

# State Library Commission Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2000

Helena, Montana  
(via teleconference)

**Attendees:** Dorothy Laird, Mary Doggett, Rosemary Garvey, David Johnson, Mike Schulz, Al Randall, and Cheri Bergeron (attended in Helena)

**Staff:** Karen Strege, Sue Jackson, Darlene Staffeldt, Amanda Broadwater, Duane Anderson, Bob Cooper, Bruce Newell

**Guests:** Debbie Schlesinger

## Introductions

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order and asked for introductions or announcements.

## Approval of Minutes

Johnson noted that minutes from two meetings were up for approval: April 12, 2000 and April 26, 2000. It was noted that Schulz was errantly reported with the incorrect surname. Doggett moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Randall seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

## State Librarian's Report

Strege read a letter of gratitude sent by Bette Ammon in praise of Staffeldt's work to help retain auxiliary tax funding, which allowed the Missoula Public Library to receive their book budget.

Laird requested a change of the August meeting, which is scheduled to be held in Lewistown. After checking schedules, the commission agreed to move the next meeting to August 10<sup>th</sup>.

Strege summarized the status of the new proposals for the upcoming biennium. The only Program 1 new proposal that was approved was the continued funding for the database programs, as well as an addition of approximately \$30,000 to fund increases in the contract. MSL proposes to ask the governor to support the Equalization part of the proposed state aid package.

Strege will find out soon if ISD will partner with LISD for the Government Information Locator Service (GILS). If ISD chooses not to partner for the GILS project, MSL will ask the governor to approve funding for one of the two remote technology librarians.

Of the proposals for Program 7, the governor approved 0.6 of the 2.6 staffing increase request, and redistribution of funding through five source agencies. Rumors of unhappiness about the funding redistribution has resulted in the decision to ask the governor to reconsider and approve a staffing increase of 1.6, as well as grant \$100,000 to mitigate the redistribution of funding to the source agencies.

The commission directed Strege to continue with new proposal requests as outlined by Strege.

### **Program 1 Updates**

Staffeldt reported that the Gates grants computers will be arriving in July, and the training went very well. The summer institute was also a great success, with many participants signing a commendation to the state library for the workshop.

### **ALA Legislative Day**

Staffeldt submitted some pictures of the Legislative Day delegation from Montana and was informed that the pictures would be posted on the ALA web page. Attendees thanked Doggett for providing the report on the trip and congressional meetings.

### **E-Rate Report**

Staffeldt credited Suzanne Reymer for putting the report together and explained that the list of distributions to libraries was provided to the Montana congressmen at ALA day. She noted that the congressmen have been using the figures with their constituents.

### **Program 7 Updates**

Anderson reported that NRIS has accepted the resignation of another staff member, Pam Smith. This latest resignation leaves NRIS staffed at 60%. An offer was made to a Systems Administrator candidate, who will make a decision by next week.

Eight applications were received for the NRIS director recruitment. Of those, telephone interviews were conducted with two, and one of those candidates is coming Monday for an onsite interview.

DEQ still has not paid the \$20,000 core funding commitment, which hurts the division's overall budget picture, as this is the snapshot year. Todd Everts did some research to see if the committee hearing could be held in front of the Natural Resource committee instead of that of Education, but that is not feasible, although, the Natural Resource committee can make a recommendation to the Education committee.

***Heritage***

At Sue Crispin's request, this item is deferred until the August meeting.

**MLA Conference**

Strege thanked the commission for hosting the reception, which was deemed "fun" and "worthwhile" by a number of attendees.

**LSTA Reports*****Projects Update***

The Summer Institute was conducted last week, with 44 participants. Training took place all day long, with optional library tours in the evening, and time for networking. The workshop was very successful, and kept within the aligned budget. Participants of the training created and signed a Proclamation denoting their appreciation for the Institute itself and the effort staff at the MSL put into planning and presenting the Institute.

The 2000 Fall Workshop is still in the planning stages, and it is yet to be decided whether it will be part of the state OCLC training.

***Montana Library Network (MLN)***

Newell reported that the contract for OCLC will be signed soon and is a necessary part of MLN due to the reliance on their union catalog and ILL services. OCLC/MLN will be rolled out in "waves," the first of which is scheduled for July 1, when the gateway will be available. Training will take place from August to October in a number of venues, to allow all librarians access. A letter from the Commission will be sent to encourage schools and boards to consider this training a priority.

Recruitment for an MLN librarian has been difficult, with not a single applicant; most likely attributable to the low salary offered.

***Madison County LIP Project***

Cooper reported that the LIP Advisory committee has spent approximately \$15,000, and they have had discussions about completing those expenditures soon. The Advisory committee submitted a proposal for design and funding for a county-wide proposal. Since it's such a big undertaking, the board will meet again for further discussion. They have also proposed a half-time administrator for that system, and one of the board members has agreed to guide the sponsorship of the levying effort.

The Lake County interim library board has met three times, and are currently conducting a survey to develop a summation plan to determine library preferences. Although they

have had some membership problems, the project is well under way, and they have established a list serve to which anyone interested in updates can subscribe.

### **Legislative Audit Reports**

Schmitz summarized the single recommendation made as a result of the audit, which really was regarding the new accounting system, and how to process payroll for the modified positions in the agency. Since everyone in NRIS worked in two positions, they received two checks. After working with Administration, NRIS is back to receiving one check, which seems to be working well, but it is unclear how that glitch will affect the snapshot year.

### **Commission HB125 Rules**

Strege reported that the adoption of these rules was delayed due to a technical problem, however, they will be in effect before federation fall meetings.

### **Federation Coordinators' Report**

Debbie Schlesinger reported that the coordinators had not met due to the nature of the commission meeting and availability of coordinators who had attended the summer institute. There was no report at this time.

### **Commission Goals and Objectives**

Schulz mailed and faxed the re-formatted goals and objectives from the October 99 retreat in Billings to commissioners. Although the decision at the last meeting was to assign goals, they are being presented again for commissioners to consider and volunteer at the next meeting for their preferred goals.

### **State Librarian Evaluation Process**

Strege summarized the past procedure of evaluating the State Librarian, which involves 2-3 volunteers who conduct an evaluation in August after soliciting feedback from various groups regarding the State Librarian's performance. Johnson volunteered, and Garvey will serve as the member to provide continuity from the previous year's delegation.

**Library Literature Sampler**

Strege reported the passage of levy override issues on the ballots of three different libraries: Ekalaka, Bighorn County, and Thompson Falls.

**Other Business**

Schlesinger and Strege reported that the funeral for Henry McClernan was very moving, and expressed sadness over losing a great champion for Montana libraries.

The next meeting will take place in Lewistown, Montana on August 10.

**Meeting Adjourned**