

State Library Commission Meeting Minutes

February 10, 1999

Helena, Montana

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

Absent/Excused: Mary Doggett

Staff: Karen Strege, Darlene Staffeldt, Kris Schmitz, Amanda Broadwater, Sue Jackson, Magi Malone, Bob Cooper

Guests: Janice Bradley, Deborah Schlesinger, Delores Drennen

Introductions and Announcements

Chairperson Mike Schulz called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

Dorothy Laird moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Rosemary Garvey seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

State Librarian's Report

Karen Strege announced that she is again the state coordinator for ALA's Legislative Day, and asked the commission to begin thinking about attending. She will need a commitment by early March.

Strege reported that Bill Cochran of the Parmly Billings Library has taken a position in the Aurora City Library in Illinois. Cochran's last day will be in early March, however, he will continue to function as MLA president until his term is complete.

Magi Malone has also taken a position that will require less travel, but has agreed to work 10 hours/week as the E-rate coordinator. The vacancy has been posted with a closing date of March 1, 1999.

NRIS

Jim Stimson distributed a report outlining NRIS's recent activities. Meetings with the Department of Transportation and the Information Services Department (Administration) have gone quite well in securing funding for NRIS. Meetings with the Department of Environmental Quality are ongoing as well.

Previously, NRIS was informed that a grant proposal to assist citizens in the collection and access to information on watersheds was unsuccessful. However, NRIS since has been informed that the proposal was successful.

Stimson reported that work to acquire a spatial database engine is ongoing, and that the engine would help compress information and make it more accessible to users.

Statewide Library Resources

Darlene Staffeldt reported that Suzy Holt has been moving ahead with the assessment of services provided and making suggestions for improvement.

FY99 Financial Report

Kris Schmitz summarized the report and noted that the change in LSTA is still being reallocated, but consists of nothing more than an accounting change. The different titles represent the different projects, but will remain somewhat more consistent in the next three years due to the longer-term projects. In Program 7, ISD has transferred their authority as funding for this program, and this will be seen in the next year's budget as well.

Advisory Council Reports

Sue Jackson reported that the Sheridan library had their grand opening, and was a great success, with much of the community turning out for the celebration. That project is finished, and all funds have been expended. The Dillon library is opening bids on February 18, after some plan modifications were made and approved. If affordable bids are not received, this project will not take place.

The Internet connectivity project is close to the end. The final phase one agreement is with Dillon, however they were holding off because of their building project. In phase two, four agreements are in place, with an average cost of \$7000. Ronan and Virginia City libraries will be participating in this phase.

The Library Improvement project in Madison County has been gathering momentum, the next step is to gather the advisory committee for their first meeting. This five-member board will decide how the LSTA money will be spent for projects among these libraries.

Strege reported that MSL has been busy with the legislative session, but a position description (PD) for the Montana Library Network Director has been drafted and sent over to be classified. The position has been advertised with a closing date of March 25.

Review of Commission Bylaws and Policies

Policies

Strege recommended adopting the Talking Book Library Loan policy, and adding a statement to the commission bylaws regarding the commitment to holding open meetings.

Johnson suggested some changes to clarify the policy.

Bylaws

Suggestions included "modernizing" the appearance of the bylaws, reviewing the bylaws in a manner similar to policy review, and consistent use of "Chair/Chairperson." In addition, it was requested that MSL look up the reference to the Attorney General's memo to see if it is still applicable.

Strege committed to presenting a draft set of bylaws with the suggested changes for consideration in April.

University System ILL Subsidy

Staffeldt summarized the memo and asked for discussion.

Suggestions for consideration included taking \$3500 from coal tax to give to the Parmly Billings Library (the highest net lender), remanding the issue for study and deliberation in the Networking Task Force, share the total amount between the top three lenders, and purchasing a membership in BCR.

Federation Plans of Service

Staffeldt noted that four plans had been received, and summarized the comparison chart provided with those plans. The two not presented here will be presented at the April meeting.

SouthCentral

Staffeldt recommended approval and noted that the plan addressed goals 1-4 in the Long Range Plan (LRP).

Tamarack

Staffeldt recommended approval and noted that the plan addressed goals 1-3 in the LRP.

Golden Plains

Staffeldt recommended approval and noted that the plan addressed goals 1-3, 5, and 6 in the LRP.

Pathfinder

Staffeldt recommended approval and noted that the plan addressed goals 1-3 in the LRP.

Reports

Staffeldt reported that OCLC and WLN have now been merged, with fourteen transition teams working between the companies. A web site has been created to help answer questions, and OCLC/WLN plans to continue a printed newsletter.

MLA

Staffeldt noted that although Bill Cochran is leaving the state, he will serve his full presidential term, however, will not function as the past president next year. Staffeldt thanked MLA for taking part in the legislative reception on January 15, and pass on Bill's thanks for allowing MLA to join efforts. They felt the reception was successful.

Staffeldt noted that the next conference will be in Big Sky, and encouraged members to get the schedule and reserve their rooms, if planning to attend.

E-Rate

Magi Malone reported that seven more libraries have been added since the issue of this memo, bringing the discount to \$105,192.01 to date. 36 libraries have now been issued discounts. Malone is working to find out whether the other libraries were denied, and whether to begin the appeal process.

65 libraries have filed the first form for this year. The application deadline was extended to April 6, but it is difficult to get people to apply again when they have yet to see any discounts. Malone noted that next year, the amount of each grant would depend upon the number of applications received, and the amount of money that has been requested.

Strege noted that a bill to eliminate the E-rate program has been introduced, as has a bill to change the funding for the program.

Gates Foundation

Strege distributed handouts received during her visit in January with the Gates Foundation, and expressed confidence that Montana will qualify for this program. Each eligible library will have to apply individually through a simple three-page application. Gates plans to start the process in Montana in November, but that date will depend on how other states' progress goes.

Strege reported that all libraries will be invited to a grant writing workshop, after which they will be halfway done with the application process. The application will be due two weeks after the workshops. The foundation will then read and process the grants. Gates will work with individual libraries to order and install the equipment, beginning in May 2000, and provide accompanying training.

This development has not been announced officially, since there is no signed agreement between the Gates foundation and the State Library.

Federation Reports

Janice Bradley distributed copies of her summary report of the federation meeting on 2/9/99. Coordinators discussed the library standards going into effect, rules needed as a result of HB125, and upcoming administrative rules. Bradley distributed a spreadsheet showing which libraries in the South Central federation meet the standards. MSL will put together a template so comparisons for all federations can be made.

Bradley reported that the second Public Library Directors meeting had been vastly more successful than the first, with valuable discussion about issues that all directors face.

Legislative Update

Budget

Strege reported that the subcommittee has approved the \$400,000 request for a periodical database license, with the option to libraries to either join the consortium or use the money to buy books or magazines. Strege felt it is important for libraries to join the consortium, however, as the budget is not final, it is too early to work on selling this project to libraries

Strege reported that MSL's base budget included some increases in travel for Program 1. NRIS did not receive approval for one decision package, including a 3% increase in the Heritage contract.

Commission Sponsored Bills

HB 125 was heard and approved by the Education subcommittee and the full house.

HB 107 was approved in the house, but has not been heard in the senate committee.

HB 152 was defeated in the third reading and is now dead. Strege felt this bill needs to be reintroduced in the next session.

HB 223 was tabled because of its confusing nature.

HB 376 has been tabled because the cost benefits were skewed.

HB 332 is so poorly written it would prohibit libraries from offering Internet access.

Montana Talking Books Library Presentation

Christie Briggs summarized the Talking Book Library program, services, and gave a tour of the facilities.

Commission Goals

Schulz summarized the past progress in establishing goals and a mission statement.

Garvey and Doggett will compose the subcommittee to review the commission's goals and objectives history and results, and determine some more far-reaching goals.

Action Items

Financial Report

Garvey moved to accept the financial report as presented. Bergeron seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

TBL Circulation Policy

Johnson moved to adopt the revised policy, as modified in this meeting. Laird seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

University System ILL Subsidy

By consensus of the group, this item was delegated to the Networking Task Force to study and make a recommendation.

Federation Plans of Service

Laird moved to approve the SouthCentral federation plan of service. Garvey seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Bergeron moved to approve the Tamarack federation plan of service. Johnson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Laird moved to approve the Golden Plains federation plan of service. Garvey seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Johnson moved to approve the Pathfinder federation plan of service. Bergeron seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Library Literature Sampler

Strege summarized the articles, which included news about the Hill County Library mill levy, book banning, and E-rate discounts.

Other Business

Strege asked the Commission whether they would like to again host the traditional reception for the library community at the MLA conference. The Commission felt it was appropriate to open the reception to the whole library community, rather than exclusive to Montana libraries, and asked Strege to investigate partnering with MLA for this reception.

Strege announced that the Western Council of State Librarians is meeting in Big Sky in June, and she is arranging a hayride with a barbeque by the Gallatin River. Strege encouraged the commission to attend.

Strege asked the Commission to direct the work of the Law Revision Task Force, and noted that it is not too early to start planning for the next legislative session. Potential projects could include a library building fund, funds for the library network, and state aid for libraries. Also, Strege felt re-introduction of the library district bill is important, with much education and public information being conducted prior to the next session.

Commission members expressed gratitude to Commissioner Stearns for the lovely dinner, the night before.

Meeting Adjourned