christine reviewed the agenda, and Jackie reminded trustees that today's meeting is for information sharing and discussion only, and no formal action will be taken. Jackie also noted that we will discuss the 2025 budget in more detail at the regular October meeting. Union negotiations will have taken place by then so more accurate budget projections can be made. Today's meeting is for context and background to prepare for budget approval.

Budget Basics

Christine shared a Budget 101 presentation that she has been reviewing with staff. She is visiting branches, attending staff meetings, etc. to ensure that all staff see this presentation. It provides background on our budget and the implications if we continue to operate at a deficit. Christine wants staff to be aware that furloughs and possibly even layoffs are possible. The intention is not to alarm staff but rather to be transparent about the budget cuts that could happen if WCLS does not receive additional revenue in the future.

Ryan asked about unemployment during a furlough. Jackie noted that staff would be eligible for unemployment after a one-week waiting period. John clarified that there is only one waiting period per year. Christine reminded trustees that WCLS is set up as self-funded employer for unemployment; we may want to consider changing this status.

Break

Rod adjourned for a break from 3:27-3:37 p.m.

2024 Budget Recap

Jackie reviewed the current 2024 budget along with revenue and expenditure projections. Current projections indicate we will finish the 2024 budget year with a net loss of \$517,869, which is up from the budgeted net loss of \$679,749. Better than anticipated investment yields along with reduced personnel, equipment and repairs and maintenance expenditures are driving the variance. Jackie plans to present a 2024 budget amendment at the regular October board meeting. This will be a budget neutral amendment, reallocating costs between expense accounts.

Levy Basics

Jackie and Christine reviewed a presentation that has been shared with staff and community stakeholders. It is intended to be a refresher on the complicated topic of Washington's property tax and levy system. They discussed how levies are calculated, and how each property is covered by multiple taxing districts, such as schools, fire and park districts, WCLS, etc.

Action Plan Preview

Christine reviewed the 2025 Strategic Action Plan. Many projects are recurring or carried over from 2024. There are few new projects as our main focus will be on addressing our revenue shortfall. Among other things, in 2025 we will launch the Library Game, an initiative to incentivize visiting WCLS libraries, and the First 500, an effort to document and celebrate a child's first 500 books read. We will continue with construction of the Birch Bay Vogt Library Express and installation of electric vehicle charging stations. We plan to conduct a service needs assessment at the end of 2025.

Board Meeting Preview

To close the meeting, Christine reviewed next steps in the budget planning process. Union negotiations will take place the week of October 14. We will review a draft of the 2025 budget at the regular October Board of Trustees meeting. We will hold a public hearing on revenue sources at the November meeting, vote on the 2025 levy increase resolution, and approve a preliminary 2025 Budget and Capital Plan. We will approve the final budget and Capital Plan at the December meeting.

Adjourn

Rod adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

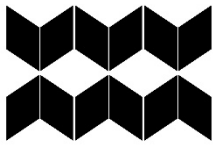
Next Meeting

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Holly Robinson, Board Secretary

10/22/2024
Date

Jackie Saul, Director of Finance and Administration



whatcom county
library system

Board Meeting Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Meeting Date:	10/22/2024
Committee or Department:	Human Resources
Subject:	2025 Bargaining Agreement, Wage & Benefit Agreement; holiday calendar
Prepared By:	Beth Andrews
Impact upon Budget?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Supporting Documents:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Recommendation or Request: Approve the Bargaining Agreement for the new contract term of 1/1/2025-12/31/2029, 2025 Wage and Benefit Agreement, and 2025 holiday calendar, which reached tentative agreement by consensus of the union and management during the negotiations process.

Suggested Motion for Consideration: Move approval of the Bargaining Agreement for new contract term of 1/1/2025-12/31/2029, the 2025 Wage and Benefit Agreement with attached 2025 Salary Structure and benefit rates and structure, and the 2025 holiday calendar.

Summary: Bargaining Agreement, 2025 Wage and Benefit Agreement, 2025 Salary Structure and benefits rates and structure, and 2025 holiday calendar presented separately.

Alternatives: Return to the negotiation process.

Fiscal Impact: As discussed.

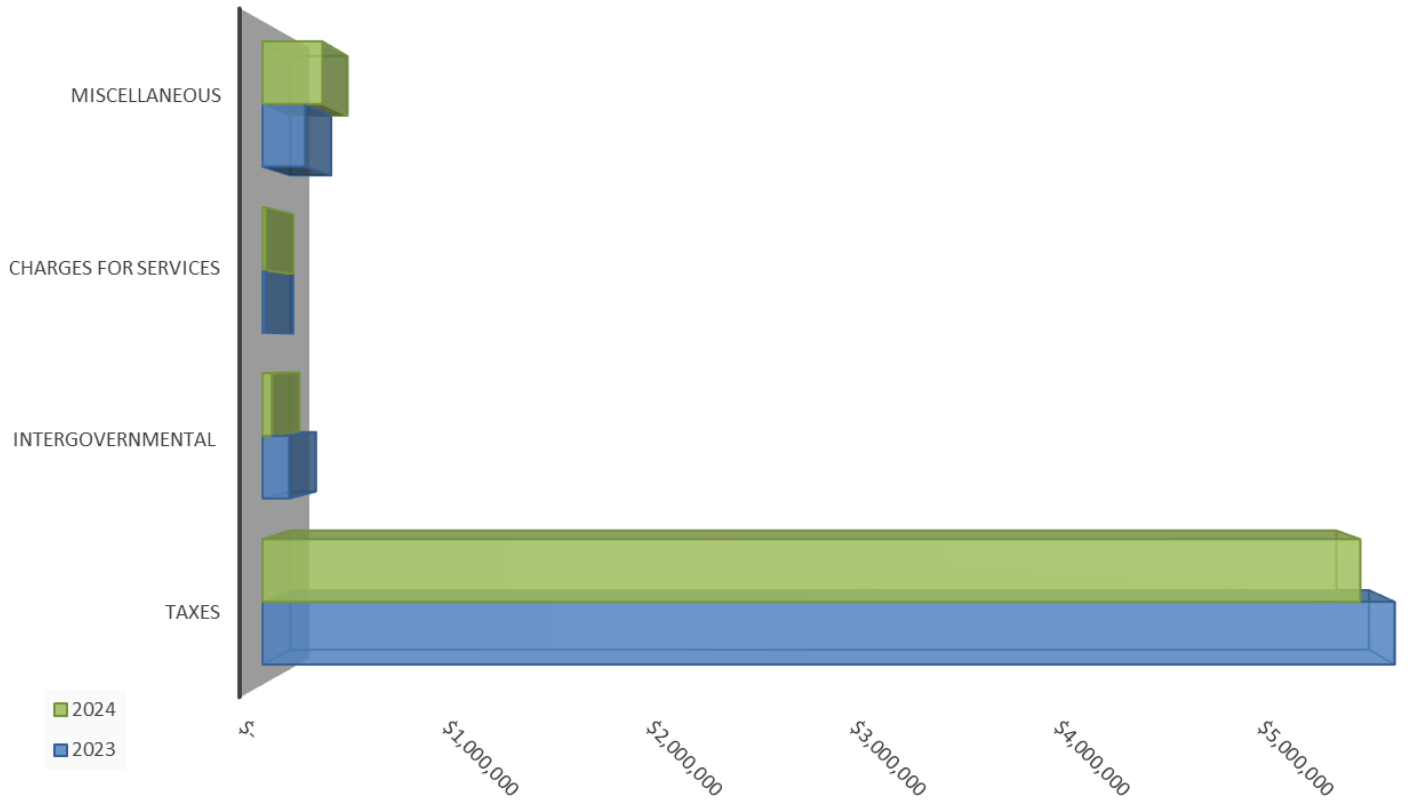
Comments: N/A



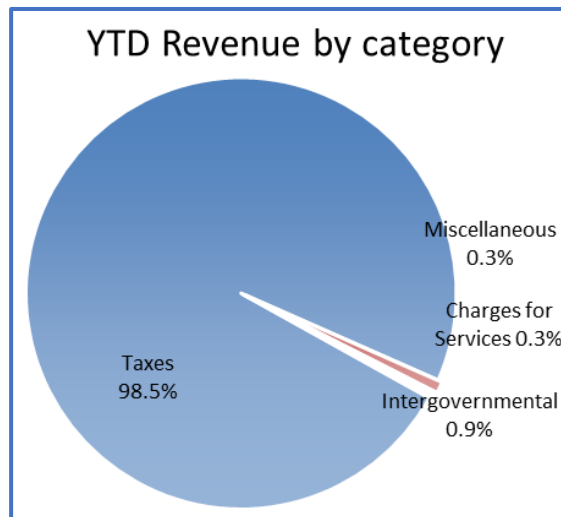
September Revenue

2024 Budget Revenues - Year-To-Date						
September 2024 (75% of FY)						
Acct No	Description	Budgeted Revenues	Actual Revenues YTD	% of Actual Revenues YTD	% of Budgeted Revenues Received YTD	Budget Variance
310	TAXES					
311.10	General Property Taxes	9,769,533	\$ 5,594,256	93.63%	57.26%	\$ (4,175,277)
	TOTAL TAXES	9,769,533	\$ 5,594,256	93.63%	57.26%	\$ (4,175,277)
330	INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE					
333.4530	Fed Indirect Grant - IMLS	2,500	\$ -	0.00%	0.00%	\$ (2,500)
337.1000	Local Grants, Entitlements & Other	45,000	30,572	0.51%	67.94%	(14,428)
337.2000	Leasehold Excise Tax	30,000	18,731	0.31%	62.44%	(11,269)
	TOTAL INTERGOV. REVENUE	77,500	\$ 49,304	0.83%	63.62%	\$ (28,196)
340	CHARGES FOR GOODS & SERVICES					
347.2001	Printing & Duplication Services	4,000	\$ 4,244	0.07%	106.10%	\$ 244
347.2002	Library Use Fees	12,300	12,340	0.21%	100.33%	40
	TOTAL CHARGES FOR SERVICES	16,300	\$ 16,584	0.28%	101.74%	\$ 284
360	MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES					
361.1100	Investment Interest	247,350	\$ 245,035	4.10%	99.06%	\$ (2,315)
362.1000	Rents & Leases	3,500	840	0.01%	24.00%	(2,660)
367.1000	Contributions & Donations	73,500	34,763	0.58%	47.30%	(38,737)
369.1000	Sale of Surplus	100	80	0.00%	80.00%	(20)
369.4100	Judgements & Settlements	-	67	0.00%	0.00%	67
369.8100	Cashier's Overages or Shortages	-	1.07	0.00%	0.00%	1
369.9101	Other Misc. Revenue	20,000	17,894	0.30%	89.47%	(2,106)
369.9102	Reimburse Lost/Damaged Books	11,000	7,905	0.13%	71.86%	(3,095)
369.9106	COBRA Reimbursement	733	550	0.01%	75.02%	(183)
	TOTAL MISC. REVENUES	356,183	\$ 307,135	5.14%	86.23%	\$ (49,048)
	TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	10,219,516	\$ 5,967,279	99.87%	58.39%	\$ (4,252,238)
390	OTHER FINANCING SOURCES					
395.1000	Proceeds from Sale of Capital Assets	-	7,752	0.00%	0.00%	\$ 7,752
397.3000	Transfers from Designated Fund Balance	230,000	-	0.00%	0.00%	(230,000)
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	230,000	7,752	0.00%	0.00%	\$ (222,248)
	TOTAL REVENUE	10,449,516	\$ 5,975,031	100.00%	57.18%	\$ (4,474,486)

General Fund Operating Revenue to Date-Compared to Prior Year



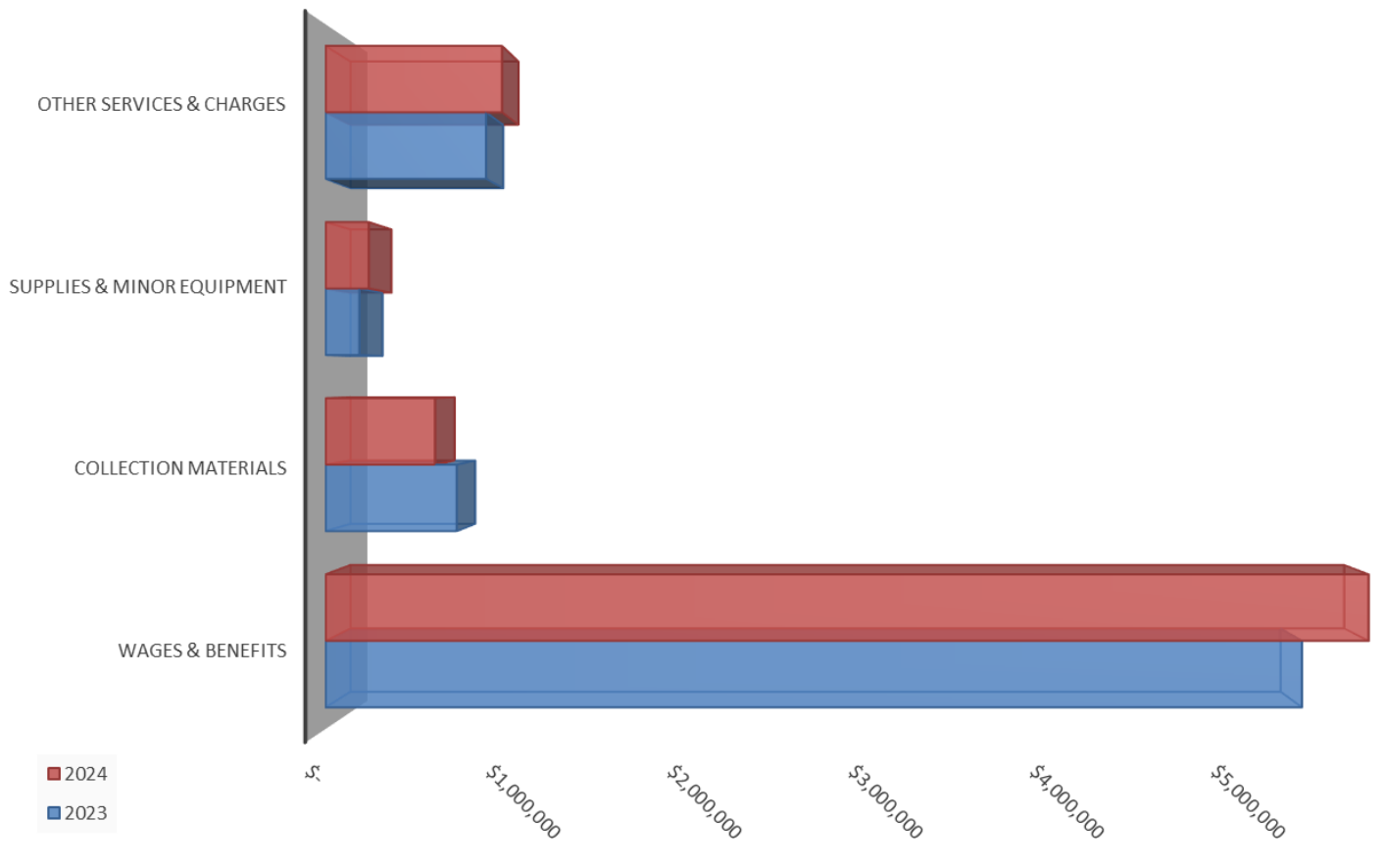
Actual General Fund Revenue Year to Date Comparison					
	2023		2024		% Change
Taxes	\$	5,769,043	\$	5,594,256	-3.03%
Intergovernmental		137,526		49,304	-64.15%
Charges for Services		15,658		16,584	5.91%
Miscellaneous		219,105		307,135	40.18%
Total Operating Revenue	\$	6,141,332		5,967,279	-2.83%
Other Financing Sources	\$	-		7,752	
Total Revenue	\$	6,141,332	\$	5,975,031	-2.71%



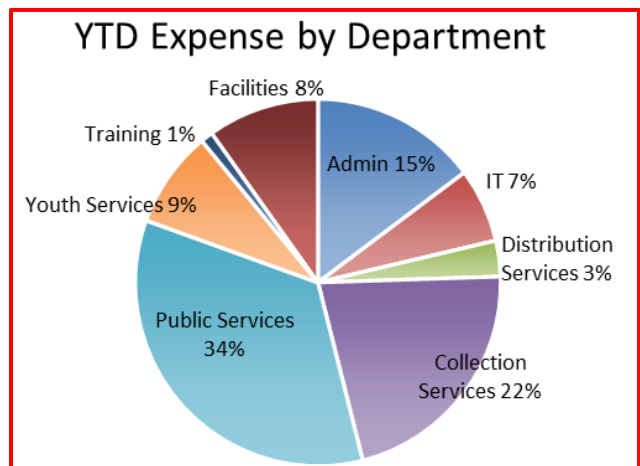
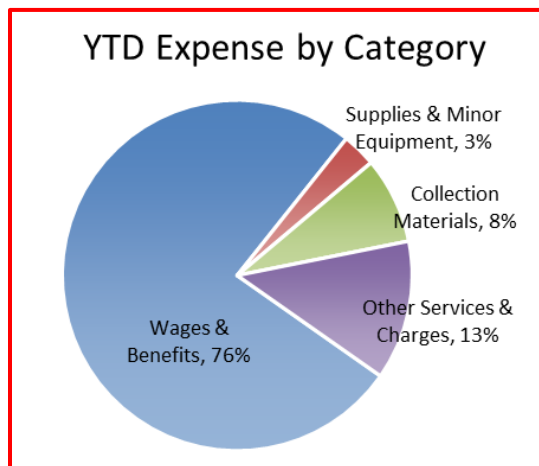
September Expenditures

2024 Budget Expenditures - Year-To-Date						
September 2024 (75% of FY)						
Acct No	Description	Budgeted Expenditures	Actual Expenditures YTD	% of Actual Expenditures YTD	% of Budgeted Expenditures Spent YTD	Budget Variance
572	SALARIES, WAGES, & BENEFITS					
572.1000	Salaries and Wages	6,010,093	\$ 4,413,917	55.55%	73.44%	\$ (1,596,176)
572.2000	Benefits	2,112,922	1,554,141	19.56%	73.55%	(558,781)
	TOTAL SALARIES, WAGES, & BENEFITS	8,123,015	\$ 5,968,058	75.11%	73.47%	\$ (2,154,957)
572.30	SUPPLIES & MINOR EQUIPMENT					
572.3031	Office & Operating Supplies	151,450	\$ 129,809	1.63%	85.71%	\$ (21,641)
572.3032	Fuel	26,050	13,410	0.17%	51.48%	(12,640)
572.3034	Collection Materials	1,250,000	626,481	7.88%	50.12%	(623,519)
572.3035	Small Tools & Minor Equipment	200,075	103,917	1.31%	51.94%	(96,158)
	TOTAL SUPPLIES & MINOR EQUIPMENT	1,627,575	873,618	10.99%	53.68%	\$ (753,957)
572.40	OTHER SERVICES & CHARGES					
572.4041	Professional Services	540,538	\$ 473,302	5.96%	87.56%	\$ (67,236)
572.4042	Communication	147,280	118,906	1.50%	80.73%	(28,374)
572.4043	Travel	46,250	26,018	0.33%	56.25%	(20,232)
572.4044	Taxes & Operating Assessments	400	371	0.00%	92.85%	(29)
572.4045	Operating Rentals & Leases	60,871	58,780	0.74%	96.56%	(2,091)
572.4046	Insurance	91,874	90,304	1.14%	98.29%	(1,570)
572.4047	Utilities	171,176	110,133	1.39%	64.34%	(61,043)
572.4048	Repair & Maintenance	133,240	72,861	0.92%	54.68%	(60,379)
572.4049	Miscellaneous	92,910	59,224	0.75%	63.74%	(33,686)
	TOTAL OTHER SERVICES & CHARGES	1,284,540	1,009,900	12.71%	78.62%	\$ (274,640)
	TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	11,035,130	7,851,576	98.82%	71.15%	\$ (3,183,554)
590	OTHER FINANCING USES					
597.1000	Transfers to Capital	94,135	\$ 94,135	1.18%	100.00%	\$ -
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES	94,135	\$ 94,135	1.18%	100.00%	\$ -
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	11,129,265	\$ 7,945,711	100.00%	71.39%	\$ (3,183,554)
	NET INCOME (LOSS)	(679,749)	(1,970,680)			\$ (1,290,931)
	FUND BALANCE SUMMARY					
	Beginning Fund Balance	10,612,545	\$ 10,612,545			
	Net Income	(679,749)	(1,970,680)			(1,290,931)
	Transfer to (from) Reserves	(230,000)	-			230,000
	Ending Fund Balance	9,702,796	\$ 8,641,865			\$ (1,060,931)

General Fund Operating Expenditures to Date-Compared to Prior Year



Actual General Fund Expenditures Year to Date Comparison			
	2023	2024	% Change
Wages & Benefits	\$ 5,586,393	\$ 5,968,058	6.83%
Collection Materials	750,144	626,481	-16.49%
Supplies & Minor Equipment	193,587	247,137	27.66%
Other Services & Charges	918,256	1,009,900	9.98%
Total Operating Expenditures	7,448,381	7,851,576	5.41%
Other Financing Uses	\$ 45,000	94,135	109.19%
Total Expenditures	\$ 7,493,381	\$ 7,945,711	6.04%



Fund Balance Summary	2023 Actual		2024 Budgeted		2024 Actual to Date	
Beginning Fund Balance	\$	10,630,324		10,612,545	\$	10,612,545
Revenue		10,305,797		10,449,516		5,975,031
Expenditures		(10,553,576)		(11,129,265)		(7,945,711)
Transfer to (from) Reserves		230,000		(230,000)		-
Ending Fund Balance	\$	10,612,545	\$	9,702,796	\$	8,641,865
Ending Fund Balance Designation Detail	2023 Actual		2024 Budgeted		2024 Actual to Date	
Designated Ending Fund Balance - Cash Flow	\$	3,502,655	\$	3,639,587	\$	2,512,165
Designated Ending Fund Balance - Emergency		892,009		926,588		926,588
Designated Ending Fund Balance - Capital Transfer		45,000		94,135		94,135
Designated Ending Fund Balance - Unemployment Comp Reserve		14,403		14,662		14,662
Designated Ending Fund Balance - Birch Bay Operating Fund Reserve		600,000		600,000		600,000
Designated Ending Fund Balance - Facility Ownership & Library Svcs Fund Reserve		3,192,315		3,192,315		3,192,315
Designated Ending Fund Balance - Facility Maintenance Fund		650,000		650,000		650,000
Designated Ending Fund Balance - Operating Cost Stabilization Fund		250,000		250,000		250,000
Designated Ending Fund Balance - Collection Project Fund		172,000		172,000		172,000
Designated Ending Fund Balance - Abeyance Fund		230,000		-		230,000
Total Designated Ending Fund Balance		9,548,382		9,539,286		8,641,865
Beginning Fund Balance less designated funds		1,081,942		1,073,259		1,970,680
Transfer to (from) Reserves		230,000		(230,000)		-
Net Income		(247,779)		(679,749)		(1,970,680)
Ending Unassigned Funds with no designation		1,064,163		163,510		-
Ending Designated Funds		9,548,382		9,539,286		8,641,865
Total Ending Fund Balance	\$	10,612,545	\$	9,702,796	\$	8,641,865

September Summary

- As of the end of September we have received \$5,975,031, or 57% of budgeted revenue. Expenditures are at \$7,945,711 which is 71% of budget. This has resulted in a year-to-date net loss of \$1,970,680. Our fund balance at the end of July is \$8,641,865.
- We have dipped into our cash flow reserve by \$1,127,421 but this will be replenished this month when we receive our next influx of property tax revenue.
- The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has approved a timber sale in Whatcom County that could potentially result in an additional \$41,000 in Intergovernmental Revenue (based on the minimum bid). The Little Lilly auction is scheduled to take place in November.
- The box truck that was declared surplus in August was sold through local auction in September. We received \$7,752 from this sale.
- On the expense side, Office and Operating Supplies, Professional Services and Communications continue to trend above budget. These amounts are included in a budget amendment presented today.

WCLS Account Summary

WCLS follows the Washington State Budgeting, Accounting and Reporting System (BARS). Below is a brief description of revenue and expense accounts.

Revenue Accounts:

Taxes: This section includes taxes on real and personal property, which are the primary revenue source for the library system, making up 95% of operating revenues received. The bulk of property tax revenue is received in April and October of each year.

Intergovernmental Revenue: Sources of intergovernmental revenue include grant revenues received from state and federal sources and revenues resulting from the leasing of, or sale of, timber and other products from state forest lands managed by the Department of Natural Resources. It also includes taxes from private harvest timber sales.

Charges for Goods and Services: This category includes fees received from library printing and copying services. It also includes use fees from the sale of library cards to non-residents and from contracted services with other entities, such as the Whatcom County Jail.

Miscellaneous Revenues: This source of revenue includes investment interest earned through participation in the Whatcom County Investment Fund. It also includes fees received for library meeting room use, private grants and donations, charges for lost or damaged library materials, and other miscellaneous revenue such as rebates and reimbursements.

Other Financing Sources: This category includes non-revenue items such as proceeds from the sale of capital assets and insurance recoveries.

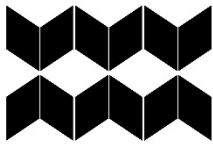
Expense Accounts:

Salaries, Wages, and Benefits: This expense category includes wages and fringe benefits for WCLS employees, including medical and dental insurance; contributions for employees enrolled in the State of Washington Public Employee Retirement System (PERS); contributions into the Social Security and Medicare systems; workers' compensation (Labor and Industries); state Paid Family and Medical Leave; long-term disability insurance; and unemployment compensation.

Supplies and Minor Equipment: This section includes office, program, maintenance, and custodial supplies, as well as fuel. It includes small tools and equipment items such as computer hardware, furnishing and fixtures, shelving, book returns and carts, etc. It also includes the collection materials budget that comprise WCLS's lending collection.

Other Services and Charges: This category includes costs for professional services, such as legal, payroll, programming, cataloging, and Interlibrary Loan services. It includes communication costs, such as postage, courier services, and phone and internet charges. Travel; use and excise taxes; auto, liability and property insurance; utilities; repairs and maintenance; and other miscellaneous expenses are also reported here.

Other Financing Uses: This category includes transfers to the WCLS Capital fund. This transfer is equal to the prior year's revenue received from certain intergovernmental sources, such as those resulting from the sale of timber and other products from state forest lands.



whatcom county
library system

Board Meeting Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Meeting Date:	10/22/2024
Committee or Department:	Administration
Subject:	Resolution 10/22/24-12 Amending the 2024 General and Budget
Prepared By:	Jackie Saul
Impact upon Budget?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Supporting Documents:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Recommendation or Request: Approval of Resolution 10/22/24-12 amending the 2024 General Fund Budget

Suggested Motion for Consideration: Move approval of Resolution 10/22/24-12 amending the 2024 General Fund Budget as presented.

Summary:

This resolution adjusts the General Fund Budget as follows:

- General Fund revenue is updated to include an increase in Investment Interest income and Proceeds from the Sale of a Capital Asset.
- General Fund expenditures are updated to reflect a reduction in Small Tools and Equipment costs and an increase in Office and Operating Supplies, Professional Services, Communications, and Repair and Maintenance costs.
- These changes are budget neutral resulting in no change to the Ending Fund Balance.

Alternatives: N/A

Fiscal Impact:

General Fund: an increase of \$52,182 in both Revenue and Expenditures, resulting in no change to the Ending Fund Balance.

Comments: N/A

WHATCOM COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
2024 General Fund Budget Amendment
October 22, 2024

Revenue					
Acct No.	Description	2024 Budget Adopted	Amended Amount	Adjustment Amount	Notes
308	BEGINNING FUND BAL	\$ 10,612,545	\$ 10,612,545	\$ -	
310	TAXES				
311.10	General Property Taxes	9,769,533	9,769,533	-	
	TOTAL TAXES	9,769,533	9,769,533	-	
330	INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE				
333.4530	Fed Indirect Grant - IMLS	2,500	2,500	-	
337.1000	Local Grants, Entitlements & Other	45,000	45,000	-	
337.2000	Leasehold Excise Tax	30,000	30,000	-	
	TOTAL INTERGOV. REVENUE	77,500	77,500	-	
340	CHARGES FOR GOODS & SERVICES				
347.2001	Printing & Duplication Services	4,000	4,000	-	
347.2002	Library Use Fees	12,300	12,300	-	
	TOTAL CHARGES FOR SERVICES	16,300	16,300	-	
360	MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES				
361.1100	Investment Interest	247,350	291,780	44,430	increased per year-to-date trends
362.1000	Rents & Leases	3,500	3,500	-	
367.1000	Contributions & Donations	73,500	73,500	-	
369.1000	Sale of Surplus	100	100	-	
369.8100	Cashier's Overages or Shortages	-	-	-	
369.9101	Other Misc. Revenue	20,000	20,000	-	
369.9102	Reimburse Lost/Damaged Books	11,000	11,000	-	
369.9103	NSF Checks	-	-	-	
369.9106	COBRA Reimbursement	733	733	-	
	TOTAL MISC. REVENUES	356,183	400,613	44,430	
	TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	10,219,516	10,263,946	44,430	
390	OTHER FINANCING SOURCES				
395.1000	Proceeds from Sale of Capital Assets	-	7,752	7,752	sale of surplus box truck
397.3000	Transfer from Reserves to Operating	230,000	230,000	-	
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	230,000	237,752	7,752	
	TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 10,449,516	\$ 10,501,698	\$ 52,182	

WHATCOM COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
2024 General Fund Budget Amendment
July 16, 2024

Expenditures

Acct No.	Description	2024 Budget Adopted	Amended Amount	Adjustment Amount	Notes
572	SALARIES, WAGES, & BENEFITS				
572.1000	Salaries and Wages	\$ 6,010,093	\$ 6,010,093	\$ -	
572.2000	Benefits	2,112,922	2,112,922	-	
	TOTAL SALARIES, WAGES, & BENEFITS	8,123,015	8,123,015	-	
572.30	SUPPLIES & MINOR EQUIPMENT				
572.3031	Office & Operating Supplies	151,450	168,410	16,960	restocking emergency supplies and library cards, increased toner costs, reallocating costs for Open Book
572.3032	Fuel	26,050	26,050	-	
572.3034	Collection Materials	1,250,000	1,250,000	-	
572.3035	Small Tools & Minor Equipment	200,075	185,075	(15,000)	shifting funds for Facilities projects
	TOTAL SUPPLIES & MINOR EQUIPMENT	1,627,575	1,629,535	1,960	
572.40	OTHER SERVICES & CHARGES				
572.4041	Professional Services	540,538	582,140	41,602	shifting funds for Facilities projects, 2023 IT costs paid in 2024
572.4042	Communication	147,280	152,500	5,220	increased postage costs
572.4043	Travel	46,250	46,250	-	
572.4044	Taxes & Operating Assessments	400	400	-	
572.4045	Operating Rentals & Leases	60,871	64,271	3,400	reallocating costs for Open Book
572.4046	Insurance	91,874	91,874	-	
572.4047	Utilities	171,176	171,176	-	
572.4048	Repair & Maintenance	133,240	133,240	-	
572.4049	Miscellaneous	92,910	92,910	-	
	TOTAL OTHER SERVICES & CHARGES	1,284,540	1,334,762	50,222	
590	OTHER FINANCING USES				
597.1000	Transfers to Capital	94,135	94,135	-	
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES	94,135	94,135	-	
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	11,129,265	11,181,447	52,182	
	NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ (679,749)	\$ (679,749)	\$ -	
	FUND BALANCE SUMMARY				
	Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 10,612,545	\$ 10,612,545	\$ -	
	Net Income	(679,749)	(679,749)	-	
	Transfer to (from) Reserves	(230,000)	(230,000)	-	
	Ending Fund Balance	\$ 9,702,796	\$ 9,702,796	\$ -	

WHATCOM COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
2024 General Fund Budget Amendment
October 22, 2024

Fund Balance Summary

	2024 Budget Adopted	Amended Amount	Adjustment Amount
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 10,612,545	10,612,544	\$ -
Revenue	10,449,516	10,501,698	52,182
Expenditures	(11,129,265)	(11,181,447)	(52,182)
Use of Fund Balance	(230,000)	(230,000)	-
Ending Fund Balance	<u>\$ 9,702,796</u>	<u>\$ 9,702,796</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

Committed and Unreserved-Designated Fund Balances

Cash Flow Reserve	\$ 3,639,587	\$ 3,639,587	\$ -
Emergency Reserve	926,588	926,588	-
Capital Transfer Reserve	94,135	94,135	-
Unemployment Compensation Reserve	14,662	14,662	-
Birch Bay Operating Fund Reserve	600,000	600,000	-
Facility Ownership Fund	3,192,315	3,192,315	-
Facility Maintenance Fund	650,000	650,000	-
Operating Cost Stabilization Fund	250,000	250,000	-
Collection Project Fund	172,000	172,000	-
Abeyance Fund	-	-	-
Total Committed and Assigned Ending Fund Balance	<u>9,539,286</u>	<u>9,539,286</u>	<u>-</u>
Unassigned Ending Fund Balance	<u>163,510</u>	<u>163,510</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Ending Fund Balance	<u>\$ 9,702,796</u>	<u>\$ 9,702,796</u>	<u>\$ -</u>



RESOLUTION NO. 10/22/24-12

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
WHATCOM COUNTY RURAL LIBRARY DISTRICT
AMENDING THE 2024 GENERAL FUND BUDGET**

WHEREAS, at the December 19, 2023 Board of Trustees meeting the Board approved the Final 2024 General Fund budget; and,

WHEREAS, at the February 20, 2024 and July 16, 2024 Board of Trustees meetings the Board approved amendments to the 2024 General Fund budget; and,

WHEREAS, General Fund revenues need to be adjusted to reflect increased income from Investment Interest and proceeds from the sale of a surplus capital asset; and,

WHEREAS, General Fund expenditures need to be adjusted to reflect reduced costs for Small Tools and Minor Equipment, and increased costs for Office and Operating Supplies, Professional Services, Communication, and Operating Rentals and Leases; and,

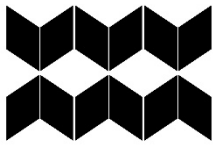
WHEREAS, an amendment to the 2024 General budget is needed to reflect these adjustments;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that budget amendment Resolution No. 10/22/24-12 be adopted, amending the 2024 General Fund Budget to \$21,114,243 as follows:

General Operating Fund - Budgetary Accounts		
308 Beginning Fund Balance	\$10,612,545	
310-360 Operating Revenue	10,263,946	
395 Proceeds from Sale of Capital Assets	7,752	
397 Transfers In	230,000	
572 Operating Expenditures		\$11,087,312
590 Transfers Out		94,135
Use of Reserves		230,000
508 Ending Fund Balance		9,702,796
Total	\$21,114,243	\$21,114,243

Adopted by the Whatcom County Library System Board of Trustees this 22nd day of October, 2024:

Rodney Lofdahl, Board Chair



whatcom county
library system

Board Meeting Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Meeting Date:	10/22/2024
Committee or Department:	Administration
Subject:	2025 Preliminary Draft Budget
Prepared By:	Jackie Saul
Impact upon Budget?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Supporting Documents:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Recommendation or Request: Information only

Suggested Motion for Consideration: None

Summary:

This is an early draft of the 2025 WCLS General Fund Budget. It reflects information available as of October 18, 2024, with 2024 projections based on year-to-date revenue and expenditures through September 30, 2024. The draft budget reflects the results of annual negotiations with the Bargaining Unit and preliminary district valuations provided by the Whatcom County Assessor's Office. This draft is subject to further review and changes prior to adoption.

Alternatives N/A

Fiscal Impact: Preliminary budget projections for 2025

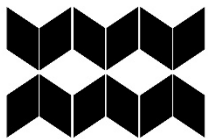
Comments: N/A

WORKING DRAFT BUDGET	2024 Budgeted	2024 Projected	2025 Projected	
Operating Revenue				
Taxes				
General Property Taxes	\$ 9,769,533	\$ 9,769,533	\$ 10,158,081	3.98%
Total Taxes	9,769,533	9,769,533	10,158,081	3.98%
Intergovernmental Revenue				
Federal Indirect Grant IMLS	2,500	2,500	2,500	0.00%
Local Entitlements	45,000	45,000	45,000	0.00%
Leasehold Excise Tax	30,000	30,000	30,000	0.00%
Total Intergovernmental Revenue	77,500	77,500	77,500	0.00%
Charges For Goods & Services				
Printing and Duplication Services	4,000	5,500	5,500	0.00%
Library Services	12,300	12,400	12,400	0.00%
Total Charges For Goods & Services	16,300	17,900	17,900	0.00%
Miscellaneous Revenues				
Investment Interest	247,350	320,000	352,000	10.00%
Rents and Leases	3,500	3,000	3,000	0.00%
Contributions and Donations	73,500	73,500	38,000	-48.30%
Sale of Surplus	100	100	100	0.00%
Judgements and Settlements	-	67	-	-100.00%
Overage/Underage	-	-	-	0.00%
Other Miscellaneous	20,000	20,000	20,000	0.00%
Lost/Damaged Materials	11,000	11,000	11,000	0.00%
NSF Fee Recoveries	-	-	-	0.00%
COBRA Reimbursement	733	733	-	-100.00%
Total Miscellaneous Revenues	356,183	428,400	424,100	-1.00%
Total Operating Revenue	10,219,516	10,293,333	10,677,581	3.73%
Other Financing Sources				
Proceeds from Sale of Capital Assets	-	7,750	-	0.00%
Use of Designated Fund Balance	230,000	230,000	-	
Total Other Financing Sources	230,000	237,750	-	0.00%
Total Income	\$ 10,449,516	\$ 10,531,083	\$ 10,677,581	1.39%

WORKING DRAFT BUDGET	2024 Budgeted	2024 Projected	2025 Projected	
Operating Expenditures				
Salaries	\$ 6,010,093	\$ 5,967,855	\$ 6,258,936	4.88%
Benefits				
Retirement	511,446	496,352	524,481	5.67%
Social Security	456,904	456,541	477,738	4.64%
Health Insurance	1,080,446	1,072,834	1,090,957	1.69%
Disability Insurance	12,444	12,444	12,976	4.27%
Industrial Insurance	46,214	46,214	48,291	4.50%
PFML	1,648	1,648	13,417	714.19%
Unemployment Compensation	3,820	-	3,967	
Total Benefits	2,112,922	2,086,032	2,171,827	4.11%
Total Personnel	8,123,015	8,053,887	8,430,763	4.68%
Supplies				
Office & Operating Supplies	151,450	162,246	142,490	-12.18%
Fuel	26,050	22,447	24,050	7.14%
Collection Materials	1,250,000	1,250,000	1,275,000	2.00%
Minor Equipment	200,075	164,241	200,250	21.92%
Total Supplies	1,627,575	1,598,934	1,641,790	2.68%
Other Services & Charges				
Professional Services	540,538	587,533	794,797	35.28%
Communication	147,280	152,497	132,088	-13.38%
Travel	46,250	42,982	31,150	-27.53%
Taxes and Operating Assessments	400	400	400	0.00%
Rentals	60,871	68,765	22,423	-67.39%
Insurance	91,874	92,717	97,353	5.00%
Utilities	171,176	167,986	171,346	2.00%
Repair & Maintenance	133,240	85,192	90,740	6.51%
Miscellaneous	92,910	88,924	101,695	14.36%
Total Other Services & Charges	1,284,540	1,286,996	1,441,992	12.04%
Total Operating Expenditures	11,035,130	10,939,817	11,514,545	5.25%
<i>Total Personnel</i>	<i>8,123,015</i>	<i>8,053,887</i>	<i>8,430,763</i>	<i>4.68%</i>
<i>Total Non-Personnel</i>	<i>2,912,115</i>	<i>2,885,930</i>	<i>3,083,782</i>	<i>6.86%</i>
<i>Total Operating Expenditures</i>	<i>11,035,130</i>	<i>10,939,817</i>	<i>11,514,545</i>	<i>5.25%</i>
Other Financing Uses				
Transfer to Capital Fund	94,135	94,135	75,000	-20.33%
Total Other Financing Uses	94,135	94,135	75,000	-20.33%
Total Expenditures	\$ 11,129,265	\$ 11,033,952	\$ 11,589,545	5.04%

WORKING DRAFT BUDGET	2024 Budgeted	2024 Projected	2025 Projected	
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 10,219,516	\$ 10,293,333	\$ 10,677,581	3.73%
Total Other Financing Sources	230,000	237,750	-	0.00%
Total Operating Expenditures	11,035,130	10,939,817	11,514,545	5.25%
Total Other Financing Uses	94,135	94,135	75,000	-20.33%
Net Operating Income (Loss)	(815,614)	(646,484)	(836,964)	29.46%
Net Other Financing Sources (Uses)	135,865	143,615	(75,000)	-152.22%
Net Income	\$ (679,749)	\$ (502,869)	\$ (911,964)	81.35%

Fund Balance Summary			
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 10,612,545	\$ 10,612,545	\$ 9,879,676
Committed and Unreserved-Designated Fund Balances			
Cash Flow Reserve	3,639,587	3,639,587	3,799,800
Emergency Reserve	926,588	926,588	959,545
Capital Transfer Reserve	94,135	94,135	75,000
Unemployment Compensation Reserve	14,662	14,662	15,647
Birch Bay Operating Fund Reserve	600,000	580,000	580,000
Facility Ownership Fund	3,192,315	2,967,315	2,967,315
Facility Maintenance Fund	650,000	550,000	550,000
Operating Cost Stabilization Fund	250,000	-	-
Collection Project Fund	172,000	-	-
Total Committed and Unreserved-Designated Bal.	9,539,286	8,772,286	8,947,308
Beginning Balance less Unreserved-Designated	1,073,259	1,840,259	932,368
Net Operating Income (Loss)	(815,614)	(646,484)	(836,964)
Net Other Financing Sources (Uses)	135,865	143,615	(75,000)
Ending Available Funds	393,510	1,337,390	20,404
Ending Designated Funds	9,539,286	8,772,286	8,947,308
Use of Fund Balance	(230,000)	(230,000)	-
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 9,702,796	\$ 9,879,676	\$ 8,967,712



whatcom county
library system

Executive Director's Report

October 2024

COMMUNITY

Approximately 50 Friends of the Library from across Whatcom County met at the Deming Library on October 10 for the All Friends Gathering. This annual event is a great time to celebrate the contributions of individual Friends and Friends groups and fill them in on WCLS happenings. I shared information about WCLS's budget and was grateful to hear an outpouring of support from this wonderful audience. Thank you for Mary Vermillion, Katrina Carabba, Neil McKay and Rheannan Pfnister for coordinating the afternoon's festivities.

ACCESS

Recently a construction worker who was working on a project near WCLS's Administrative Services building stopped by to get a library card so he could listen to audiobooks while working. Our staff set him up and he was able to immediately download eAudiobook titles using Libby.

RESOURCES

Neil McKay and Siri Beckmen collaborated on the refresh to the WCLS website. The Books and More section makes it much easier to find lists of bestsellers, award-winners, and items in our library of things. I especially appreciate the Book Club Picks, which feature quarterly lists of discussable books. Our Collection Services team selects and orders multiple copies of each title so book club members can all place holds in time for their next meeting.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The Grand Tamal Showdown in Everson called local cooks to enter their finest tamales. Around 200 people came to sample tamales and see who would be crowned champion. Muchas gracias to Diana Antaño and Amelia Martinez for planning this tasty cultural contest and to Paul Fullner, Junior Aragon and guest Dora Uriz, the proprietor of New Mexico Tamale Company, for judging.

STEWARDSHIP

WCLS receives a portion of the proceeds from state timber sales each year as part of its revenue. An article about it is attached.

Christine Perkins, Executive Director

Litigation looms over latest round of Washington state timber sales

A group pressing to save older forests from logging is threatening to sue. School officials and others are raising alarm about lost revenue.

BY: BILL LUCIA - OCTOBER 1, 2024 5:47

Washington State Standard; as seen in The Columbian

[Litigation looms over latest round of Washington state timber sales - The Columbian](#)

Conservation advocates are prepared to sue over more than half of the timber sales Washington's Board of Natural Resources approved on Tuesday, the latest flare-up in the fight over whether older trees on state-owned forestland should be spared from logging.

The board approved a package of nine sales that would involve cutting roughly 1,200 acres of trees across western Washington, with minimum revenue expected to be around \$13.8 million. Staff at the Department of Natural Resources put together plans for the sales and **MONEY GENERATED WOULD GO LARGELY** to schools, counties, and public universities.

Tacoma-based Legacy Forest Defense Coalition opposed five of the nine sales. The group's founder, Stephen Kropp, said in an interview on Tuesday that it would likely file lawsuits in state court to stop some or all of the five approvals. "We're probably going to appeal every single one," he said.

Legacy Forest Defense Coalition and others have been pressing with litigation and through administrative processes to prevent logging on state land of older forests that are short of qualifying as protected old-growth. These forests, they say, are some of the last patches of their kind in western Washington, containing trees that are around a century old in some cases.

But school district and local government officials in parts of the state are growing increasingly agitated over their budgets taking a hit as timber sales are waylaid by these sorts of challenges. Local leaders also warn that halting sales threatens to undercut timber-related jobs and the state's remaining lumber mills.

These issues have become central in this year's state lands commissioner race. Two-term Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz, a Democrat, is not running for reelection.

Democratic candidate Dave Upthegrove has promised to preserve nearly 80,000 acres of older forests and to find replacement lands that can be logged to make up for the loss in timber. His Republican opponent, Jaime Herrera Beutler, has vowed not to buckle to political pressure from environmentalists and argues Upthegrove's plan will raise fire risks and hurt state revenue. The commissioner is **ONE OF SIX MEMBERS** of the Board of Natural Resources.

Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt, board president at the Mount Baker School District, said the district is the largest local beneficiary of state forest revenue in Whatcom County. He said that, at the minimum bid price, the Little Lilly timber sale, which the state Board of Natural Resources approved on Tuesday, would provide about \$282,000 for the district.

Pfeiffer-Hoyt said the revenue was especially important as Mount Baker School District is grappling with a budget deficit. He said pauses in state timber sales are a major reason for the district's fiscal

shortfall. Timber sale revenue, he said, had fallen from an average of \$1.2 million annually to around \$107,000 last year. The district, he said, cut 23 teachers and support staff. “We strongly support the approval,” he said.

Lisa Olsen, a Pacific County commissioner, said those who no longer want forests logged “need to come up with another way to fund the taxing districts that support all the essential services that everyone expects and depends on – and leave DNR alone in this regard.”

The Intent timber sale in Pacific County, also approved Tuesday, is expected to bring in close to \$1.1 million at least.

Representatives from the American Forest Resource Council, Sierra Pacific Industries and the Washington Contract Loggers Association were among others who applauded the latest sales.

Little Lilly and Intent are two of the five sales the Legacy Forest Defense Coalition opposed. Kropp noted that the Little Lily tract butts up against a section of old-growth forest and said it is adjacent to nesting sites for the marbled murrelet, a threatened bird species. The Intent site, Kropp said, is one of the largest remaining forests of its kind in the Willapa River watershed.

He said revenue concerns that school districts and other local officials are raising are justified, but he blamed decisions made by the Department of Natural Resources for the situation. The local governments are “really caught in the middle of all of this, through no fault of their own,” he said.

A key sticking point critics raise is whether the Department of Natural Resources is doing enough to meet A GOAL OF ENSURING about 10-15% of certain land it manages grows into older, “structurally complex” forests by sometime around 2076 to 2106.

Michael Kelly, Department of Natural Resources communications director, said in an email on Tuesday that the agency is meeting that goal “under policy and the law.”

People like Kropp see it differently. “They’ve managed to convince themselves that they’re doing the right thing by essentially clearcutting what amount to the last remaining native forests in many of the lowland watersheds in western Washington,” he said.

‘Seeking a big change’

During Tuesday’s meeting, Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal, another Board of Natural Resources member, put forward a motion to remove one of the sales – Next Contestant – from the package so it could be voted on independently. This maneuver failed.

Next Contestant, located in Mason County, is another of the five sales that the Legacy Forest Defense Coalition opposed.

After the meeting, Reykdal explained by phone that he had walked the tract with tribal elders who outlined to him why they viewed it as sacred and important. Reykdal emphasized that even if his motion succeeded, the sale would have passed the board but with further discussion.

He was also the only board member to not vote in favor of the sales, opting instead to abstain. Reykdal said he disagrees with how money from state school trust land timber sales goes into a pool of funding that's divvied up by the Legislature, rather than to schools near the logged land.

Instead, Reykdal said he wants lawmakers to commit other state funding to a school construction assistance account where the state trust land timber dollars are now going. And he wants to redirect the logging revenue to schools in areas where trees are cut.

"I'm seeking a big change there," he said.

###

We Underfunded Our Libraries Once. It Almost Lost Us World War II

By [Elyse Graham](#) September 25, 2024 7:00 AM EDT

Graham is a historian and professor at Stony Brook University. Her latest book is [BOOK AND DAGGER: How Scholars and Librarians Became the Unlikely Spies of World War II](#)

2024 has seen many devastating budget cuts to libraries. Earlier this year, New York City's Mayor Eric Adams proposed to cut more than \$58 million from the city's libraries. (After public protests, Adams walked back his statement and the city's libraries were spared—for now.) The National Archives and Records Administration has its [slimmest budget](#) in nearly three decades, relative to its holdings. The American Library Association [recently wrote](#) to its members, "Every librarian knows that funding is under threat for libraries in communities of all sizes and all across the nation."

The fact is that the health of the nation's libraries is a national security issue. We learned this lesson once, and profoundly, during World War II. The story of how underinvesting in our libraries almost lost us the war is worth retelling—especially because what we're losing by cutting back on acquisitions—or, worse, digitizing and then throwing out archives—is exactly what we had to send spies to acquire overseas during that war.

The attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, pulled America into a war the country had tried to treat as none of its business—and pushed the government to more quickly resolve a critical problem: Its lack of a meaningful intelligence infrastructure. The country had shut down its last major signals intelligence office—and with it the capacity to decrypt and read foreign diplomatic messages—in 1929, at the order of Henry Stimson, the secretary of state. "Gentlemen do not read each other's mail," he said.

In July 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt had appointed William Donovan, a Wall Street lawyer, to start up a new intelligence agency, as it was growing more evident that the U.S. might not be able to keep itself free of the war in Europe. Donovan understood that he couldn't make up for the decades, even centuries, of intelligence experience that other spy agencies already had—that if he was to compete, he had to build something new. His great innovation was a branch called Research and Analysis (R&A), in which analysts trained among library stacks read everything they could, from novels to newspapers to trash, and turned what they read into intelligence insights. Their work represented a new type of spycraft.

Donovan whisked these librarians and professors from their campuses—and tossed them, to their surprise most of all, into a global spy thriller—because his legal training had taught him the value of going to the literature. Stationed, at first, in the Library of Congress, they used books and documents to answer all kinds of crucial questions, such as: What does the shore we plan to invade look like? After the military crosses that shore and captures the nearest town, where will they find railway equipment, munitions factories, Red Cross pharmacies, and telegraph offices? What are the street addresses of the factories in Berlin they want to bomb? Is it better to target a factory that makes tanks or, say, a factory that makes ball bearings, which are essential for building tanks?

U.S. intelligence quickly discovered that libraries didn't have the most basic information that the country needed in this crisis. For example, at the time of America's entry into the war, its cartographic resources were, as one commentator said, ["utterly deficient."](#) If you scoured every map collection in the country, you would find only two full map portfolios of Japan.

R&A sent agents to hunt through libraries and confiscate and copy whatever maps they could. The New York Public Library became a virtual outpost of the OSS, with map librarians dividing their time between their regular duties and intelligence work; a librarian in the University of California system later wrote that “old timers used to tell... of coming to work and finding that the map library had suddenly become a top security area protected by 24-hour armed guards.” Because the libraries’ map collections were so outdated, R&A agents were sometimes forced to adapt 19th-century maps for the age of fighter planes and radar.

In order to fix the nation’s knowledge deficit, the Office of Strategic Services, Donovan’s new intelligence service, sent the war’s most unlikely spies, professors and librarians, overseas as undercover agents to hunt down maps and other documents. By far, the most successful of these document hunters was [Adele Kibre](#), who worked in Stockholm, dodging the city’s (Gestapo-affiliated) police and sneaking whatever her superiors wanted out of libraries, universities, and government offices. Another was [Joseph Curtiss](#), a mild-mannered Yale professor who plied his secret trade in Istanbul.

The productivity of these secret agents was enormous. Joseph Curtiss sent home more than 4,000 pounds of books and other texts while working in Istanbul; Adele Kibre sent home 20,000 documents *a week*. The OSS was hungry for resistance literature, German newspapers, maps, travel guides, telephone books, novels, scientific journals, and publications on topics that ranged from aeronautics to finance to metallurgy to mining to shipbuilding to synthetic petroleum. Any document might have the key to winning a battle, a campaign, the war.

Thanks to these unlikely spies, library materials poured into the United States from Europe. University libraries, together with libraries and archives in New York City and all across the country, collected thousands of pounds of materials during the war. Meanwhile, the R&A branch expanded to almost a thousand members, working in places like the Lincoln Museum, the National Archives, and the Library of Congress. Analysts studied novels, scholarly books, reference books, industry directories, telephone directories, magazines, newspapers, postcards, travel guides, and more. Nobody would expect these kinds of documents to turn into brilliant strategic assets, and yet they became a critical resource during the war.

After the war, politicians resolved to never again let our libraries be so dramatically deficient. They invested in public and university libraries and approved ambitious programs to expand them. Returning intelligence agents became the heads of major libraries, and they transformed the library world. For example, David Horace Clift, a former NYPL employee who helped to lead Adele Kibre’s document collecting unit, served for two decades as the chief executive of the American Library Association. Frederick Kilgour, who belonged to the same unit, became the founding director of Online Computer Library Center, which developed the world’s largest, most used online library database, WorldCat. Wilmarth Lewis, a Yale librarian who built a cataloging system at the OSS to organize the agency’s intelligence, turned the OSS cataloging system into the cataloging system that all U.S. libraries used.

Politicians invested in libraries after the war because they understood it to be an act of American patriotism and a vision for American national security. They had learned, the hard way, the value of having strategic book reserves. Today, some 80 years after the Allied victory, we’ve forgotten that lesson.

Those who argue that our underfunded libraries are becoming obsolete in the age of artificial intelligence and digitized books are ignoring just how vulnerable these new technologies are. Internet access is a major military target—as in the case of [Russia blocking Ukraine’s Starlink satellite internet service](#). Turning libraries into access points for databases—scanning their holdings, then destroying the original documents, as Britain’s Ministry of

Justice recently proposed to do with [one of its archives](#)—is a terrible idea. In 2023, hackers attacked the digital infrastructure of the British Library, making the online catalogs, and thus the library itself, largely [unusable for weeks](#). And digital holdings represent just a fraction of all the books and documents in print around the world.

Libraries are a small investment to make in order to ensure we don't repeat the mistakes of the last world war. In 2020, the total funding for public libraries in the United States was [\\$14.61 billion](#). That's less than 1% of [total military spending](#).

I hope that we'll never see another war like World War II again, and I hope that we use our nation's intellectual resources to cultivate peace. But if the worst happens, we'll be better off for having invested in our libraries. We learned that 80 years ago, at great cost.

RESOURCES

WCLS is able to make Internet hotspots available with the same loan periods as other items such as books. Of course, the need for monthly service plans and the high demand for these valuable resources requires an added layer of oversight. Access to grants through TechSoup and Mobile Beacon, organizations working to support non-profits and anchor institutions, reduce the cost for Internet hotspot service to as low as \$10 per month. WCLS may add 11 devices each year at a cost of just \$18 per. That annual allotment, recently added, brings the total WCLS hotspot collection to 32 devices. Just one device has been removed due to damage. Each day, Megan, PSA at the Everson Library, uses a report to turn off Internet access to those devices that are overdue. This practice results in a successful return rate of devices and keeps the Holds queue moving for this ever-popular collection.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The WCLS Spanish language phone line is now live. By calling (360) 305-3638, patrons may connect with Spanish speaking staff. When they aren't available, patrons will be asked to leave a voicemail. Staff across the system are then able to access and respond to these messages in a timely manner. Special thanks to the work of our Cultural Liaisons, Amelia and Diana, for bringing to fruition this good idea.

STEWARDSHIP

The Whatcom Literacy Council is in close partnership with WCLS. Tutors are paired with adult learners to work on individual goals toward improving their lives with literacy. By working strategically with WCLS, Bellingham Technical College, Whatcom Community College, and Evergreen Goodwill, programs complement, but do not duplicate, the services of other adult basic skills providers in the area.

Michael Cox
Deputy Director

ACCESS & RESOURCES

With the school year underway the Youth Services Team is busy serving students, bringing materials and resources to them at school. Outreach efforts include ConnectED visits, helping students and teachers understand and master their ConnectED accounts and resources; Booktalks, promoting excellent books with bright, tight, responsive presentations; instruction to Homeschool groups, highlighting different ways WCLS can support home-based learning; visits to our libraries from classes wanting to connect their students to WCLS in constructive ways; and Storytimes for Day Care, Child Care, and Head Start groups at their site or at the library.

A sampling of recent Youth Services outreach efforts includes:

- Booktalks with all of the 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders at Irene Reither Elementary School (almost 400 students) in the Meridian School District across five days;
- ConnectED visits with all of the 6th, 7th, and 8th graders at Nooksack Valley Middle School, over five days, including hands-on Spanish language support for English language learners;
- Work with the Lynden Christian Middle School to provide a curated selection of online databases and other resources tailored to their curriculum (with special thanks to Lisa Gresham in Collection Services who worked directly with our vendors);
- Monthly lunchtime pop-up libraries at Horizon and Vista Middle Schools and Ferndale High School in the Ferndale School District, bringing materials for students to check out on the spot and supplement holds-pickup;
- Visits to the Nooksack Tribal Library to bring the joy of books and stories through Storytime;
- Deliveries of capsule collections to all of the classrooms at Blaine Primary and Blaine Elementary Schools, whose libraries are shuttered indefinitely

These are but a few examples of the dozens of interventions the Youth Services Team undertakes to reach thousands of young people every month. We're grateful to our colleagues in Public Services who provide excellent service to young people while we are out in the community. We're grateful to the Cultural Liaisons who join us in our ventures and invite us to theirs. We're grateful to Community Relations for the tools they produce and the organization of resources on the website. And we're especially grateful to the teachers, librarians, and administrators in our partner schools who make time and space for the public library in their busy and crowded schedules.

Thom Barthelmess

Youth Services Manager

COMMUNITY/ACCESS/RESOURCES

After months of review and discussions with stakeholders, we rolled out our [revamped website](#) in early October. Our primary goal was to improve navigation, making it easier for patrons to quickly find the information or services they need. Based on initial feedback, we achieve our objective. Many thanks to Online Services Coordinator Neil McKay and Community Relations Aide Siri Beckmen who teamed up to thoughtfully complete the detailed work. Neil continues to monitor and update the site. We welcome comments and suggestions.



Patron comment: “Awesome Awesome Awesome AWESOMELY fine redesign! I used to sigh when I knew I had to access the website and go through several maybe-not-so-fast clicks and some scrolls to get information. Not anymore. I’m a former college instructor in Web Design, and the new site splash page is an A+. Biggest things are always layout presentation, navigation ease and responsiveness; the new design is perfect in all these respects. Nice job; just another way that WCLS is superb.”

The Community Relations team is busy promoting and creating materials for Open Book: A Festival for Readers. The event returns Sunday, Nov. 3 at the Ferndale Events Center. Press releases, social media posts and podcasts have been or will soon be posted. Ads are placed in community newspapers and on digital sites. Posters are being distributed throughout the county.



We hosted a fun and informative All-Friends Gathering at the Deming Library on Thursday, Oct. 10. A representative from each of the 11 Friends groups shared accomplishments, creating an opportunity to learn and to connect with each other. Executive Director Christine Perkins presented 2024 WCLS highlights and a 2025 forecast, including budget projections. Great questions and discussion followed. The Friends of the Library are critical library advocates. We are grateful for their engagement and their support.



News Releases

- [Open Book: A Festival for Readers returns Oct. 3](#)
- [WCLS presents Golden Apple Educator Awards](#)

Book Reviews

- *The Northern Light*, Sept. 11, 2024, [Blaine book club: "In Love: A Memoir of Love and Loss"](#)
- *Cascadia Daily News*, Sep. 16, 2024, [Review: 'Group Living and Other Recipes' by Lola Milholland](#)
- *Cascadia Daily News*, Sept. 23, 2024, [Review: 'Take' by Jennifer Bradbury](#)
- *Bellingham Alive*, September 2024, see clip below

Book Reviews

WRITTEN BY EMMA RADOSEVICH



"The Ministry of Time"

by Kaliane Bradley

John le Carré meets "Kate and Leopold" in this genre-bending debut.

An unnamed British civil servant transfers to a new hush-hush department to work on a secret project: studying the effects of time travel on human subjects. She is paired with Lt. Graham Gore, a navy officer rescued from a doomed 1845 polar expedition, and assigned to work as his "bridge" to the 21st century. The pair live as unlikely roommates in London, where she reports on Gore and his reactions to modernity.

As the bridge and her "expat" spend more time together, their relationship starts feeling less like a project and more like a friendship—or maybe more. But dangers are closing in: other expats start succumbing to the bodily effects of time travel. Gore has a stalker. And the bridge keeps receiving coded messages from an ex-colleague who has ethical concerns about the project's true purpose.

Kaliane Bradley is testing out a lot of ideas here—some of them work better than others. This twisty debut novel is at its best when it leans into quippy dialogue and romance.



"Evenings & Weekends"

by Oisín McKenna

It's the hottest weekend of the summer and the people of London are ready to let loose.

Phil and his housemates—including Keith, with whom he's secretly in love—are planning a warehouse solstice party. Maggie, Phil's best friend, is pregnant and wants one last hurrah in the city before she and her partner, Ed, move to the suburbs. A chance encounter on the Tube between Ed and Phil unearths a secret that they hid from Maggie for years. Meanwhile, Phil's mother is in London for the weekend with some life-shattering news to share with him—if only he can make time for her.

Between bachelorette parties and dips in local swimming holes, everyone is tuned in to the biggest story of the summer: a beached whale in the River Thames and the marine biologist who looks uncannily like Princess Di.

Debut author Oisín McKenna brings London to life in joyful, chaotic glory. Sexy, sincere, and well worth an evening (or weekend) spent reading.

Media Coverage

- *The Northern Light*, Sept. 4, 2024, [Birch Bay Derby Day 2024](#)
- *Cascadia Daily News*, Sept. 5, 2024, [Kelle Rankin-Sunter Community Gardening Educator \(Friends of Blaine Library Bookwork Bins\)](#)
- *Lynden Tribune*, Sept. 13, 2024, [COUNTRY LIFE: Storytime this Saturday at Lynden Library](#)
- *The Bellingham Herald*, Sept. 15, 2024, [Everywhere you can vote by drop box in Bellingham this year](#)
- *My Bellingham NOW*, Sept. 16, 2024, [Bellingham receives \\$165,000 in funds for clean energy projects \(Friends of Deming Library project\)](#)
- *The Northern Light*, Sept. 18, 2024, [Washington's oldest real estate agent dies at 100 \(Joyce Vanderpol, Blaine Library supporter\)](#)
- *Whatcom Talk*, Sept. 25, 2024, [Music & Books: What Could Be Better? \(Partnership with Bellingham Symphony Orchestra\)](#)
- *The Northern Light*, Sept. 25, 2024, [Bookworms cultivate creative fundraiser for Blaine Public Library](#)
- *Lynden Tribune*, Sept. 26, 2024, [Sumas Library is a community hub with fall events](#)

Mary Vermillion

Community Relations Manager

Collection Size	Physical	Electronic	Total
	303,395	365,116	668,511

Circulation	Sep 2023	Sep 2024	YTD 2023	YTD 2024	YTD % chg
Physical Circulation					
Blaine	13,219	14,567	112,069	119,060	6.2%
Bookmobile & Outreach	4,626	4,684	41,651	40,710	-2.3%
Deming	7,765	6,911	70,351	67,019	-4.7%
Everson	9,051	8,114	83,483	79,591	-4.7%
Ferndale	31,544	30,216	289,900	288,424	-0.5%
Island	2,032	1,498	17,157	14,905	-13.1%
Lynden	37,635	35,670	346,209	330,893	-4.4%
North Fork	4,286	3,772	40,079	34,146	-14.8%
NWIC	9	7	92	83	-9.8%
Point Roberts + PRX	2,587	1,959	22,844	21,294	-6.8%
Sumas + SLX	2,140	2,680	17,798	22,433	26.0%
South Whatcom	7,656	7,426	70,285	69,324	-1.4%
NDX	3,250	3,481	28,354	29,843	5.3%
Physical Circulation Total	125,800	120,985	1,140,272	1,117,725	-2.0%
Disc materials: DVDs, CDs	26,411	24,513	245,280	235,241	-4.1%
All other materials	98,349	94,351	885,392	872,219	-1.5%
Digital Circulation					
eBooks/eAudiobooks	32,513	35,505	288,873	325,425	12.7%
eMagazines	2,816	4,582	16,281	41,834	156.9%
eMusic	11,303	9,438	107,071	90,513	-15.5%
Streaming Video	2,027	1,039	15,807	10,536	-33.3%
Digital Circulation Total	48,659	50,564	428,032	468,308	9.4%
Grand Total	174,459	171,549	1,568,304	1,586,033	1.1%

Visitors (Door counts)	Sep 2023	Sep 2024	YTD 2023	YTD 2024	YTD % chg	Sep 2019
Blaine	6,848	7,151	58,557	63,003	7.6%	8,857
Deming	2,861	2,471	22,017	24,822	12.7%	3,905
Everson	3,083	2,841	27,301	28,589	4.7%	5,668
Ferndale	16,479	12,272	115,013	115,874	0.7%	17,333
Island	1,126	766	9,326	12,728	36.5%	1,450
Lynden	10,481	10,535	92,226	102,177	10.8%	17,316
NDX	311	305	2,593	2,896	11.7%	
North Fork	2,357	1,861	14,893	16,771	12.6%	2,826
Point Roberts + PRX	1,655	1,399	13,718	14,805	7.9%	1,318
Sumas + SLX	1,102	1,329	9,235	11,445	23.9%	1,724
South Whatcom	2,782	2,688	19,838	28,283	42.6%	2,207
Total	49,085	43,618	384,717	421,393	9.5%	62,604

New Borrowers	Sep 2023	Sep 2024	YTD 2023	YTD 2024	YTD % chg
	701	688	5,862	6,002	2.4%

Interlibrary Loan	Sep 2023	Sep 2024	YTD 2023	YTD 2024	YTD % chg
Borrowed from BPL	11,742	11,918	103,101	106,154	3.0%
Lent to BPL	21,456	21,078	197,618	191,676	-3.0%
Borrowed: other libraries	584	540	5,035	5,676	12.7%
Lent: other libraries	304	488	4,168	5,374	28.9%

Electronic Resources	Sep 2023	Sep 2024	YTD 2023	YTD 2024	YTD % chg
WCLS.org Sessions	39,724	41,596	332,745	348,239	4.7%
Bibliocommons Sessions	85,454	90,871	530,527	903,435	70.3%
Internet Sessions	3,469	3,787	29,044	32,413	11.6%
Wifi Clients / Sessions	7,983	7,760	62,622	63,794	1.9%

Volunteers	Sep 2023	Sep 2024	YTD 2023	YTD 2024	YTD % chg
	764	561	7,621	7,917	3.9%

Activities	Sep 2023	Sep 2024	YTD 2023	YTD 2024	YTD % chg
Programs					
Adults	72	77	515	632	22.7%
Teens	22	20	174	183	5.2%
Children	33	56	639	764	19.6%
Total	127	153	1,328	1,579	18.9%
Attendance					
Adults	864	804	5,496	7,482	36.1%
Teens	1,454	305	7,762	5,771	-25.7%
Children	1,256	1,217	20,947	24,843	18.6%
Total	3,574	2,326	34,205	38,096	11.4%

Notes/Corrections:

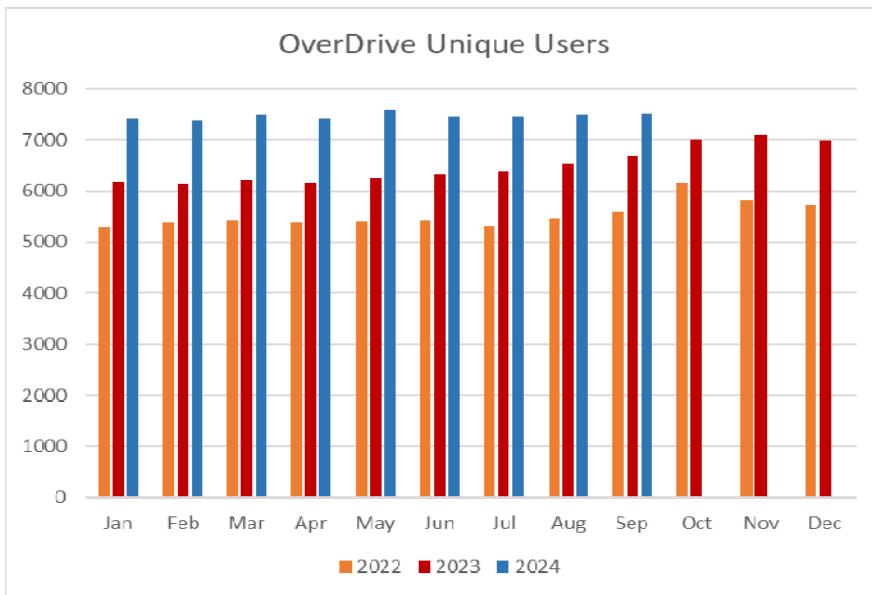
As of mid-September 2023, OverDrive changed the way it counts magazine circulations

Jan - Dec 2024 Kanopy stats now track titles played per state library guidance and are not comparable with Jan - Dec 2023, which tracks Kanopy Views

Aug - Sept 2024 eMagazine auto checkouts were not working and numbers for this time period are lower than usual

OVERDRIVE UNIQUE USERS

Unique users have maintained at a consistent level in 2024 at about 7,500 per month, and September is no exception. Eaudiobooks dominate WCLS usage, accounting for 50% of all checkouts last month (19,925 out of 40,087 total checkouts). While eMagazines only account for 11% of all checkouts, their popularity is apparent in that 19 of the top 25 circulated items in September were eMagazines.



DATABASE USAGE

Student usage of Britannica, Gale products and Proquest Culturegrams pushed usage statistics up this month; the aggregated total for September 2024 was just slightly less than in 2022 or 2023. Cardholders used Creativebug to take classes about crochet, bookmaking, sketching and making Halloween ornaments. LinkedIn Learning users completed computer courses in PHP user authentication, programming, and using Claude 3.5, an AI software that analyzes language and images.

