WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Meeting Minutes Draft

WISCONSIN HISTORICAL RECORDS ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, October 26, 2026 | 11:00 AM

Microsoft Teams, https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/27846398149765?p=0NhDcT8mNP18n7GkJg
Contact: askwhrab@wisconsinhistory.org

1. Call to Order

Abbie, called the meeting to order at 11:01 AM.

Present: Menzi L. Behrnd-Klodt, Clayborn Benson, Scott Brouwer (guest speaker), Anita T. Doering, Todd W.M. Larson, Abbie Norderhaug (coordinator), Mara Rodewald (notetaker), Shan Thomas (guest speaker), Ken J. Wirth.

2. Presentations from Awardees of the 2025 Governor's Archives Awards

a. Mineral Point Library Archives (Archival Achievement), Presented by Shan Thomas
Shan, presented about the MPLA's archival renovation project. The Board, commented their appreciation for Shan's presentation and the MPLA's work.

b. La Crosse Public Library (Archival Innovation), Presented by Scott Brouwer
Scott, presented about the LCPL's *Dark La Crosse Stories* project. The Board, commented their appreciation for Scott's presentation and the LCPL's work.

Abbie, commented on the GAA's positive impact on the GAA awardee's project continuation.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 15

A motion (made by Menzi, seconded by Todd) to approve the Meeting Minutes from July 15 passed by voice vote with five ayes and one abstention.

4. Report on WHRAB 2026 Activities

a. 2026 Governor's Archives Awards Ceremonies

Abbie, reported on Marquette University Raynor Library's Archival Achievement Award ceremony on August 28, 11 AM, at Raynor Library in Milwaukee; University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Geography Department's Archival Advocacy Award ceremony on August 28, 3 PM, at the Wisconsin Black Historical Society/Museum in Milwaukee; UW-Stevens Point Nelis R. Kampenga University Archives and Area Research Center's Archival Innovation Award ceremony on September 4, 11 AM, at Kirby Library in Stevens Point. The Board commented on the community interest at the ceremonies.

b. Local History and Historical Preservation Conference

Abbie, reported on WHRAB's October 15 sponsored one-hour session, "AV Doesn't Have to Be Scary!" presented by Shiraz Bhathena (Processing Archivist, UW-Milwaukee Archives), Mary Huelsbeck (Assistant Director, Wisconsin Center for Film and Theater Research), and Amanda Smith (Film and Video Archivist, WCFTR). Mara, reported on topics covered during the session. Abbie, reported on the WHRAB's resource center table and comments on the WHRAB's interactive table display.

c. Wisconsin Historical Collections Landscape Project

Abbie, reported on the best practice guides update reports which have kept track of information to create actionable items. The Board, commented on the community building potential and potential work for a guide on archival processes.

d. Former Board Member Recognition

Abbie, reported that three Board members resigned throughout the 2024-2026 extended grant. The Board, commented on sending statements of thanks to the Board members for their time on the Board.

5. Report and Discussion on WHRAB 2027 Activities

Committee Membership and Meeting Frequency Going Forward

a. National Historical Publications and Records Commission Grant Status

Abbie, reported that on October 31, both the Board's extended NHPRC grant and the Board's limited term employment program associate position will end, and the WHRAB is in the same situation as almost all State Historical Records Advisory Boards. The Board, discussed advocacy, funding, and the Board's vacant membership spots.

b. Committee Membership and Meeting Frequency Going Forward

The Board, discussed continuing the GAA award, three Board meeting frequency with one being a GAA meeting, recognizing the 50-year WHRAB anniversary (April 5, 2027), Board vacancy-adjacent news, potential for a student volunteer, and Abbie sharing information about any NHPRC grant updates.

6. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn (made by Anita, seconded by Menzi) passed by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Summary

At their October 26, 2026, meeting, the WHRAB met from 11:01 to 11:50 AM. The 2025 Governor's Archives Awards (GAA) awardees presented about their projects and continued work after

receiving the GAA and the Board commented their appreciation for both awardees' work and their presentations (see Item 2). A motion to approve the July 15 Meeting Minutes passed by voice vote (see Item 3). Abbie reported on WHRAB's 2026 activities including: three award ceremonies for the 2026 GAA awardees, the WHRAB's sponsored session and Resource Center table at the Local History and Historic Preservation Conference, progress on the WHRAB's revision of the WHRAB's 1998 Best Practice Guides as part of the Wisconsin Historical Collections Landscape Project's third year (see Items 4a, 4b, 4c). The Board commented interest in acknowledging the Board members who resigned during the extended grant period (see Item 4d). Abbie reported the extended grant ends October 31, that other state historical records advisory boards are in similar situations of not having grant funding, and the board discussed how they might recruit more Board members to the WHRAB (see Item 5a). Abbie reported and the board discussed potentially continuing with three meetings per year frequency even with no funding with one meeting being the full Board working as the subcommittee (see item 5b).

Action Items

- Mara, will share links of the new episodes of the *Dark La Crosse Project* airing YouTube with the Board (see item 2b).
- Abbie, will do calendar work to see when 2027 meetings might be held (see item 5b).
- Abbie, will contact the Board via email if there are updates about the National Historical Publications and Records Commission grant (see item 5b).

Next meeting: Quarter 1 of 2027. Exact date and time to be determined. For more information, see the WHRAB's webpage: https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/research/explore-our-collections/library-archives/government-records/wisconsin-historical-records-advisory-board/
Contact: askwhrab@wisconsinhistory.org

These minutes have not yet been approved by the Wisconsin Historical Records Advisory Board.