

**Commission Meeting
Minutes for June 12, 2002
Havre-Hill County Library, Havre, MT**

Attendees:

Commissioners: Cheri Bergeron, Rosemary Garvey, David Johnson, Bruce Morton, Al Randall

Commissioners

Absent: Ralph Atchley

Staff: Karen Strege, Tracy Cook, Darlene Staffeldt, Barbara Duke

Guests: Bonnie Williamson, Bridget Johnson

The meeting was called to order at 9:35.

Announcements and Introductions

Rosemary Garvey thanked Bonnie Williamson for the use of Havre-Hill County Library's conference room for the Commission meeting and for her help in arranging the tours of Underground Havre, the high school, and the MSU-Northern library. Garvey also thanked Dennis Parman for leading the library tours.

The Commission offered its best wishes to Arlie Lane on her retirement from the Havre-Hill County Library Board.

Bridgett Johnson thanked the Commission for approving the money for the bus tours to visit district libraries in neighboring states. Johnson went on the bus trip to Wyoming and said it was a valuable experience in helping librarians make decisions about library districts. She praised Sue Jackson for all of her hard work and said the trip was well worth it.

David Johnson moved to adopt the minutes from the May 3 conference call regarding the budget cut proposals requested by the Governor's office. Al Randall seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Randall moved to adopt the minutes from the April Commission meeting. Bruce Morton seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The Dillon Library will celebrate its 100th anniversary in July. A proclamation will be signed and sent to the Library.

Kathy Mora sent a note to the Commission thanking them for hosting the reception at MLA and helping to make the event a success.

State Librarian's Report

Karen Strege shared a message from ex-Commissioner Dorothy Laird. Laird thanked the Commission for the engraved bowl she received at her going away reception in April. She said she has all positive memories about serving as a State Library Commissioner

and hopes that the current commission will carry on the tradition of providing excellent library services to the people of Montana.

Strege reported that the Governor will reappoint Al Randall to the Commission for another three-year term, but a replacement has not yet been chosen for Laird. The Governor's office has been soliciting candidates from the agriculture field in the area east of Billings and has been generous in asking Strege for her opinion of the applicants. An appointment should be made soon and Strege will let the Commission know as soon as she hears any news. The August Commission meeting is in Missoula, so it is hoped that the new member will attend an orientation at the State Library before then.

The Public Information Officer position that was presented at the February Commission meeting has been approved by the Governor's budget office and will be advertised as soon as possible.

The National Center for the Book is sponsoring a National Book Festival in Washington, DC in October. The Institute of Museum and Library Services is providing every state with \$1,000 to participate with their Center for the Book in the event. Bette Ammon has been instrumental in coordinating Montana's own book festival for the last three years, so the Library Development Department has asked her to coordinate planning of the event and represent the State Library in DC. There will be a pavilion in which each state can set up its own display.

The State Library had a balance of funds at the end of this fiscal year, so Strege allocated \$1,500 of that money to co-sponsor the Festival of the Book in Montana, which is a wonderful way to promote libraries and literacy. The State Library's name will be on all the printed matter, providing free publicity.

Garvey announced that Strege's evaluation would be done in August. Randall and Morton will be doing the evaluation. It was decided that the evaluation would be scaled down in non-legislative years. Comments can still be solicited from the library community through Wired MT, but the process does not need to be as intense this year.

Strege announced that Betty Flechsig was selected as an ALA/ALTA National Advocacy Honor Roll honoree. She was unable to attend the Commission meeting, so Bonnie Williamson accepted the award on her behalf. The award was given to people who had done significant work for libraries in their state. Flechsig served on the Hill County Library Board for about 17 years before the two-term limit took effect and then she served for two terms after that. She was instrumental in bringing the Hill County Library and the Havre Public Library together and consolidating them into one county library. She received the trustee award from the Montana Library Association in the late 1980s and still comes in weekly to shelve books.

Program One Updates

Steve Prine from National Library Services for the Blind will be attending the Commission meeting in August to give a presentation on the digitization project in the Talking Book Library.

There will be a surprise going away party for Susie Merrin on June 18. Merrin resigned as Coordinator of Volunteer Services to attend a seminary in Virginia. Diane Gunderson will be the new Volunteer Coordinator. The Library Development Department will be looking at Gunderson's position description and evaluating the team's needs before advertising for the position.

The deadline for libraries to certify they are meeting state standards was June 7. 13 libraries have not sent their certifications, so they will be called and reminded. Seven libraries do not have the required number of board members, so they will need to be contacted about rectifying that. Two libraries do not comply with the minimum number of hours they are open to the public and three libraries are not legally established. Most of the non-compliance issues should be worked out within a week. Exceptions may be requested for the libraries not meeting minimum hours.

Jim Kammerer was hired as the State Publications Center Coordinator. He started June 10. Kammerer is a graduate of Carroll College and received his MLS from the University of Texas-Austin. LISD is now fully staffed.

Program Seven Updates

Jim Hill did not attend the Commission meeting, so Strege gave the NRIS report on his behalf.

Catherine Love was hired as the GIS Technician. She started on June 10. The Water Information Specialist position is still open. A candidate was selected from the first set of interviews conducted, but NRIS was unable to afford the salary he was requesting. Some state agencies are on a broadband salary schedule and are able to be more flexible with salaries. One of Strege's goals for next year is getting the State Library on the broadband pay plan.

At the last meeting, the Commission passed a policy statement regarding the roll of NRIS as a clearinghouse for framework data. Hill was going to take the policy statement to the Montana Geographical Information Council, which Strege is a member of, but its June meeting was cancelled. Information will be sent to all the council members this month and the statement will be presented at the MGIC meeting in September.

LSTA Report

The bus trip to Wyoming was a great success. Participants not only had a good time, but they learned some valuable things from the libraries they visited. Jackson expects many more librarians and trustees to sign up for the second bus trip, which will travel to Idaho.

The Trustee Workshop is in the planning stages. Planning for the Fall Workshop is well underway. It will be held in Helena on the Carroll College campus on September 21 and 22. The first Gates Summer Institute is being held in Bozeman June 12. There will be a Summer Institute in Missoula in July and in Billings in August. BCR trainers have been hired to do some of the training at the Institutes.

Lake County Projects

The bookmobile is still going strong and the LIP board hope to continue its funding through September, the end of the grant period. The bookmobile now has 210 registered patrons. Bob Cooper and the chairperson of the LIP Board met with the Ronan Library Board about a month ago to ascertain their support for the project.

MLN

The OCLC enrollment period ends June 14. At this point, about 24 libraries that were enrolled before have not responded. The Statewide Technology Consultants have been asked to contact these libraries to find out whether they will be re-enrolling. A handful of new libraries signed on and so far, three school libraries have dropped out because of the cost. OCLC did adjust the contract amount because the wrong numbers were used to calculate the charges.

Strege asked the Commission members to make suggestions about what changes they would like made to the format of the commission reports. LISD is now reporting statistics and Strege questioned whether the numbers being reported are meaningful to the Commission. Once the statistical information is complete, the numbers will be in a year-to-date format to make comparisons easier. Strege is asking TBL to put its statistics in a more legible, tabular format rather than reporting numbers in the narrative. Suggestions about any other changes to presentation, format or statistical content can be made to Strege and they will be incorporated into the August reports, if possible.

Morton mentioned that client needs that are being met are being measured, but wondered whether unmet needs are being ascertained as well. Strege said that focus groups were held two or three years ago and that question was asked. At that time, new services were designed to meet the unmet needs. It may be time to conduct another survey to ascertain what needs state workers feel are not being met. It is important to constantly evaluate needs and modify services to meet those needs.

Budget Status

The state is in a deficit situation and budget cuts will be made. At the May teleconference call, Commissioners approved budget reductions proposals for the State Library. The proposals were submitted to and reviewed by the Governor's office. The Legislative Fiscal Division presented a summary and comments on the cuts proposed by the Governor's office. The Legislative committee is meeting on June 13 and 14 in Helena, but they cannot make changes to the Governor's proposal. To make changes, the legislature would have to call a special session, which many legislators want to do. If they go into special session they can open any agency's budget and make any adjustments that they want. The budget shortfall projected by the Legislative Fiscal Division is \$13 million more than that projected by the Governor's office, so they will be proposing more cuts. The proposed general fund cut for the State Library is 5.1%; the total cuts for all state agencies are 3.5%. The Fiscal Division accepted all the cuts proposed by the State Library except for the cuts to the Heritage Program. The majority of the cuts are in the material and online budget and the interlibrary loan reimbursement program. Strege will get the Commissioners a summary statement after the Legislative Committee meeting is over.

Strege commented on the budget cuts other state libraries are facing around the nation. Idaho's budget is being cut 17% and will cut almost all services to state employees except for electronic ones. The Minnesota has laid off most of its library staff and will essentially not have a state library anymore. The Washington State Library has been moved under the Secretary of State's office to save administrative costs.

ALA Legislative Day Report/Federal Legislation Status

Strege will provide a written report on the trip to Washington, DC at the August meeting. The Montana delegation at ALA consisted of Strege, Ralph Atchley, Debbie Schlesinger, Renee Goss, Frank D'Andria and Bernadine Abbott-Hoduski. On Monday, ALA held a briefing day for librarians, trustees and representatives to update them on the status of pertinent federal legislation. The next day, the delegation met with Senator Baucus and two of his staff members, Congressman Denny Rehberg's staff member and Senator Burns' staff member. The issues discussed were the reauthorization of the Library Services and Technology Act and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and books for school libraries, which Senator Baucus is very interested in being a sponsor of. Strege believes she has Baucus' support to be a co-sponsor in the Senate for reauthorization of the LSTA and Burns' may sign on as well. Rehberg's office called Strege to say that Congressman Rehberg would meet with leadership to ask that the LSTA reauthorization be put on the voting calendar as soon as possible. Strege felt that there was a lot of interest in library issues this time. ALA and MLA are doing a good job of contacting Montana's congress members and keeping them informed about library issues.

Randall asked whether Senator Burns was still willing to assist the State Library with the Montana Library Network. Strege explained that they had not pursued this for the past year since the reauthorization of LSTA is being requested this year and it is best not to ask for a supplemental appropriation at this time.

Commission Goals and Objectives

Several Commissioners attended the MLA conference, which was very informative and successful.

Garvey attended the Butte Public Library open house and plans on attending Dillon's 100th Anniversary celebration.

Federation Coordinator's Report

Bridgett Johnson reported that most of the federations are involved with the summer reading programs that are getting underway. The Tamarack Federation is working on the MLN project. South Central and Sagebrush Federations are working with Bruce to determine which of their libraries are seriously interested in the MLN project and contracts should be signed by the end of July. There were several levies affecting libraries on the last ballot and they all turned out favorably.

Williamson gave the report for the Pathfinder Federation. The Federation bought a license for ALL-DATA, an online motor manual. It was installed in the library in Harlem and Ethel Siemens has been trained to use it. Strege suggested Williamson and Cook write an article about the manual for a national library publication.

The Federation is doing a unified summer reading program and received a grant from the Montana Committee for the Humanities to have a traveling storyteller visit libraries.

Tracy Cook reported that the Golden Plains Federation held a continuing education program and about 18 librarians took part. Cook and Bruce Newell will be touring Golden Plains to find out their expectations of the State Library and to talk to them about the shared catalog.

Literature Sampler

The Belt Public Library opened its new building. An article in Library Journal discusses the success of a library district in Colorado. Anastasia Burton, the State Library's temporary public information officer, had an article about NRIS published in Montana Outdoors magazine. This is the kind of article Strege hopes to see on a regular basis when the permanent, agency-wide PIO is hired.

Other Business and Announcements

It should be decided soon whether the \$12 million levy for the new Billings library would be on the next ballot.

Morton announced that Jody Kawasaki will succeed Mary Bushing in collection development at MSU and Mary Ann Hanson will act as interim Associate Dean upon Maggie Farrell's departure while a national search is done. He also reported that I-Link is being added this summer.

Williamson asked that censorship training be covered in the next trustee training sessions.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35.