

Minutes approved as amended at the  
August 14, 1997 Commission meeting

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA STATE LIBRARY COMMISSION**

**Montana State Library  
Helena, Montana**

**June 18, 1997**

- ATTENDANCE** Commissioners Present: Cheri Bergeron, Mary Doggett, Rosemary Garvey, David Johnson, Dorothy Laird, Michael Schulz, Hal Stearns  
Commissioners Absent: None  
State Library Staff Present: State Librarian Karen Strege, Melody Ballard, Allan Cox, Kris Schmitz, Darlene Staffeldt  
Guests: Greta Chapman, Bill Cochran, Delores Drennen, Lois Fitzpatrick, Emory Robotham, Deborah Schlesinger
- CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair Schulz. The Commission recognized and thanked Bill Cochran for his work on the Governor's Telecommunications Task Force. New Commissioners Rosemary Garvey and David Johnson were welcomed. Garvey has been a teacher and administrator in Butte-area schools for 26 years. Johnson is an attorney with a 33-year tenure with a Billings law firm. New State Library staff members Carmen O'Connell, Marjorie Smith and Roberta Gebhardt were introduced.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Laird moved approval of the April 16 and May 21, 1997, Commission minutes. Doggett seconded. Minutes were approved as presented.
- LONG RANGE PLAN** Strege presented the final draft of the Long Range Plan for Montana library service. She said she has received input on numerous occasions. She informed the Commission that the plan will fulfill the LSTA requirements. The Commission will be asked to evaluate and refine the plan annually.
- ADVISORY COUNCIL** Strege reminded the Commission that the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) does not require an advisory council in order for states to receive funding. She said, however, she would like to continue to have an advisory council which would deal with issues directly related to or affecting LSTA, including annual evaluation of the long range plan. In May the current Council concurred with that recommendation but suggested decreasing the membership to nine. She said Governor Racicot will establish an LSTA Advisory Council by executive order upon receipt of the Commission's recommended membership list. Strege said it is

important to have an Advisory Council in place soon as there will be a need to evaluate Title II applications prior to the August Commission meeting. She suggested, however, that the Commission devise a policy statement about how Council members will be solicited in the future.

#### FY 98 LSTA

Strege presented a revised FY 98 LSTA budget, which increases the cost of the Networking Task Force and the two statewide technology librarians. Internet connectivity costs are lower because some libraries are currently being connected. The allocation to the State Library remains the same as in the previous budget. Strege then shared a draft of procedures by which libraries could apply for Internet connectivity funding. Schlesinger said she is concerned about small libraries applying for and being able to take advantage of the FCC telecommunications discounts. Chapman asked if libraries which are already connected might benefit from the LSTA funding. Strege responded that any funds not used to connect public libraries would be allocated according to needs in the long range plan.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

Strege proposed amendments to the administrative rule (ARM) dealing with the Advisory Council, to reflect the new purpose “[to] advise and make recommendations to the state library commission on the development, evaluation and funding of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) program and other pertinent issues that may relate to or influence LSTA,” to decrease the membership from fourteen to nine, and outlining the interest groups that those members will represent. She also presented a proposed change to the ARM 10.101.203, which would revise the language about when Commission meetings will occur to “six times during each calendar year, at approximately equal intervals, and at such other times as may be appropriate.” She said that all other rules pertaining to libraries are currently being reviewed. She will ask the Law Revision Task Force to look at the more substantive rules.

#### STATE LIBRARY ASSISTANCE TO SCHOOLS

The Commission discussed a resolution passed by the Montana Library Association Board at the April conference which recognizes the difficulty Montana school libraries are having in receiving backup and consulting support. The resolution asks that library representatives meet with the Superintendent of Public Instruction to “explore, develop and implement workable solutions... .” Staffeldt noted that the number and complexity of questions coming to the State Library from school libraries have steadily increased.

#### TELECOMMU- NICATIONS

Strege told the Commission that public libraries will be able to apply for discounted telecommunications rates under the new federal law only if they have a technology plan approved by the State Library. The Office of Public Instruction will approve the plans for school libraries. It is anticipated that the application forms will be distributed mid-summer.

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#### LEGISLATURE

Strege spoke about the passage of SB 89 (telecommunications access and discounts for schools and libraries) and SB 72 (establishes the Water Information System as a part of NRIS). She said the Talking Book Library automation software was approved, but that all agency equipment budgets were cut by 10%, which includes the book budget. HB 366, the MLA access bill, was tabled by committee.

#### FEDERATION

Drennen said the federation coordinators met June 17th and discussed federation

COORDINATORS	goals. They asked for an opportunity to meet with State Library staff about those goals. Federations will hold their fall meetings during September and October.
WLN	Staffeldt talked about the WLN Directors' Colloquy May 2nd and announced that Ameritech and WLN have arranged a merger and anticipate enhanced bibliographic data handling.
MLA	Staffeldt announced that Margaret Webster of Billings is the new administrator of Wired-MT. The 1998 MLA Conference will be April 29-May 2 in Missoula.
ALA LEGISLATIVE DAY	Schulz, Doggett, Laird and Strege attended ALA Legislative Day in Washington, DC May 7th. Schulz said the issues addressed with the Montana congressional delegates were LSTA, telecommunications access, Read America, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Next Generation, the Internet and access to government documents.
STATE LIBRARY 1998 BUDGET	Schmitz presented the FY 1998 State Library budget, which reflects the authorization from HB 2 but does not include any personal services, as the Governor's Budget Office has not released figures for the state pay plan. The equipment budget reflects a 10% decrease as a result of last-minute legislative action. She reminded the Commission that NRIS operates under a performance-based budget. She said she would have dollar figures assigned to specific categories in the NRIS budget at the next meeting.
SPACE ASSESSMENT	Strege apprised the Commission of the challenges being faced at the State Library with respect to physical space. NRIS has added staff and is no longer able to provide a public access area. The Talking Book Library (TBL) is facing storage and efficiency problems. The architectural firm of Campeau and Kahru has assessed our current space and has developed four options: install moveable shelving in TBL and other charges; construct a third floor on the State Library's portion of the building; build a new structure; move a program to a rental property. Strege said program managers have developed short-term recommendations, none of which have been adopted. The Commission asked for a cost figure for rent and how it is calculated.
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	
Long Range Plan	Bergeron moved "we approve the Long Range Plan." Doggett seconded. Garvey presented an amendment to change Objective 1.3 (change the date to be sooner), rewrite evaluation section to include the Commission, and add goals for the administration section of the State Library. Laird seconded the amendment; it passed unanimously. All voted in favor of the motion as amended.
Advisory Council	Doggett moved "to approve the names of the advisory council appointments as listed in our commission booklets for the June 18th meeting: Fitzpatrick, Drennen, Bloom, Plann, Wahl, McCulloch, Donvan, DuBoise, Darlene Staffeldt's designee." Bergeron seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
Rule Changes	Bergeron moved to "accept the changes to the administrative rules as presented except...persons with visual and physical disabilities and persons in state

institutions.” and direct the State Librarian to file the changes with the Secretary of State. Laird seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- School Libraries      Laird moved “that the Commission accept this [MLA] resolution and direct the State Librarian to contact the Superintendent of Public Instruction to arrange a meeting with representatives from the groups named in the resolution.” Garvey seconded and agreed to represent the Commission at such a meeting. All voted for the motion.
- MSL FY 98 Budget      Doggett moved to approve the FY 1998 budget as proposed. Johnson seconded. Approval was unanimous.
- Space Needs      Doggett moved “that the State Librarian bring evaluations of the long range solutions to the State Library’s space problems to the next meeting in August.” Bergeron seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- STATE LIBRARIAN’S  
REPORT      Strege announced that Bette Ammon has been hired as the director of the Missoula Public Library. Strege will attend the upcoming ALA and PNLA conferences.
- OTHER BUSINESS  
ANNOUNCEMENTS      Schulz announced that Strege’s performance evaluation will take place in August and that input is welcomed. He suggested the Commission hold a retreat in conjunction with the October meeting. Possible discussion topics: the Long Range Plan, commissioners’ personal goals, library standards, the federation structure, telecommunications, a continuing education topic from the list developed several months ago.
- ADJOURNMENT      Meeting was adjourned at 2:52 p.m.