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# Memo

**To:** Montana Land Information Advisory Council

**From:** Jennie Stapp, State Librarian

**Date:** November 26, 2012

**Re:** **Legislative update**

In addition to the State Library proposals listed below, our current budget, as presented by Governor Schweitzer on November 15, includes an additional \$125,000 for new fixed costs to fund the use of the enterprise IT infrastructure managed by the State Information Technology Services Division that is required to support the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure.

The bill to transfer the following pieces of legislation now has a bill draft number, LC0212.

- (MCA) 90-1-404 thru 90-1-413 or the Montana Land Information Act;
- (MCA) 7-11-1014 & 7-11-1029 regarding reporting of special district boundaries;
- (MCA) 76-6-212 regarding the management of Conservation Easement data;

Representative Pat Ingraham of Thompson Falls has agreed to sponsor the bill. Representative Ingraham was the chair of the State Administration and Veterans Affairs Interim Committee that I testified before in August so she is familiar with the status of MLIA and the proposed changes.

In partnership with the Department of Administration we prepared a full legislative packet with contact information, testimony, executive summary, section-by-section analysis, and anticipated questions and answers for Representative Ingraham and other stakeholders. This bill is considered a housekeeping bill and we anticipate little

opposition however it is important to communicate the value of these changes to stakeholders. I anticipate that the bill will be introduced prior to the December Commission meeting.

The following budget items were included in Governor Schweitzer's budget that was released on November 15. Note that the New Proposal amount for the transfer of the Base Map Service Center has been reduced from \$1.4 million to \$954,000. This reduction was recommended by the Governor's Budget Office because it more accurately reflects annual funds collected in the MLIA account and approximate expenditures from the account. This change keeps the account structurally balanced and will not impact services.

Additionally, the Water Information System Manager request was approved as a one-time-only item to give agencies a chance to demonstrate the value and cost-effectiveness of the position.

**State Library New Proposals (annual costs):**

<b>NP001</b>	<b>Base Map Service Center transfer to MSL</b>
<b>\$954,062</b>	This proposal will formally complete the transfer of the Base Map Service Center from the Department of Administration to the State Library. This transfer includes the <i>transfer</i> of six FTE and funding authority for Montana Land Information Act coordination, Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure support as approved by the MLIA Council and MLIA grant funds to local and tribal governments. Under this proposal a current .25 modified FTE, an accounting technician in MSL's Central Services Office, would be made a current level .25 FTE.
<b>NP009</b>	<b>Water Information Systems Manager</b>
\$72,472 <b>one-time-only</b>	MCA 90-15-305 directs the Montana Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) to operate the Montana Water Information System (WIS) which "shall make available and readily accessible, in a usable format, to state agencies and other interested persons, information on the state's water resources, out-of-state water resources that affect the state, existing and potential uses, and the existing and potential demand." This proposal would fund a Water Information Systems Manager, a position that MSL has not had in almost a decade, to more effectively develop and deliver this water information. The need for water information is more critical than ever in Montana. Several state agencies currently maintain in-house hydrography data to support water related business needs such as the State Water Plan, currently being updated by the Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation under MCA 85-1-203. In addition to being costly to maintain, these local datasets differ across and sometimes within agencies making it difficult to quickly and efficiently pull together data from different work groups to analyze water issues spanning different professional disciplines (water rights vs. water management vs. water

	quality vs. fisheries). It is for this reason that agencies including DNRC, DEQ and FWP encouraged MSL to put forward this proposal which would enable the state to use a single hydrography.
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Governor Bullock's budget will be released at the beginning of the Legislative Session.