

# DRAFT

## Montana State Library Task Force December 19, 2011; 1:00pm GoTo Meeting

### Attendees

#### Task Force Members Present:

Colet Bartow, Stacy Bruhn, Tracy Cook, Carly Delsigne, Judy Hart, Debbi Kramer, Sarah McHugh, DeeAnn Redman, Trista Smith, Sonja Woods

#### Guests:

Lee Phillips

#### Task Force Members Absent:

Carolyn Donath, Lisa Mecklenberg-Jackson

Tracy Cook called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

The minutes from the November 10, 2011 meeting were approved. Trista Smith moved and Colet Bartow seconded.

Tracy reviewed the agenda and then started a discussion about the spreadsheet Stacy created that used a base grant/equalization formula. The task members discussed this spreadsheet.

Concerns/comments expressed were:

- Large libraries do subsidize many of the consortia efforts in Montana and might not appreciate the cuts.
- It seemed like adding a base grant didn't really provide a lot of assistance to the small libraries unless you added so much that the large libraries took big cuts.
- What would the additional money and/or cuts mean for small and large libraries?
- This formula did not address libraries that are close to county boundaries and that might be serving people from other counties.

Decision was made to not use an equalization formula. Discussion ensued about how to make it possible for small libraries to participate in cooperative efforts. Some discussion mentioned pursuing more funding. Sarah McHugh mentioned that MLA might be the best venue for that idea.

Discussion about county issue covered the difficulties of trying to find a fair way to give money to libraries serving people from multiple counties. No clear solution was available and task force members recommended pursuing interlocal agreements or other methods for obtaining funding for that service.

The task force then discussed how often to update the numbers. Stacy talked about the pros and cons of using projections versus hard figures (like the 10 year census data). The task force was evenly divided on this issue. Tracy will follow up with absentee task force members to see what they think about using projections versus the census data. She will bring that information back to the task force members.

Task force members then discussed whether or not to keep the current formula. A concern about city and district libraries that aren't receiving leftover population or square miles fairly was raised. After discussing this issue the task force members asked Stacy to create another spreadsheet that divided leftover population and miles in a county evenly amongst the number of public libraries that are in that county.

The facilitator adjourned the meeting at 2:30pm.