

FINAL

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY (MSL) COMMISSION MEETING 2:00 P.M., JANUARY 20, 2010 TELECONFERENCE

ATTENDEES:

Commissioners: Chairman Don Allen, Bonnie Allen, Colet Bartow, Joyce Funda, Marsha Hinch, Richard Quillin and Anita Scheetz.

Staff: Bob Cooper, Kris Schmitz, Darlene Staffeldt, Jennie Stapp and Marlys Stark.

Chairman Allen called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

WORKING SESSION ON COMMISSION GOALS:

Discussion included the difference between the majority of Montanans and the majority of libraries as well as how to determine commission goals versus state library goals and how to prioritize both. The commission would like to see a copy of the spreadsheet the state librarian and the managers have been working on which is designed to help when necessary to prioritize the services and projects the state library provides.

Commissioner Quillin requested to be included in the prioritizing since he has experience in that area. Commissioner Bartow will compile the suggestions for the drafts for goal one and send out for the February retreat. Commissioner Bonnie Allen will send out the suggestions for goal two.

AGENCY FIVE PERCENT REDUCTION PROPOSALS:

The Governor's budget office requested that Montana State Library, along with other agencies, present them with possible options for cutting five percent off the library budget using monies from the general fund, coal tax and stimulus monies previously budgeted. These proposals must be to the budget office by January 29. The budget office will review the proposals and they may choose to accept zero to 100 percent of the proposed cuts. The Legislative Finance Committee will be looking at the proposals around the first of March and a final decision would come sometime after that. The Governor does have the option to request up to ten percent be cut out of the budget so another five percent may be asked for at a later date.

State Librarian Staffeldt, Cooper, Schmitz and Stapp have identified five possible options for these cuts. These options are to take the reduction from:

1. New one time only projects;
2. Operations and equipment budget;
3. Personnel budget;
4. Interlibrary Loan Reimbursement (ILL) monies; or
5. A combination of operations and new project.

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The State Librarian's recommendation as the best option at this time was option five since this would allow for some expansion of the projects the new money was designated for rather than stopping the projects completely and will allow time to identify all project priorities and the best places for future cuts. Since this does involve one time only money these cuts would affect this biennium only.

Commissioner Hinch made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Montana State Library staff for the five percent budget cut proposals. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Quillin and a roll call vote was taken. The motion was passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Commission Budget

The commission budget is projected to be over budget by about \$6,000 by the end of the fiscal year based on the average meeting costs. **The commission will begin their meetings at a later time when possible in order to eliminate the need for an overnight stay for some commissioners.** There will be no changes for either the February or April meetings but the June meeting can start later. **The commission will also decide whether the retreats are necessary or whether they can accomplish the same business via teleconference.**

2. Consultants

Bob Cooper and Suzanne Reymer have been meeting with some consultants out of Boston which have been paid for by the Gate Foundations to do some work on the Broadband Grant proposal.

3. State Librarians Evaluation

Commissioner Scheetz stated that the survey previously used was very long and complex and she intended to shorten it. It needs to be done by the February meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.