

**Montana State Library Commission**  
**Final Meeting Minutes for July 21, 2006**  
**Helena, MT**

**Commission Members:** Don Allen, Cheri Bergeron, Cindy Carrywater, Ron Moody and Bruce Morton.

**Staff:** Christie Briggs, Bob Cooper, Sara Groves, Tina Hash, Jim Hill, Maggie Meredith, Bruce Newell, Kris Schmitz, Darlene Staffeldt, Chris Stockwell and Julie Stewart.

**Introductions:**

Hill introduced Chris Stockwell who is the new programmer/analyst in the Library Information Services area. Staffeldt introduced the new administrative assistant Tina Hash. She replaced Tristen and is doing a fantastic job.

**Visitors:**

Marsha Hinch, Choteau/Teton Public Library.

**Inter-library Loans**

Newell distributed a spreadsheet that is sorted by library names, net lenders and the difference between this year and last year's lending. Staffeldt said the second grouping is net lenders and at this point, the total number of eligible net lending transactions is 4,971. These are preliminary numbers. They are not the whole year as we still receiving this year's submission of ILL requests. The Commission reviewed the spreadsheet.

Staffeldt said the Commission made the motion in August regarding how ILL reimbursement would take place. If the Commission wants to go forward with that motion, they need to accept the current rule changes. The current rule will allow the 50/50, which is half of the money for all the libraries and half for the net lenders. If Commission wants to stick to that original motion in August a motion needs to be done today to do that.

Carrywater moved to implement the rules as presented to the Commission today.

Morton said that the University System would prefer a model based on net lending only. That motion failing to get a second, the motion before us now the University System regards the current motion as a reasonable compromise.

Morton observed that the data just presented to the Commission shows that the beneficiaries on the net lending side from the proposed change in rules are broadly represented across the spectrum. The extra services they render will be rewarded by the change in rules.

Moody reminded the Commission that the action under the motion still should be looked at as an interim solution, not a final solution to the ILL problem. He doesn't want the library community to see this as our final solution to IL.

Carrywater asked how much is in the budget for ILL?

Staffeldt said there is a set amount that is authorized by the legislature. It's \$191,000 per year and it all goes out every year.

Morton said the situation we're dealing with has been exacerbated by two things. One is the increase in the size of the enumerator and the other is that two legislatures ago we had to cut budgets and the pot of money was cut from \$300,000 to \$191,000. Both of those facts have heightened the issue of ILL among the library community.

Moody said that without knowing what the overall cost is how can we go to the local libraries and explain that to them?

Allen would like some of the pressure off the system. We're trying to solve a problem that has nothing to do with ILL. He agreed that the big problem is the under funding of the local libraries.

Carrywater asked if this plan would be for just one year.

Staffeldt explained the motion just made we would reimburse 50/50. The motion back in August was that next year it's net lenders. To do that we need legislation to change it as well as rule changes. We have legislation prepared for next session that will make that possible, however, we don't know if that will go through. In April next year we will say that we can still do 50/50 but we can't do net lenders if the legislation doesn't pass. If the legislation passes, we can then we can go to net lenders. If the total package passes, we're in essence we would be doing away with ILL totally as it is. It will be replaced with the proposal for the statewide OCLC payment and the pilot delivery mechanism. The chances of that two million dollar package happening is slim, so we may have this discussion again. Staffeldt said that Morton is right. The bottom line is there isn't enough money in local libraries to support basic library services, so as the State Library we're trying to help in whatever way we can. The Library Development program tries to help the libraries and teach them how to go to their libraries and demand what their rightfully suppose to be getting. We've worked on every angle we can to help the local libraries to be able to take care of themselves. We're trying to look at statewide efforts to benefit in the best way possible. Three or four years ago we took budget cuts and the ILL program is one piece that got cut. Internally we took cuts in all of the programs here but when we looked at where to do the statewide cut, we took it in the ILL reimbursement, knowing that it impacted every library and knowing that it wasn't solving the whole issue anyway. Back then, we were making the decision that is leading us to finding something else besides ILL reimbursements to help libraries. No matter how much money we pour into it, that will never solve the problem. That's not to negate all the great comments we received. It was a very valuable program when it first was instituted. It allowed libraries

to share when they felt they weren't able to share at all. But at this point, we have to move forward. We can certainly look at ILL further, but we do already have a good handle on the issues and we won't be able to solve the issue of ILL.

Motion passed unanimously.

Staffeldt reiterated that the motion was to accept rules as provided. We will respond to all comments that were made and move forward with the Secretary of State's office. The reimbursement this year will be based on half of the money going out to all of the libraries based on the loans and the other half to libraries that are net lenders. If we don't get the legislation changed, this is what will happen again next year.

### **Long Range Plan**

Staffeldt said this process started over 18 months ago. There were some retreats setting goals. The Commission saw preliminary long range plan items in August 2005. You saw the first full long range plan in February 2006. It has been on the website for approximately ten months. We've taken it to Networking Task Force, Federation meetings, Commission meetings, Montana Library Association, both in sessions and at our booths. Montana State Library is pleased with the plan, however, it's not perfect. Do we have the resources to carry out everything in this plan? No. Staffeldt would like the Commission's assistance in prioritizing what we can and can not do. The long range plan reflects continuing some of the great programs and services and yet there are also some new items. We need to get this to a point that we say this is a final draft.

Our library development consulting, helping library communities become more self sustaining is a fairly significant part of the long range plan. The new fulfillment is getting users throughout the state using appropriate library services. There are some changes for the Library Information Services division. We've picked up some of the recommendations from the Bushing report. There's a lot of information about partnerships in the plan. We need to focus on what the State Library can do best or only can do versus what we can rely on partners to help us do for the library community. We need to get from the Commission some general by in. Some very specific measurable time lines and objectives are missing. Each program will work on those once we get a feel from the Commission. Library Development had their first opportunity as to prioritizing their area of the plan.

Bergeron asked for a copy of the Bushing plan. A copy of the Bushing report was distributed to all.

The Commissioners and MSL reviewed the long range plan. Staffeldt said Newell will make the changes as specified in today's meeting. The revised plan will be emailed to the Commissioners within the next week. It will be posted to the website also.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00