

Christine

This podcast is produced on the ancestral homeland of the Nooksack and Lummi people. 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.

(interlude music plays)

Neil

WCLS in Whatcom County presents Library Stories, a podcast to open your eyes to all the ways your local public libraries matter. Join us as we reveal the power of sharing at the library. I'm your host, Neil McKay, Online Experience Coordinator for the Whatcom County Library System and today...

All right, here we are again for another podcast episode, and I'm here with my boss, Mary Vermilion.

Mary

Hi, Neil.

Neil

It's the end of May and it's a really yeah.

Mary

Can you believe it?

Neil

Time is just flying.

Mary

Yeah, we're coming up on, it's almost Memorial Day weekend and this Saturday WCLS staff will be marching in the Ski to Sea parade. I know you're gonna be in that, right?

Neil

That's right, I will. Well, by the time this podcast comes out the parade, this parade will be over, but we're going to be in so many parades this year.

Mary

Yeah, we have a busy summer coming up. We are going to be in just about any community parade you can think of. There will be library staff marching along and we hope people listening will cheer as we walk by or hey, you can join us. You can also march in the parades with us. So ask at your branch how you can get involved with that. Yeah.

Neil

That's right. And needless to say, the bookmobile will be there. I said, needless to say, but I did feel the need to say it.

Mary

Of course. I think it was helpful to say it, yes. So cheer for Huckleberry, the bookmobile, as Huckleberry drives by, but yeah, it's just a busy summer. And of course, Summer Reading starts June 1st.

Neil

Summer Reading you starting June 1st, it's going to be an exciting year for that.

Mary

Yeah, let's talk about that in the next podcast, yeah.

Neil

Yeah, we because we have a lot to talk about this podcast.

Mary

Yeah, I mentioned you know, it's a busy summer. We're gonna be in a lot of parades and we're also working hard and making sure people know about a library levy lid lift measure which will be on the August 5th ballot. And so we thought it would be good to sit down with Executive Director Christine Perkins and the chair of our Board of Trustees, Rod Lofdahl, to learn a bit more about the board of trustees and a bit about the ballot measure too.

Neil

Yeah, and a bit about Rod, who is a fascinating guy.

Mary

And a lot about right? Yeah, yeah. Really interesting. Whatcom County native, who is widely read.

Neil

Yeah. And someone who went to the bookmobile back when he was a kid.

Mary

At the Haynie Grange.

Neil

At the Haynie Grange. That's right.

Mary

Yeah. Yeah. So just one more library story and one more story we can share here on the podcast.

Neil

Yeah. So let's get to it. Cause there's a lot that he's gonna say, and Christine's gonna say, and I'm gonna try not to say anything dumb.

Mary

I'm looking forward to hearing the conversation.

Neil

Alright, let's go.

(interlude music plays)

Neil

OK, so I'm here with Rod Lofdahl. Rod is a member of the Whatcom County Library System Board of Trustees. He is actually serving as the chair. Hi, Rod.

Rod

Hi, Neil.

Rod

So also with me today is Christine Perkins, who is the executive director of the Whatcom County Library System. Hi, Christine.

Christine

Hi Neil, glad to be here.

Neil

So Rod, how long have you been a trustee with the library system?

Rod

Ohh, I guess I should have looked that up. I started the COVID year. So 2020.

Neil

Wow, ok.

Rod

Yeah, that was my first year, so.

Neil

Yeah, that was, that's a hard time to remember back. You know, it seems like both a long time ago and just yesterday, doesn't it?

Rod

And yeah, exactly. And it was interesting because probably by my second board meeting we were having to meet remotely. So, I got used to doing all that, doing Zoom and then Teams and I definitely like meeting in person. It's great to have those as options when people can't meet, but I'm glad we're kind of more back to normal so.

Neil

Yeah. Back to normal. Yeah. I mean, you don't normally stop and think about it on a day-to-day basis, but we were, you were working out of home, you were, you know, coming to meetings. We had to learn how to use Zoom.

Rod

Yeah.

Neil

Everything changed for a while. And so you've been with us for five years now then, right?
OK.

Christine

Well, that was a pretty big decision right out of the gate. We were deciding to close the library down because there was an international pandemic and we didn't know what the implications of having a library open might be and so as a new trustee coming in, that's quite a big thing to get your head around.

Neil

Yeah. How did that feel?

Rod

It felt like there was big decisions to be made and I just remember being so impressed with the staff and Christine and the leadership and just everybody and how things were presented and how they were thought about and just how we moved forward.

Neil

Yeah. But it wasn't something you were you, when you decided you wanted to be part of a library board of trustees. Was that something you expected to have to do?

Rod

That was not what I expected. No, not at all. So, I had actually been on and I'd been serving on another board prior to joining the library board and so I thought I had kind of an idea of, you know what this is all about and what this is like and yeah, right out of the gate, there was nothing. There was some, some real differences.

Christine

Surprise.

Neil

Well, I have to say that I, you know, having gone through it as a staff member, I really appreciated the board's thoughtful decision making about it. And, you know, and the rest of the staff as well, just kind of, it's just like here's the situation we're in. How do we do this in the best way that still taking care of our patrons and taking care of our staff and I just really appreciate the backing that the board had for that.

Rod

Well, it was so great seeing some of the things, you know, even the library. When we did close down, then seeing them provide the checkouts, people were able to come and, you know, still get the books they wanted and they would just pick up the bags.

Neil

Outside the buildings, yeah.

Rod

I yeah, I took advantage of that myself. And just seeing, just the flexibility . Just thinking outside the box that goes on. I've seen it a lot since I've been here and I've just really appreciate everything you know. The different services that the library provides too. I've been a library user since I was, well I moved, I was born here, but I moved back to Whatcom County when I was 5 and lived out in Custer. We were kind of remote, and the bookmobile would come to literally like half a mile down the road from where I grew up. With the Haynie Grange and the bookmobile would stop there. And then once in a while, we would come into, we'd go into Ferndale and go to the library and.

Neil

Yeah.

Rod

I've been a big library user my entire life and, but I'm always fascinated and amazed with some of the services that I just didn't even know that they provided and I'm always getting surprised. And I'm delighted with the ideas that they come up with and how they implement some of this stuff. So it really is a blessing to be part of the library system in this way. So.

Neil

What are some of the services that have surprised you? What were you not expecting to learn? Because I learned things as well when I started working for the library, I thought I knew the library, grew up with it and, you know, and all. And it's like there's so much more.

Rod

Well, I remember one of the first things with all the library of things when I was first kind of getting onboarded, just finding out that they had the American Girl dolls is like my daughter had one of those when she was growing up and loved those. And I was like what? The library has and yeah, and.

Christine

More than 100.

Rod

When we visited Blaine, seeing the artwork, how it was displayed and that people can check that out. Another thing, they're just like, wow, it just caught me by surprise and I'm just like I said, I'm constantly amazed, yeah.

Neil

So let's talk about like the other part of your life, you said you were born here in Whatcom County and came back when you were five and you went to Blaine.

Rod

Yeah.

Neil

What's your Whatcom County experience?

Rod

I grew up out on Haynie Road in a house my great grandpa built.

Neil

I have to say and this probably won't get into the show, but I spent 11 years living on Haynie Road.

Rod

Really? Ohh wow.

Neil

Yeah, between Valley View and Custer School Rd.

Rod

I was on the corner of Valley View and Haynie.

Neil

So by so across the street from the grange like.

Rod

Kind of. So I was on the other corner. I was kind of actually as a kid I helped, I kind of worked on the Dakota Creek golf course that was across the street.

Neil

Oh yeah, yeah.

Rod

I grew up with a couple of those kids that were in the family that built that. And I actually went to Bellingham Christian for my elementary school years. My grandma, who actually lived out near us, was a was my third grade teacher there at Bellingham Christian. So I went to Blaine for high school, really enjoyed it. Shout out to Blaine High School. And then I went to Western for my degree in Economics and Accounting. And pretty much after, yeah, once I got my degree I just started working in that field. I worked up in Blaine for a number of years, became the controller at Nielsen Brothers, which was a logging company in Bellingham. And then I transitioned to LRT, which is where I currently am at. I'm the chief financial officer and a minority owner. Doing that for a long time now.

Neil

So I have to admit to some ignorance. What's a LRT?

Rod

So it is a logging and road construction company. The LRT doesn't technically stand for.

Neil

OK. Anything.

Rod

Not specifically, not officially. It doesn't. It's just, yeah.

Neil

That's the best kind of acronym that doesn't stand for anything. I can get behind that.

Christine

Keep them guessing.

Rod

It was put, it put us near the front of the phone book when there was phone books, so there was some other reasons too, but I don't even that was actually before my time so.

Neil

So that's great. So your account, you're doing the accounting and more?

Rod

Yeah.

Neil

But you're also involved in the logging, which is so Whatcom County.

Rod

It is. It is. Yeah. When I was in high school and college, I worked at a shipyard up in Blaine, which we were working primarily on fishing boats and that kind of stuff, and then a lot of my adult career has been associated with the timber industry and it's just kind of, I'm like, how cliché and Whatcom County fishing and timber, but.

Neil

Something to be proud of.

Rod

Yeah.

Neil

So, you had mentioned before that the bookmobile used to come up to Haynie Rd.

Rod

Yes, it seemed like back then we would like ride our bikes everywhere kind of being out in the out in the county. If you wanted to do anything you had to, you know, we would ride to the Sunrise store,

Neil

Sure.

Rod

And so that, that that was less than I think it's less than half a mile from where my house was to the Haynie Grange. That was where they usually, there was kind of a parking lot area, that's where the bookmobile would pull in. So.

Neil

They came once a week. Do you remember were there a lot of kids who would show up?

Rod

I don't remember like numbers, but we weren't the only ones there, although as many books as I checked out, maybe it was the only reason they came up there. Maybe I hit their, hit the numbers for them, but no, I don't actually think that's what happened.

Neil

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Well, tell me about like, what? What did you like to read as a kid? What's your, what's your library story?

Rod

So I've always liked to read everything. I particularly like history and kind of anthropological types things. But you know, actually, when I was a kid, we would spend like every Sunday we would go up to my grandma's and this isn't a library, but it is book related and while everybody else was doing their thing, she had encyclopedias, and I read the encyclopedias from A-Z, the entire thing.

Neil

Wow.

Rod

And it definitely helped with my academic career I feel like.

Christine

That is dedication.

Neil

Well for sure

Christine

That's a lot of reading.

Rod

I read a lot of historical nonfiction. I also like a lot of historical fiction. But I try to throw in stuff that's sometimes it's not even on my radar, you know? It's like between talking to people, getting recommendations, I get emails every day with different reading lists and sometimes I read things that I'm not super enamored with, you know that I find off of these

lists, but it's always it's just kind of broadening my exposure to things. So just. Yeah, pretty much whatever.

Neil

Yeah, it's great to be open to things, but not everything touches you, you know? Yeah.

Rod

Not everything.

Neil

Yeah.

Christine

Well, Rod, you've recommended things to me. In fact, just that PBS series about libraries, free for all.

Rod

Yeah.

(interlude music plays)

Christine

Our Whatcom County Library System Board of trustees consists of five members. They're all volunteers. They are in charge of overseeing our budget for the library system. Huge deal. Taxpayer dollars coming in and these folks are the ones making sure that we're spending it to do the most good for people in our community. Second thing they do is set the policies for the library system. So, overall, how are we going to approach achieving our mission of connecting people to ideas and information, and then the third thing they do is they hire the executive director. So that's me. They get to guide and shape the work that I do and they delegate to me the whole running of the library, the day-to-day operations of the library. And I have 168 staff members that I work with who get to actually do the library work. What's critical is to have that volunteer board representing all of the different communities in Whatcom County sharing their life skills, knowledge, expertise with the library system. Asking difficult questions. Why are we doing certain things? How are we doing it? Is the way we're doing it effective? Is it really something that other people in our community value and appreciate and we should continue? So they are giving that

guidance, the insight and just keeping us on track, which is so critical, it's really important right now that we are looking ahead and projecting a real budget crunch in the future to have these citizens who are trying to help us figure out the best path forward because they share with the staff an abiding interest in making sure that the library is sustainable into the future.

(interlude music plays)

Neil

What made you decide that it was important to get involved with the library?

Rod

Yeah, so I've always felt like it is important to try to be involved with our communities. And to give back. But I've found not all the different options are necessarily really suited to me, but I've had served on a couple of boards before and I actually had just termed out I had been on the Whatcom County Forestry Advisory Board and I had, like I said, I had termed out. And so I was kind of looking around and I saw that there was a position available on the library board and I was like, oh my gosh, this this is right up my alley, mostly because I feel like I love the library. I'm a big user. I'm a huge advocate for just lifetime learning. I feel really strongly about just intellectual freedom. People being able to have access to all sorts of different sources of information and I also just thought you know, with the background that I have in finance and running a company and management and things like that, I just I thought that a lot of those translated really well to a board position and I applied and apparently other people agreed. So yeah. Then I came on board and it's been a really great experience.

Neil

That's great.

Christine

Rod, when your application hit the inbox, our library board personnel committee thought we've hit the jackpot with this guy, you know, born in Whatcom County, lived here most of his life. True polymath. Someone who wants to learn and read all the time and use, actively uses the library. You couldn't ask for more. You know your ties to the logging industry. That's just cool too, you know, and representing kind of Ferndale, Custer area but also Deming, you know, area from your logging connections. All of those things are to the good

and then you know accounting and you are interested in a Personnel and a Finance Committee. Like, really, you're just a dream a trustee. And have been such a great addition. And also you genuinely seem interested when we're talking about stuff and introducing trustees to what we're up to here at the library. And that's just so valuable. You have such great insights and you're willing to share them.

Rod

Well, thank you for saying all those nice things about me. You know, I also feel while I've lived in Whatcom County. I've actually lived in most of the communities in in Whatcom County. So, at different times in my life I've used each of the different library branches that you know I lived in Everson for years, and I've used the Deming Library as my primary one, even though I live in Ferndale now and I do occasionally use that, I just did a interlibrary loan and for some reason, normally every book when I check them out, it just automatically said that it like pops for Deming Library. But, for some reason when I did the interlibrary loan, it happened to, it came to Ferndale. So. I was like well, this is a good opportunity. Yeah, just down the road. Now, I'm gonna go in, go into the branch. So. But I lived in Lynden for a number of years. Obviously, when I, you know, I was in high school in Blaine. I have actually lived in Bellingham a couple different times over the years too, so I've been able to use the sister library system.

Neil

Bellingham Public Library. Yeah.

Rod

And I actually I used to, I do a lot of genealogical research and what not, and I used their resources a lot when I was younger, kind of before there were nowadays there's a lot of things available online. Yeah, but that wasn't always the case. So, I used to spend a lot of time using the microfiche and the different book resources that they had there for the, all of that.

Neil

We still have a microfiche at Lynden.

Rod

Yeah.

Rod

We have one microfiche for the county. Is that right? I think that's right.

Christine

That's correct. Yeah. Yeah. Microfilm reader.

Neil

Yeah, well, let's so talking about your experience in accounting and you know, working with businesses and stuff, it seems like there's kind of a good segue there into talking about one of the big things that's coming up with the library system, which is a Levy Lid Lift election. Christine's nodding at me because I said it correctly. Let's talk a little about that. How, I don't really know what the question to ask is.

Christine

Well, well, I think there's a good jump here, which is, Rod, you have good experience working in the for-profit sector. And one of the things that always strikes me as a difference is that when you and your business get more customers you are jumping through the roof excited because that means more sales, more profit for the business.

Rod

There are a lot of differences and it is it was pretty eye opening then you know getting exposed to how the budget works and you know we're limited to this 1% increase per year. And you know, now we've been looking at for the last several years price increases across the board just for everything that far exceed the 1% and you have to go back out to the voters for something like this levy lid lift increase.

Christine

Well, Rod, you attended multiple budget listening sessions this past January, February, where we were tapping into each community and hearing from them what they felt our best options were moving forward regarding our budget and would you agree we heard over and over again, don't cut the services. We rely on the services, we value the services. So, really it's not decrease expenses. It's increased revenue was the main focus.

Rod

Yeah, that seemed to be the consensus. Everybody I felt like was really supportive of, like, no, we need to do what we can to be able to maintain and continue to expand the different services that the library provides. So, I thought that was the message. Every meeting I went to it seemed to be the consensus.

Christine

You were at some of the smaller branches like Lummi Island. What did you pick up from that community?

Rod

Yeah. So even though that was a smaller branch, we had a great turn out there. We had, that whole room was crammed actually. I just felt like the people that attended most of these meetings at all are the ones I went to are definitely strong library supporters.

Neil

When was the last time that we had gone to the voters to ask for an increase?

Rod

So, I believe it was 2008 was when this was last.

Christine

We were starting to talk about it then and it was on the ballot in 2009.

Rod

OK, so it's been quite a while and that was one of the other things. You know, when I was going through all these meetings and looking at budgets and just looking back overtime, it was presented that that was going to be something that was like, OK, this is going to be around for five or six years and then we're going to have to go back to the community then and it's been a whole lot longer than 5 or 6 years. And I've been like I said, I've been really impressed with what the library system has been able to do with the funds that are available.

(interlude music plays)

Neil

I remember during COVID when you were first on the board the decision was made to expand our, we had Wi-Fi in our buildings and we expanded it to our parking lots because the buildings were closed. And you know, providing that service to people, especially when we were unable to let them come in anymore, suddenly there were people who depended on us for Wi-Fi.

Rod

Ohh exactly. I saw it in action at Deming, you know, especially when it was actually closed, I'd go in there to do my pickup, pick up my books and you had seen numerous vehicles as well as just people sitting, you know, kind of just sitting on the steps on their laptop and just taking advantage. And again, it's just another one of those great services that not everybody even realizes that the library provides.

Christine

And we check out Wi-Fi hotspots to people so that when they're out and about, if they can't afford a good cell phone plan with an internet connection, they can check out a Wi-Fi hotspot from us and have access that way.

Rod

It is amazing.

Neil

Yeah, I mean it kind of begs the question of what you know what is a public library? What is our purpose?

Rod

Yes. I think the purpose, like I said it's providing access to all this different information in all sorts of different sources As well as you know, we've got a community place for people to gather it's a very important part of the library system that besides the things we think about, like the books and the magazines that people can go check out these other things, toys, the dolls, the games. All these kind of things, people that maybe wouldn't necessarily have easy access to these under any other circumstance, and I do think that these kind of opportunities are so important.

Christine

One of those things that I really love that we offer is our Discover Washington backpacks that come with the Discover Pass in them. It seems surprising to me when we're surrounded by all this amazing natural beauty in our county, there are hiking trails everywhere. There are lakes, there are rivers, there's beaches, that there are families out there that don't access these things because they're blocked by not having the money to pay for a discover pass. We can make that possible for people.

Rod

Right there. I mean, what an amazing thing to even think that the library that you can check out a Discover pass and it is one of those things I think I feel like even Birch Bay State Park you are technically supposed to have a Discover pass to visit. Yeah, I have been ticketed.

Christine

They'll ticket you.

Rod

So yeah, there's it really is just the services that the library provides and especially the things that are available for everybody, but also for those people that are possibly disadvantaged in any way, it just really is an important part of our community.

Neil

This is something that we've made a habit of doing to most of our interview guests, and that's to ask them for some book recommendations. What do you got?

Rod

Yeah, I probably actually have. I jotted a few things down. I probably have more than I need to share right now.

Neil

That's ok.

Rod

But I must say just I'm a huge fan of all of the Bernard Cornwell books, one of the series is a sax and tails series. A lot of people know it as *The Last Kingdom*. They made a show about it, but the books are wonderful. He did a whole series of sharpe.

Christine

Sharpe's war. He's the character.

Rod

All of those. Yeah, it's all in the Napoleonic era, also with a little bit more of a local flavor, even though it is technically Idaho and there was a book by Timothy Egan, *The Big Burn*.

Neil

Oh yeah.

Rod

I even though I had been there before, I made a specific trip to Wallace, Idaho. After reading that just to kind of look around and see where that all transpired.

Christine

Did you read *Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher*? By Timothy Egan.

Rod

I believe so, yes, because I think I've read almost everything that Timothy Egan has out.

Christine

So, the one about the photographer who's taking pictures of all of the representatives of each federally recognized tribe.

Rod

Yes, a little bit more in the fantasy category was, *I'm Afraid You've Got Dragons* by Peter S. Beagle. It was just I don't even know how it got on my radar, but it was just a fun read and along those lines seemed very historic, but also somewhat futuristic. I just read one, called the *Ministry of Time* by Kalia Bradley, I'm not entirely sure. Sometimes I might be butchering some of these.

Neil

We'll get all the names right in the in the podcast list.

Christine

What do you think about that one rod is a little bit of a romance in there?

Rod

Yeah, you know, I thought there was a lot of interesting features to that one because in some ways, like I said, I liked the historic, you know, they grabbed these people from back in time. I'm not gonna go too much into it, but yeah, there was a little bit of there was some history as well as some kind of science fiction. And there was some romance and pretty good character development, I thought, so that one was that one was a lot of fun. Also, I do have to do an audio book that I recently did that is great as an I mean it's I'm sure it's a great read as well, but the *Dutch House* by Ann Patchett, Tom Hanks narrates it.

Neil

Yeah.

Rod

And I've actually recommended it to a couple of people and at least one of them and I'm gonna name names. She's come back to me and said this has become her go to she just like she's listened to it at least four or five times now. And even just listens to her while she's, like, trying to fall asleep. Not that that doesn't sound like a positive recommendation, but it is. It's a great it's a great listen. And in the world of memoirs, I actually I throw some of those in once in a while. I really liked Matthew McConaughey's *Green Lights*. It's one of the better ones that I've come across in the last couple of years. And on the historical nonfiction.

Neil

Yeah, OK, I know.

Christine

We told you he reads a lot.

Rod

David McCullough. He I just did *Pioneers*, which was good. But one of his early ones I read a long time ago, *The Johnstown Flood* has really stood out for like I think about that every once in a while. And just it was, I don't know, somehow it just grabbed me and I think they even I think there might be if not a documentary, a movie or something made about that one, I have a few more but I'll stop there.

Neil

Alright, well, well, talking about historical stuff. Who's your, who would? I'm just this is just for me. Who's your favorite? And like, if you had a historical person that you could sit down and talk to, have dinner with.

Rod

Oh, wow. Wow. I don't know. One of my favorite historic characters that I'm very fascinated with, I don't know whether I would want to sit down and have dinner with him, but he's a Viking.

Christine

You might get chopped off.

Rod

And it's Harold Hardrada. He was a younger son of a Norwegian king and his brother actually became king, and when he was like 15 years old, there was a huge battle in

Norway in which his brother was actually killed. Somebody else took over and he had to flee. He fled over the mountains into Sweden and ended up making his way to Kiev and what's now Russia. At that time it was part of the Rus, which they were kind of related. And he ended up down in Byzantium and became head of the Varangian Guard, which was kind of this elite military unit that fought for the Byzantine Empire all throughout the Mediterranean, but they were made-up of mostly Viking, Scandinavian guys and at some point he decided it was he was rich enough. And decided to make his way back to Scandinavia, so he returned to Norway and he added now, like I said, he was pretty wealthy at this point managed to because of his family ties and his money ended up becoming one of the kings in Norway. And then he wrapped up his career in 1066. He was the one that invaded England right before William the Conqueror invaded England. So, King Harold of England, actually was waiting to meet William the Conqueror's invasion, but then Harold Hardrada invaded up in the north, and so he had to March up there, and Harold Hardrada actually met his fate, his end there. But I just always have been fascinated. Yeah, yeah, he kind of did.

Christine

He softened it up. Yeah, he paved the way for William the Conqueror. Yeah.

Mary

Well, I did not expect that answer.

Christine

So is Harold H-a-r-a-l-d.

Rod

It depends. People spell it different ways. Sometimes there's two A's on the back end, I've seen different.

Mary

Can we put this in the show notes, please? Like some sort of some sort of Wikipedia entry or something for?

Neil

Absolutely, absolutely.

Rod

So, he's just somebody I've, he had such an interesting career kind of for that time frame, the places he went, the places, you know, the things he saw and did and just kind of to then circle back.

Mary

But you're right, it might be a difficult dinner.

Rod

Yes.

Mary

Although you wouldn't have to worry about your manners.

Rod

Yeah.

Neil

Well, Rod, thank you for sitting down with us and thank you for your service on the board. Really. That's, you know, I know that the pay is lousy.

Rod

Well, thank you for this opportunity. I am a big fan of the Whatcom County Library podcast and as an opportunity for me, I was apprehensive, but also looking forward to it. So thank you.

Neil

We try to make it a pleasant experience for people and thank you, Christine Perkins, for joining us.

Rod

Yeah. Thank you.

Christine

Happy to do it. Anything I'm Rod's hype squad. I really am so grateful for his leadership. He's just calm. He's runs a good meeting. We're on task. Stuff is getting done and I feel like he generates a really nice dynamic amongst the other board members so that everyone feels like they can contribute and we're getting stuff done.

Rod

I do feel like it's we have a great board and everybody that I've worked for during my or worked with during my tenure, it's just been a great experience and lots, you know, just a diverse group of interesting people and but we all have in common that we love the library and the services it provides, and we're all interested in it's continuity and sustainability, so it's been a great, great opportunity for me.

Neil

Well, thank you. Thank you again and that's it except.

(interlude music plays)

Neil

Well, that's our show. I want to thank my guests, WCLS Board of Trustees Chair Rod Lofdahl and WCLS Executive Director Christine Perkins. And of course, thanks to my boss, Mary Vermilion, as King Arthur says *In the Once and Future King*, "I don't think things ought to be done because you are able to do them. I think they should be done because you ought to do them." Keep listening, my friends, and if you want to write me to let me know how you are enjoying the podcast, e-mail me at neil.mckay@wcls.org. Find my e-mail along with all Rod's book recommendations and more in the show notes at wcls.org/podcast. Until next time, take care of my friends.