

Montana State Library Commission
Helena, Montana

February 9, 2000

Attendees: David Johnson, Mike Schulz, Cheri Bergeron, Al Randall, Dorothy Laird

Commissioners

Absent: Mary Doggett, Rosemary Garvey

Staff: Karen Strege, Darlene Staffeldt, Amanda Broadwater, Sue Jackson, Sue Crispin, Jim Stimson, Bob Cooper, Kris Schmitz, Bruce Newell

Guests: Deborah Schlesinger, Marlene Palmquist, Bridgett Johnson, Emory Robotham, Fran O'Shea

Introductions and Announcements

Chairperson Johnson called the meeting to order and asked for announcements.

Commissioners Doggett and Garvey had expressed regrets that they could not attend the meeting.

Minutes Adoption

Johnson noted that a motion on the financial report had passed, but was not indicated as such in the minutes. Also, Schulz was the commissioner who nominated Garvey as Vice-Chair, with a second to the motion by Laird.

Schulz moved to accept the minutes as amended. Bergeron seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

State Librarian's Report

Strege reported that she and Sue Jackson would be traveling to Seattle to meet with staff from the Gates Library Foundation to review grant applications. Additionally, the Lewis & Clark Public Library has applied to the foundation to be the recipient of a training lab, and that application was approved.

Strege will be on vacation from March 24, 2000 until April 7, 2000.

NRIS Strategic Plan

Jim Stimson reported that the NRIS program had taken steps to implement the goals identified at the last commission meeting. Further, they have launched a GIS application which allows you to look at maps over the Internet by pinpointing a location by entering longitude/latitude or township/range information.

Sue Crispin reported that the Heritage program was involved in writing a grant for the Institute of Museum and Library Services Leadership. The grant will be used to radically change the way users are able to view maps and glean information from them on the Internet.

LISD Reorganization

Staffeldt reported that the reorganization has progressed, in accordance with the Preferred Future statement accepted and prioritized by the commission. Nine new position descriptions have been written. Existing staff members were asked to renew their applications and answer supplemental questions for the new positions, so that they could be matched with the position that most closely fit their skills. Three employees received upgrades, one received a lateral transfer to a new position, and two resulted in demotions of one grade as a result of the reorganization. The reduction in force authorization is requested in order to offer the option to employees who were demoted, if it happens that they decide to decline the new positions.

The effect of the promotions on the current budget has not yet been worked out. Kris Schmitz is doing an analysis of budgetary impact, and will be able to determine when each promotion/demotion should take effect.

E-Rate Report

Staffeldt reported that there is 10% increase over last year in number of libraries that applied for this discount. To date, \$4.7 billion more has been requested than was requested in the two previous years.

Second Quarter Financial Report

Schmitz summarized the financial report, and noted some line item moves of funds. The new financial module still is not producing the kinds of reports needed, so much is still being done manually, however, the SABAHRS team hopes to have these limitations worked out soon.

The SABAHRS system has also affected MSL's biennial audit, as well, due to the unusual funding in the NRIS program. Because of the way these positions are contracted, their reporting differs, and the new system makes it difficult to give the correct amount of pay with the correct deductions taken out. The auditors gave a recommendation on this part of the accounting, but did not have any advice other than to work with the SABAHRS team to find a better method.

LSTA Reports***LSCA/LSTA Projects Update***

Sue Jackson reported that the Madison County LIP project committee is meeting regularly, and working with Bob Cooper. Two libraries still have to suggest a member of the county library board in the Lake County project. MSL has a draft contract ready to present to this newly formed board in Lake County.

The Summer Institute is not going to be held at Rocky Mountain College due to an inability to agree on the terms. Reymier will be touring the MSU Billings facility to determine if that would be an acceptable site.

Advisory Council Report

Strege reported that committee to review institutional library services had met to make a recommendation to the commission on the future of this program. Sue Jackson, Darlene Staffeldt, and Karen Strege were present at the meeting to help give background and identify some options. The final recommendation is to:

- ◆ Make the federal grants to the four public libraries with existing contracts in FY2000, but to discontinue those grants thereafter;
- ◆ Allocate \$6,000 to the Warm Springs facility for materials for this year and the next state fiscal year;
- ◆ Conduct a survey; and
- ◆ Send a letter offering assistance in developing institution libraries.

Montana Library Network (MLN)

Bruce Newell reported that the training seems to be the most difficult part to accept for libraries updating their technology. All libraries will be receiving a series of mailings that will inform them about the price for access.

The Goals 2000 grant being drafted is a request for 1.5 million to help schools participate in the MLN. The only potential problem is whether schools are prohibited from participating in other grant requests if they sign on to this request. Newell expects to have an answer to that question soon.

Newell suggested that the commission write letters to the boards of small libraries to help convince the boards that the training is necessary for librarians, even if it means the library has to be shut down for that training to take place.

Federation Coordinators' Report

Debbie Schlesinger summarized the discussion at the Federation Coordinators meeting, which included: MLN progress, state aid discussions in the Law Revision Task Force, rules to implement HB 125, and the commission agenda.

Law Revision Task Force

Strege reported that the task force is recommending a change in the state aid program. The new program will include four components: basic, incentive, equalization, and "consolidation." The details are still being worked out, and the consolidation piece will be renamed to something more acceptable. The new state aid package may be part of the EPP for the next biennium.

The two top issues included in NRIS's EPP issues include funding restructuring and metadata coordination.

Top issues for program one fall under the general goal of "building Montana's infostructure," which includes a change in state aid, continuance of the database funding, moving technology librarians from federal funding to state funding, and adding another FTE for web site maintenance.

Commission Roles and Goals

Schulz reported that after much correspondence, some problems have been identified that the commission should attempt to help resolve, including duplication of effort and inconsistency, lack of an agency or group that represents all librarianship, and that continuing education is inconsistent for all types of libraries. The subcommittee recommended influencing library standards of all types through communication, that the state library be looking at those standards to influence them positively for librarianship, and that continuing education credits be coordinated by the state library to benefit all library professionals and paraprofessionals.

Commission Reception at MLA

Laird reported that all but two commissioners have remitted their contribution for the MLA reception. The commission's total contribution to the MLA reception will be \$300.

Action Items***Second Quarter Financial Report***

Bergeron moved to approve the financial report. Randall seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Advisory Council Report

Laird moved to accept the recommendation of the Library Services Advisory Council regarding funding for institution libraries. Schulz seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Reduction in Force (RIF)

Schulz moved to authorize the use of the RIF policy during the LISD reorganization. Randall seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Library Literature Sampler

Strege noted the positive and mass media attention that many local libraries are receiving in response to the Gale Group project. The Big Horn County Library added a nice touch by thanking their legislators by name for assisting in appropriating the money for this project.

Strege noted that she is collecting information and articles to present to the Governor's office in support of requesting funding for this project for the next biennium.

Other Business

Strege noted that the annual ALA Legislative Day is scheduled for May 1-2 this year, and reminded members that the commission pays for two commissioners to attend. Commissioners requested Strege to contact Commissioner Garvey to attend, as she has not yet attended ALA day, and is Vice-Chair. Doggett may also have interest in attending.

Meeting Adjourned