

Approved as presented at the
June 18, 1997 Commission meeting

MINUTES
MONTANA STATE LIBRARY COMMISSION
Telephone Conference
May 21, 1997

- ATTENDANCE** Commissioners Present: Cheri Bergeron, Mary Doggett, Eleanor Gray, Dorothy Laird, Michael Schulz, Hal Stearns
Commissioners Absent: Peggy Guthrie
Staff Present: State Librarian Karen Strege, Melody Ballard, Darlene Staffeldt
Guests: David Ellefsen, Rosemary Garvey, David Johnson, Ruby Settle-Tennant, Mary Beth Walsh
- CALL TO ORDER:** Parties were connected via telephone at 9:00 a.m. and roll call was taken.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES** No approval of minutes as this was a special meeting.
- LIBRARY SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL** Strege advised the Commission that the Library Services and Technology Act permits states to have advisory councils but does not require them to do so, as did the Library Services and Construction Act. State law requires the Governor to create an advisory council when federal law does not require its establishment. She said the Advisory Council met May 16th and recommends a smaller group (of nine members) with a more focused purpose dealing with LSTA and related library issues. The new Council will allow for a balanced representation by professional library staff and users.
- ACTION** Bergeron moved to recommend to the Governor that he extend the Council for another two years. Laird seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- 1997 LSCA TITLE II** Ballard told the Commission that the Twin Bridges Library construction project still has not secured matching funds. Contested tax dollars continue to be tied up in litigation. Discussions with the federal program officer indicate that there is no mechanism for allowing time extensions for libraries to secure funding. Walsh said there is to be a hearing on May 28th, but the judge is not expected to make a ruling at that time. Ballard said the Advisory Council's recommendation to the Commission

is to not grant another extension to Twin Bridges. Their further recommendation is to reopen the FY 97 Title II construction grant application process. Ballard presented a timeline by which libraries could submit construction applications and the award/contract process could be completed by September 15, 1997.

Laird asked if Twin Bridges could reapply, to which the response was yes. Strege said she was aware of other libraries that may be interested in applying.

ACTION

Laird moved to reopen the application process for FY 97 LSCA Title II construction grants. Bergeron seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Teleconference was concluded at 10:10 a.m.