

FINAL

**MONTANA STATE LIBRARY (MSL) COMMISSION MEETING
8:30 A.M., APRIL 25, 2009
RED LION INN
KALISPELL, MONTANA**

ATTENDEES:

Commissioners: Don Allen, Colet Bartow, Marsha Hinch and Ron Moody. Bonnie Allen, Joyce Funda and Nora Smith were excused.

Staff: Ken Adams, Bob Cooper, Sara Groves, Sue Jackson, Jim Kammerer, Sarah McHugh, Maggie Meredith, Suzanne Reymer, Kris Schmitz, Darlene Staffeldt, Jennie Stapp and Marlys Stark.

Visitors: Cheri Bergeron, Honore Bray, Kim Crowley, Desirée Dramstad, Michelle Fenger, John Finn, Betsy Garlish, Laura Long, Jane Lopp, Mary Lou Mires, Jodie Moore and Dee Ann Redman.

Chairman Hinch called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Moody made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 11th meeting as presented and the motion passed. Commissioner Bartow moved to accept the minutes of February 17 as presented and the motion carried.

STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

The Butte court case has been delayed and we don't have a timeline right now. The Montana Library Association (MLA) conference went very well and many people expressed appreciation for the professionalism and helpfulness of the State Library staff. Darlene Staffeldt, Marsha Hinch, Lois Fitzpatrick and Della Dubbe will be attending National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) in Washington in two weeks.

At this time there is no definite information regarding the budget coming from the Legislature and it seems they are unlikely to pass the budget bills. We will be discussing the budget at the June meeting if not before because we need to start addressing the expected shortfalls. We will be working with the worse case scenario which means looking at some type of Full Time Employee (FTE) reductions. The general funds going out to libraries will also have to be reviewed. At this time the budget indicates that there will be about \$100,000 cut through vacancy savings and \$60,000 or so out of operations. This could be 2 FTE plus the operations money. The majority of the operations budget is fixed costs with no leeway.

Libraries are not heavily represented in the stimulus bill and so will need to work with their counties and towns to get any of that funding. The Montana Association for the Blind and

FINAL

Montana Radio Reader Service bill (HB265) was dropped but the funding was put into the stimulus bill. This funding will go through the Talking Book Library's (TBL) budget.

FY09 THIRD QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT:

TBL trust approved funds have been paid out. Library Services Technology Act (LSTA) funds have been reallocated.

NETWORK ADVISORY COUNCIL (NAC) REPORT:

At the April 1st meeting, the council reviewed the scoring process for new Montana Shared Catalog (MSC) library applicants. Updates for several areas were made. They discussed AskMontana and would like state funding support and to continue LSTA funding support in order to keep the program growing. The MSC update included staffing needs and that Ken Adams is currently working on the preliminary steps to look into changing the system from the current one which is SirsiDynix. NAC wants to look into something that would benefit all the libraries not just MSC libraries. The OCLC Montana group services contract will be maintained with the annual 4% increase. A task force is to be formed which will review the current cost share formula which funds the contract. The statewide data bases (Gale and EBSCO) had some funding remaining from 2008 and Sarah McHugh will look into authentication tools. OCLC will cooperate on that. Contracts are coming up with a recommended renewal for 2 years. They want to get as many enhancements as possible without having to do a new contract. They will continue their review and begin the RFP (request for proposals) work for replacement. The meeting concluded with a discussion of House Bill 61 regarding the repurposing funds.

The ongoing cost for MSC is still a barrier for some. In addition the startup costs provided by LSTA are only for the vendor charges. Peripherals are borne by the library itself. The RFI (request for information) process involves research on a lot of issues including financial stability of the companies being looked at.

There were 9 new applicant libraries and startup funding from LSTA for those libraries recommended by NAC. They also recommended approval of the 2009 LSTA budget as well as writing to National Library Services (NLS) regarding digital content access and providing equipment to MTBL patrons. The commission discussed tabling the last recommendation until the June meeting due to expected discussions at NLLD which would provide further information.

LSTA FY '09 BUDGET:

Official notification of grant awards has been received. LSTA has been funded at the recommended level and so the provided budget is correct.

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES (IMLS) – PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT FOR LIBRARIANS (PEEL) SCHOLARSHIP EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS:

As discussed in the February meeting, Desirée Dramstad who is a PEEL scholarship recipient will be graduating in a few months. She currently is employed by the Montana State Prison library which is a special library. As such it does not meet the requirements for her particular grant. She

FINAL

has requested that this be reconsidered so she can retain her position at the prison and not have to look for other work. The State Librarian recommended that the commission require Desirée to comply with the agreement she signed by applying for all PEEL eligible jobs that become open within the 6 months after her graduation. This recommendation is based largely on the attorney's recommendation and the actual federal grant itself.

The commission discussed whether they have any authority to change the terms of the written and signed agreement and grant at this time. They also questioned whether a decision needs to be reached by them at this moment. The actual grant stipulates that a PEEL scholarship recipient apply for every PEEL eligible job that opens up in Montana for 6 months after graduation (or until employed in such a position). If they have not been given a job after the 6 month period, they can then turn in all documentation of their compliance with this request and the State Librarian will review the situation and make a recommendation to the board. IMLS itself made a recommendation that if a suitable job has not been obtained within the 6 months, an extension can be offered. Since Desirée has not graduated yet, a decision of this type is premature. The written grant as well as the agreement signed by the recipient is very clear in outlining what must be done for compliance.

Desirée was present and commented that Catherine McMullen had been told that her job at the prison was acceptable. Therefore she wanted to know if she herself would be released from her contractual obligations after looking for 6 months without being offered a position. If the conditions are exactly the same of Catherine's at the time of the recommendation (6 months of job searching without success and a fulltime librarian position in Montana even though that position did not satisfy the PEEL requirements), it is likely the State Librarian would make the same recommendation.

As outlined previously, Catherine McMullen did apply for some PEEL jobs during her 6 months after graduation but was unsuccessful. She did accept a position with the prison library and notified the PEEL committee about that position. Under those circumstances, State Librarian Staffeldt would have recommended that she be released from her obligation however those circumstances have changed. That position was not a good fit for her and she has left the job. Under these circumstances, the fact that the purpose of the grant is to keep trained librarians in Montana and based on the previously stated recommendation from IMLS, the State Librarian has recommended that the commission grant her a 6 month extension to try to find a PEEL position rather than releasing her at this point. The attorney relayed to State Librarian Staffeldt that the 6 months allowed for a job hunt is not an end point but a time for review.

Public comment on these matters indicated that the taxpayers need to be considered and also that the PEEL grant require 2 years of service in Montana. For both situations, there are going to be positions opening up that will qualify in the near future. In regards to Catherine McMullen, there were PEEL positions open previously that didn't receive even one application from a librarian in Montana which indicates the requirement of applying for all PEEL positions was not met.

POLICIES:

1. Communications

There were some changes per commission suggestion from the communications policy presented at the February meeting. After reviewing this version, it was decided to delete the words 'or

FINAL

Commissioner' in the second paragraph of the policy in order to remove any possibility of it seeming like the commission has to be given permission to speak. A possible bylaw change in the future would be to designate the chairperson as a commission spokesperson and to outline under what circumstances.

2. Disruptive Patron

There were no changes on the disruptive patron policy from that presented in February.

COMMISSION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

The mini retreat was not held so there are no discussions regarding it. A retreat is being planned for August. Darlene Staffeldt presented Commissioner Moody and Commissioner Don Allen with appreciation gifts for their services.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mary Lou Mire is the MLA representative to the Pacific Northwest Library Association (PLNA) which consists of 5 states and 2 provinces. They have a meeting every year but this year is their 100 year celebration which will be held at the Parkside Holiday Inn in Missoula from August 5th to August 7th. One particular item of interest being discussed at the conference is copyright issues. They do have a website for more information.

Kim Crowley commented that the MSC selection is very exciting because of the mix so it is important to accept the recommendations. Also that PEEL scholars are very important so it is a great recommendation to extend the job search time for another 6 months.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. FY '09 Third Quarter financial report

Commissioner Don Allen moved to accept the report as presented. The motion carried.

2. Montana Shared Catalog new libraries

Commissioner Moody made a motion to accept the 9 applicants as recommended and the motion passed.

3. LSTA FY '09 budget

Motion was made by Commissioner Allen to approve the proposed budget and the motion carried.

4. PEEL employment requirements – Dramstad

Motion by Commissioner Bartow to affirm the recommendation to continue to move forward with the scholarship program as currently stated and presented and to not grant an exception to Desirée. The motion passed.

5. PEEL employment requirements – McMullen

Commissioner Allen made a motion to accept the state librarian's recommendation to extend the time to meet the requirements by another 6 months. The motion carried.

FINAL

6. Policies – Communications

Commissioner Bartow made a motion to accept the policy with the deletion of 'or Commissioner' in the second paragraph. The motion passed.

7. Policies – Disruptive Patron

Motion made by Commissioner Moody to accept the policy as presented and the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Hinch adjourned the meeting at 11:41 a.m.