

LRB – FISCAL REVIEW SECTION ANALYSIS

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

ITEM 13, FILE 050561

SEPTEMBER 21, 2005

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File #050561 is a resolution relative to the acceptance of a Shipshape II Grant by Milwaukee Public Library.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

1. This resolution authorizes the Milwaukee Public Library (MPL) to accept and fund a Shipshape II Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Administration. This is a joint project between MPL and Wisconsin Marine Historical Society (WMHS). The purpose of the project is to convert an additional 2,000 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, 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 funding, the paper archival vessel files were converted into an electronic format to facilitate the updating of the records and to provide for its preservation. Data entry staff were hired to supplement the work of the WMHS and its volunteers, consolidating information from various WMHS databases. In the next phase of this project, through the Shipshape II grant, additional records will be converted into an electronic format and plans include working with a consultant to create a WEB version of the database.
5. The funding is for staff, volunteers and purchasing of computer equipment.

FISCAL IMPACT

1. The total for the Shipshape II Grant is \$111,221. The Wisconsin Department of Administration provides \$44,830, 40%; and the City in-kind share is \$66,391, 60%, which includes \$29,045 in salary and fringe benefits; and \$37,346 of in-kind MPL volunteer and computer time and WMHS in-kind volunteer and computer equipment.
2. The grant period is from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006.

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