

Montana State Library Commission
Draft Minutes for March 15, 2004 Teleconference Call
Helena, MT

Attendees:

Commissioners

(Via phone):

Bruce Morton, Al Randall, Caroline Bitz, Gail Staffanson, Toni Broadbent, Don Allen, Cheri Bergeron (in person)

Staff:

Karen Strege, Darlene Staffeldt, Barbara Duke, Kris Schmitz, Sue Jackson

Introductions

Karen Strege introduced the people in attendance at the library. Chairperson Al Randall called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.

EPP

Strege reported that a memo was sent to the Commissioners to let them know what new proposals staff was considering presenting to the Governor for the FY06/07 biennium. The requests to the Governor's office may include restoring funds to the ILL reimbursement program, federation funding, State Library operations and per capita/per square mile grants. This would restore the funding lost in FY04/05. A proposal to ask the Governor to switch the funding for the two technology consultant positions from federal funds to general fund money is also being developed. A decision by the Commissioners is not needed at this point, but Strege wanted to get the Commission's approval to pursue these proposals before time was invested in developing them for consideration at the next meeting. Allen asked if the requests were going to cause problems politically. Strege answered that she and Schmitz met with budget director Chuck Swysgood, and were told not to spend a lot of time writing new proposals because the funds would not be available. However, Strege feels that if we do not ask for restored funding, we give the impression that the Library doesn't care about and doesn't need the funding. Schmitz added that we should be fine politically because we are just showing our concerns and priorities and that there is a need for more funding.

Bitz asked what the benefits would be to shifting the technology positions to general fund. Strege explained that the positions are currently paid for with LSTA funds and switching them to general fund would make more federal funds available for other projects. Randall asked if the legislature could approve the switch and then not approve the money from the general fund. Schmitz said the positions are modified, so there is not any danger of losing them. This proposal would seek to move the positions out of modified and up into current level budget as an ongoing cost to the State Library.

The request to switch the consultants to general fund has been submitted before, but it has never been approved. We ask for both positions to be switched in hopes that the legislature will compromise and switch one.

The Commission gave its approval to Strege to proceed with the EPP proposals.

FY04 LSTA Budget

Strege reported that OCLC reduced the price of the group catalog and the price for copy cataloging libraries was increased, so we are now only \$58,000 short. The revised LSTA budget contains that amount from federal funds. The increase to the libraries was kept as low as

possible in hopes that libraries wouldn't have to drop out of the group catalog because of budget concerns.

At the last meeting \$126,000 of LSTA funds were left unallocated. Strege asked for approval for \$57,749 for the group catalog, \$8,500 for the Fall Workshop, an additional \$8,594 for marketing, \$31,000 for trustee training, \$10,000 for Summer Institute FY05 and \$10,809 to allow one smaller library to join the catalog.

Morton asked what the total money spent on marketing would now be and what the goals of the marketing campaign would be. Strege explained that the focus of the campaign has not yet been decided, but what has been done in the past is to work with the MLA public relations committee to form a campaign. Burton is researching a campaign in conjunction with OPI, Head Start and other institutions and organizations interested in promoting early literacy. These types of projects are also of interest to private funders. The total budget for marketing is \$32,000, which includes \$12,000 for Burton's salary and benefits and \$20,000 for the campaign.

Action Items

Allen moved that the budget as presented be approved. Staffanson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 am.