

Montana State Library Commission Minutes

**October 14, 1998
Miles City, Montana**

Attendees: Dorothy Laird, Hal Stearns, David Johnson, Mike Schulz, Rosemary Garvey, Cheri Bergeron, Mary Doggett

Staff: Karen Strege, Darlene Staffeldt, Amanda Christen, Magi Malone

Guests: Paul Hull, Gail Nagle, Darlene McNay, Cheryl Hesel, Judy Gunderson, Rolane Christofferson, Ruby Tennant, Wes Plann, Renee Goss, Janice Bradley, Eleanor Gray, Delores Drennen, Debbie Schlesinger, Fran O=Shea

Introductions and Announcements

Chair Laird called the meeting to order, and thanked the Miles City Public Library and Delores Drennen and Eleanor Gray for hosting the meeting.

Laird thanked the federation coordinators for their input and assistance in the evaluation of the state librarian.

Open Time for Persons to Address the Commission

Wes Plann announced that the Plains County Courthouse has finally been constructed and everyone is invited to an open house at the library on Friday, October 23.

Approval of Minutes

Mary Doggett moved to accept the minutes from the August 12 meeting as submitted. Cheri Bergeron seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Cheri Bergeron moved to accept the minutes from the August 17 teleconference regarding the budget. Rosemary Garvey seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

State Librarian=s Report

Karen Strege distributed copies of the Gates Library Foundation application, as completed by the State Library, and noted that the application includes a copy of the Long-Range Plan, and an inventory of all public library buildings. Strege credited Magi Malone and John Finn for their work on this grant, as well as for the comments and feedback by the Library Development Department. Strege reiterated that every library

building in Montana that serves a community with a poverty rate of 10% or more is eligible to receive equipment, software, and training, with the number of sets dependent upon the population served by that library.

Strege reported that after review of the applications, the Gates Foundation will hold workshops to assist libraries in their applications. Strege hoped that the project would be able to begin in the fall of 1999.

Communities who do not qualify include Belt, Boulder, Big Timber, Conrad, Joliet, Manhattan, and Colstrip. The State Library will attempt to negotiate exceptions for these communities.

Strege reported that the Talking Books Library celebrated its 30th anniversary in the Capital rotunda, with commissioners Bergeron, Doggett, Laird, and Stearns attending.

Staffeldt reported that Bob Cooper has been hired as the new Technology Consultant, and LDD is again at full staff. LDD has been presenting ILL and trustee training workshops, which have been heavily attended, and much appreciated.

Strege thanked commissioner Mike Schulz for his assistance in scheduling a summit meeting of participants involved in providing education to practicing librarians and trustees and students who hope to become school librarians. A meeting has been scheduled for October 28 in Helena at the State Library to review the status of different programs, with the goal of exploring a library technician program.

Metadata Statement

Strege noted the inclusion of a recommendation regarding the Metadata Coordinator position as an action item in the state librarian=s report. Strege summarized the position=s duties and responsibilities and stressed her feelings that the position is properly located in the State Library. Although ISD has not formally suggested that this position should be moved or discontinued, Strege felt it important that the commission make a motion to direct the State Library to work with other agencies to secure funding for this position to stay at the state library. The recommendation will be used when discussing this position with the director of the Department of Administration.

Advisory Council Reports

LSCA/LSTA Projects Update

On behalf of Sue Jackson, Staffeldt reported that 1997 title one and title three projects have been wrapped up, with only the final reports left to be submitted.

The Sheridan Public Library is having an open house in early November, however, the Dillon public library continues to have problems, the latest being a discrepancy in the original and final bids for the work being done.

Staffeldt reported that phase one of the connectivity project is basically completed, with only four libraries left. In phase two, letters were sent to 14 libraries, and of those, 7 libraries have yet to reply.

Six ILL workshops were presented, with two of the workshops being videotaped and those videos will be made available as part of ILL. Overall, 151 people were trained in ILL, and the workshops were very well received. Staffeldt thanked John Thomas, Jude Smith, and Gene Robson for their participation and assistance.

FY 1999 Projects

Strege reported that the commission has already approved \$40,000 for a pilot project with the Madison County Libraries. That project has been approved by all library boards, and will begin implementation in January or July, depending on their decision.

As requested by the commission at the last meeting, MSL solicited comments regarding spending the bulk of LSTA funds for the next 3-5 years on the resource sharing project recommended by the Advisory Council. A total of 5 comments were received from Livingston, Missoula, Helena, Bozeman, and Lewistown, ranging from encouraging the commission to move forward on the project, to urging them not to implement the project.

Advisory Council Chairman Wes Plann noted that the council voted unanimously in favor of pursuing this project, and urged the commission to accept that recommendation and move forward on this project. Plann reported concerns regarding rumors that WLN will no longer be a viable business, and if true, the library community will be without a method of resource sharing. Plann noted that the recommended resource sharing project is important to connecting libraries, and to allow libraries to go unconnected is poor planning.

Janice Bradley distributed a letter summarizing the comments solicited at the South Central Federation meeting, and urged the commission to not move forward on this project, due to the substantial amount of money being committed to a project in which there is still a large number of unanswered questions. Bradley also noted that the commission seems to be inconsistently supporting some ongoing projects and not others, and expressed concerns that only the largest and best funded libraries will be able to participate in this technology.

After further discussion, the commission requested that MSL continue to solicit comments regarding this project.

Staffeldt noted that LSTA is largely demonstration money, and that the success of pilot and/or adventurous projects, such as funding of technology consultants, makes a very strong case when later seeking state money to provide ongoing funding.

Plann again urged the commission to move forward, due to the projected schedule of building an infrastructure and then connecting libraries. As libraries come on board, Plann noted, a very valuable inventory of the entire state=s holdings will be created.

Networking Task Force

Strege reported that the group met in Missoula on September 1, and had agreed to function as a public library coalition for purposes related to the Gates Foundation Grant. Commissioner Schulz serves on this task force, and the next meeting will be held at MSU Bozeman on October 30th. Strege invited interested parties to attend.

The next meeting of the Law Revision Task Force is November 9, in Helena, and is anticipated as being the last meeting of this group until the end of the legislative session. Thereafter, the group will begin to work on legislation for the 2001 session.

Review of Commission Policies and Bylaws

The commission adopted a schedule of repeals and reviews at their last meeting. According to that schedule, Strege presented 6 policy statements for repeal, due to being outdated.

Strege summarized the Library Federations policy and reported that the policy had been presented at the coordinators meeting, and summarized the comments received. Doggett noted her preference that the policy require approval of the plan of service, and that federations include some report on what the libraries and federation is doing.

Staffeldt summarized the State Document Depository Program policy, and noted that it had been sent to depository libraries for comments. The group will take action on this policy at the next meeting.

Delores Drennen introduced Miles City Mayor George Kurkowski who welcomed the commission to Miles City, and expressed his concerns and support for funding libraries.

Public Library Standards

Strege summarized her memo to the commission and comments received in response to the proposed standards, and noted that the standards are still in draft format.

Strege noted that there has been no consensus on standards, and that even the committee was divided, especially on the issue of whether standards should be tied to the receipt of state aid. Strege summarized the options, and noted her support of the fourth option, though urged the commission not to feel limited to any of the four options she had

identified. Strege clarified that her recommendation is to adopt the standards as voluntary, with some mandatory standards within 2 years, and ask the LRTF to begin work on seeking increased state aid.

The commission agreed to study the standards from 1983 and the proposed updated standards, and be prepared to take action in December.

Federation Reports

Bradley distributed copies of the minutes from the coordinators meeting, and summarized discussions of the purpose of federations, identifying what federations do well, what federations did and no longer do, and the resultant federation coordinator job description. Bradley noted that the coordinators could not reach consensus on the resource sharing project, so could not advise the commission.

Executive Planning Process (EPP)

Budget Items

Strege summarized the most recent meeting with the governor's office regarding these issues, and suggested that, should the governor ask the commission to reconsider their decision, the Advisory Council should meet via a teleconference to develop a final recommendation to the commission.

Statute Changes

Three bills being brought by the State Library are currently at Legislative Services being drafted. When those drafts are final they will be posted on the MSL web page.

FY 1999 First Quarter Financial Report

Strege presented the financial report for the first quarter of FY99 and noted some grant carry-overs in Program One, which represent continuing appropriations under travel. NRIS had a couple of contract modifications, with some new ones coming in with DEQ and one from the Lewis and Clark Conservation District. Strege reported that the accounting department was unable to make some projections for future quarters because there is currently insufficient information to do so. Strege noted that the set up charges for the technology consultants have been totaled, and that these charges will be less in future years, however, the travel expenses should remain the same.

Strege reported that MSL has requested authority to lease vehicles for the consultants, and if approved, should somewhat decrease that expenditure.

Action Items***Metadata Recommendation***

Bergeron moved to direct the state librarian and NRIS director to work with other state agencies to secure long term funding for the Metadata Coordinator position within the Montana State Library. Johnson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Policy Changes

Doggett moved to repeal the following policies:

Statement of Philosophy and Objectives;

State Financial Assistance to Public Libraries;

Use of Federal Funds to support Public Library Federations and Federation

Demonstrations;

Application for Grants;

State Library Advisory Council; and

Use of Federal and State Funds to Support Library Federations.

The motion was seconded by Garvey, and the motion carried.

FY1999 Financial Report

Schulz moved to accept the first quarter financial report. Doggett seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Library Literature Sampler

Strege summarized articles included in the sampler, including county voters in Ravalli County, Fallon County Library=s Director Judy Gunderson, the capital project in Billings, and AEveryone Uses the Library.=

Strege noted that she has not sent copies of professional literature, but will try to provide some in the future.

Other Business

Debbie Schlesinger suggested that the commission might like to take a stand on the issue of CI-75, due to its potential effect on libraries and their mill levy increases.

As there was no motion, Laird encouraged members to get involved as individuals if there were strong feelings for or against the initiative, and suggested posting a discussion about this initiative on Wired-Mt.

Meeting Adjourned