

LRB – RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS SECTION

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

ITEM 14, FILE 060170

JUNE 13, 2006

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File #060170 is a resolution relative to application, acceptance and funding of a Shipshape III Grant by Milwaukee Public Library.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

1. This resolution authorizes the Milwaukee Public Library (MPL) to accept and fund a Shipshape III Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Administration. This is a joint project between MPL and the Wisconsin Marine Historical Society (WMHS). The purpose of the project is to convert additional Great Lakes vessel files from paper format to a computerized database. *This is a continuation grant.*
2. The WMHS is dedicated to discovering, collecting, recording, preserving and disseminating materials related to Great Lakes maritime history. Since 1959, the WMHS and MPL have collaborated and developed the most extensive depositories of Great Lakes historical materials in existence, the Great Lakes Marine Collection. Many files are on acid laden paper, causing the photos and articles to deteriorate. In recent years, the collection has also become a victim to theft.
3. The vessel files are the most heavily used part of the collection. Each ship file contains historical data: photographs of the vessel, magazine and newspaper articles about the ship, when it was built and for whom, who was the captain, type of cargo, launching, collisions, did it sink and if the wreck has been found, and general information like the vessel log book collection, biographies of prominent owners, masters and captains, and other facts pertinent to marine researchers and the general public. Each vessel is listed in *CountyCat*, the library's online catalog, by the name of the vessel as the title of a book, and the names of the owners and captains as the authors.
4. In the Shipshape I grant, the paper archival vessel files were converted into an electronic format to facilitate the updating of the records, and data entry staff were hired to supplement the work of the WMHS and its volunteers, consolidating information from various WMHS databases. In the Shipshape II grant, additional records were converted into an electronic format and plans included working with a consultant to create a WEB version of the database. In the Shipshape III grant, the final phase, the vessel database will be made available on the Internet and the WEB. This includes promotion, web publication of the collection and updating the reference backlog.
5. The grant funding is for staff, volunteers and professional services.

FISCAL IMPACT

1. The total for the Shipshape III Grant is \$80,265. The Wisconsin Department of Administration provides \$32,017, 40%; and the City in-kind share is \$48,248, 60%, which includes \$25,427 in salary, fringe benefits; and \$22,821 of in-kind MPL volunteer, computer time with WMHS in-kind volunteer and computer equipment.
2. The grant period is from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007.

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