

**Montana State Library Commission
Final Meeting Minutes for June 14, 2006
Helena, MT**

Attendees:

Commissioners:

Don Allen, Cheri Bergeron, Caroline Bitz, Cindy Carrywater, Ron Moody and Bruce Morton and Nora Smith.

Staff:

Bob Cooper, Jim Hill, Jim Kammerer, Maggie Meredith, Tom Marino, Bruce Newell, Cindy Phillips, Darlene Staffeldt and Julie Stewart

Visitors:

Brett Allen, Fairfield Public Library, Joan Bishop, Lewis and Clark Library Trustee (Helena), Janeen Brookie, Phillips County Library (Malta), Tricia Browning, Meagher County/City Library (White Sulphur Springs), Renee Goss, Sidney Public Library, Judy Hart, Lewis and Clark Library (Helena), Marsha Hinch, Choteau/Teton Public Library, Gloria Langstaff, Bitterroot Public Library, Sanna Porte, Not in Montana Coalition: Citizens Against CI-97.

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Introductions:

Jim Hill presented Tom Marino with a five-year pin. He's been with state government for five years. Hill introduced new hire Cindy Phillips, systems network administrator.

The Commission introduced themselves.

Open Time for Persons to Address the Commission

Tricia Browning, librarian in White Sulphur Springs, thanked the Commission and the State Library for the help they've given her. A year ago she met Amy Crawford who stopped at the library with Bob Cooper and Bruce Newell. Crawford nominated the Meagher County/City Library for a Library Extreme Makeover. It was filmed by ABC. The library is overcrowded and the hope is this will help them get a new library. Daily, 80 to 100 people come through the library. Browning shared the tape that was given to ABC. This is a town that doesn't have a lot, but everyone loves their library. Browning asked that we continue in the same manner.

Sanna Porte, Not in Montana Coalition, is working to stop amendment CI-97. CI-97 is a SOS (Stop Overspending and TABOR (Taxpayers Bill of Rights) initiative. Not in Montana Coalition is a nonpartisan, nonprofit coalition to stop this amendment. The American Library Association has been very involved in educating people about the

potential impact of CI-97, so Porte wanted to make the Commission aware of the amendment.

Approval of Minutes

Bitz moved to accept the April 12, 2006 minutes and to accept the minutes from the conference call meetings, May 18 and June 2. Bergeron seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

State Librarian's Report

Staffeldt mentioned the packet of information from Sara Groves which includes a synopsis of long-range plans for our libraries. Moody suggested sending the brochure to department administrators and legislators. Staffeldt will take feedback for a month longer.

The Heritage contract has been signed and is moving forward.

Staffeldt gave an update on Executive Planning Process and two legislative initiatives.

Staffeldt said she, Schmitz and Hill have been to the Governor's office twice on the Executive Planning Process issues. The first meeting they talked about everything but NRIS. The Governor's staff was concerned about our asking for this one time only money. Staffeldt explained it was to show them this project would work. MSL was called back to discuss NRIS. There have also been three legislative-type hearings; one was directly related to NRIS funding. The recommendations suggested NRIS is a very strong, good service, but funding through RIT (Resource Indemnity Trust) may not be the way to fund it. It may be possible to get our legislative requests accepted by a committee so they can start to work on the legislation early and get it pre-introduced. This should be ready to go before the legislature starts.

The question was asked, "What do we mean when we say statewide library card?" Staffeldt said it's something that's been in the statute since 1989. The multi-state library card was envisioned as an actual plastic card that everybody in the state could have and they could go to any library in Montana and check out a book. This never got funding and never got off the ground. We have a pilot program called the Montana Library Card which is a pilot project with a few of the shared catalog libraries and with OCLC. Also, the Information Access Montana Act will provide a virtual library card.

Newell on Networking Task Force

A meeting took place last Friday in Great Falls with discussions on the Montana Library Card pilot project. OCLC wants to see this work and has offered to fund delivery from the loaning library right to the requesting patron, which will be an interesting option for some of the folks who lives a long way from the public library. Newell is curious to see how it will work up on the hi-line.

Moody asked what the project entails.

Newell explained a patron may find a book they want at the Missoula Public Library and the DVD at the Anaconda Public Library. Computers will check to see if you're a patron in good standing. Then the computer puts in a "hold request" and the information will be shipped directly to your home. The hard part is getting libraries to agree with protocols for how long to loan books and also how to move books around. The hi-line will be a good place to try to work this out. If we can make it work on the hi-line, we can make it work on the moon.

Allen asked if you're talking about a person on the ranch making the request, how does the book get delivered?

Newell said from library-to-library it will be by bus and some sort of courier service and for someone on a ranch it will go through the U.S. Mail with a return envelope, just like Netflix. OCLC repeatedly talks about the Netflix model. Patron reads their book and returns it in the provided envelope.

Moody asked what geographic areas are involved.

Newell responded they'll be any libraries on the hi-line, mostly clustered around Havre, plus members of shared catalog and Miles City Community College. For the libraries in the shared catalog, they'll be spread from Missoula to Miles City and up to Kalispell as well. Libraries must opt in.

Morton asked that there be an assessment of real costs outside the pilot environment.

Newell assured there will be.

Moody asked what outcome measures MSL will be using. He mentioned his understanding is OCLC agreed to fund the incremental costs of this pilot program.

Newell said OCLC will fund costs. There will be some shifting in job duties too. They'll be spending more time putting books in boxes and doing mailings. OCLC will help us with mailing.

Allen brought up a concern that once a patron finds books on a subject, and there are 15 subject books for example, and the patron orders all of them, don't we need some sort of limit on these.

Newell said it's an interesting problem. Some libraries do it one way while others do it differently. It's not a new problem; it's an old problem. Some put a limit on loaning, others don't. He suggested libraries continue on with current policy. One of the problems is libraries don't do an evaluative presentation of the materials. For example, a Google search shows the "most popular" searches by category. Hopefully, someone

searching our information on sailing canoes, for example, will be given the two most popular choices. Every library can set up their own profile as to how and what they loan.

Federation Plans

Staffeldt introduced Brett Allen, Pathfinder Federation, Janeen Brookie, Golden Plains Federation, Rene Goss, Sagebrush Federation, Judy Hart, Broad Valleys Federation, Gloria Langstaff, Tamarack Federation, and Debra Kramer, South Central Federation, not in attendance, so Bob Cooper presented their Plan of Service.

Each Federation representative shared their goals for the upcoming year and thanked MSL staff and commission for all their assistance.

Interlibrary Loan Reimbursement Administrative Rules Hearing

Staffeldt said most likely there will be no action on this item today. The hearing process won't be complete until June 16, so there can be no action taken. Staffeldt thinks we need to take action before August commission meeting, in order to distribute Interlibrary loan checks at regular time. Do we want a conference call to do action prior to August?

The Commission will be meeting on July 21 for a work session. We will do a public meeting for this action item at that time.

Staffeldt discussed the hearing. There were four testifiers at this hearing. All testimony has been included in Commission packet. This rule change only allows the 50/50 part of the Commission's recommendation from August. If you don't adopt these rules, we stay with what's been done in the past which is Interlibrary loan reimbursement for everybody—loans, but not net lenders. For second half of that motion, we have to have legislation change, as well as go through another hearing process, although MSL's lawyer thought there may have been enough legal language built in these. We'll have to look at this again in April or May of 2007.

Moody said the Commission has set forces in motion to change the subsidy formula. He also said the concurrent legislative change affects basically every library in the state and every library in the state is interpreting how this will affect them. We're doing something to change the reimbursement ratio, which is on the front end. It's simply a patch, not a permanent fix. We're going to have to do more at some point in the future. He still hasn't seen any prototype of a business plan for a statewide system of Interlibrary loans, which includes an element of cost control and cost reduction. Moody asked the Commission the question, "What comes after the patch?" Are we addressing this challenge anecdotally, in which we conduct an experiment and if it works then we solved a problem, but if it doesn't work, nothing has changed? Libraries all over the state have their own individual rules and operating systems, but creating efficiencies on a broad scale operation demands standardization and commonality of rules. Since the Commission is directly affecting enough libraries, we ought to be a little more involved in making sure we stay on track with creating a sustainable, long-term, successful

operating system for making Interlibrary loans that keeps costs at a minimum and provides the best service.

Allen said he hasn't identified what the problem is and until we identify the problem, he doesn't know if we can come up with the solution. From his own experience over the years, if you can identify what the problem is, then you have a better chance of coming up with a solution. At this point, we're coming up with solutions and really haven't gotten to the root problem. One of the problems is how to transport materials from one place to another and courier service solves that. Staffing is a problem in some libraries. Allen wants to have someone identify what the problem is and then we could design something that works.

Carrywater asked if a solution would be to survey libraries, asking them to identify their problems.

Staffeldt said the bottom line across the state is there's not enough funding for the library services. Libraries are scared to death MSL is going to pull their \$250 reimbursement because they squeeze that \$250 as tightly as they can for postage and everything else for their users and their clients. This is an issue for the net lenders. The Network Task Force did an extensive study of Interlibrary loans knowing this issue was coming to the forefront and they went to the Commission with the recommendation to move toward net lenders. The Commission didn't go with that recommendation and wanted to spread the Interlibrary loan money as much as possible throughout the whole state. MSL asked three times for more money and twice were given a little bit more. At this point, we could ask for more again, but Staffeldt isn't sure they'd give it to us. We could go ahead and survey, but we'd get 740 different responses of what their problems are, but somewhere on everybody's list, funding is the problem.

Commission Goals and Objectives – Robert's Rules Changes - Meeting Materials

Moody said there have been a couple of people pointing out to him Robert's Rules of Order. The Commission's Bylaws state the Commission will follow Robert's Rules. Robert's Rules state a second is not required to a motion. From this point forward there is not a second required on motions.

Moody went to the pilot program meeting in Great Falls. He attended the (Montana Library Association (MLA) conference. He also was in attendance at the ILL hearing.

Allen attended the Networking Task Force meeting in Helena.

Carrywater went to the Native American Library in Great Falls and attended the MLA conference.

Bitz, and her dog Bridger, were invited to launch the summer reading program at the Havre Hill County Library. Bitz's dog turned the pages of the book. The kids all ran downstairs afterwards and checked out books on how to train your dog.

Staffeldt asked if Commissioners had a preference on how they received meeting materials. It was decided to send e-mail to all members of the Commission reminding them materials are posted on web. Hard copies will continue to be sent to Bitz, Smith, Carrywater and Allen.

Action:

Allen made a motion to approve the Federations Plans of Service. Motion passed unanimously.

Calendar

The long range plan working meeting and action on ILL Administrative Rules is set for Friday, July 21, in Helena. The Commission members will be sent an e-mail reminder as the date gets closer.

Reminder

Staffeldt reminded everyone about the Commission meeting in Pablo at the Salish Kootenai College library, Tuesday, August 15.

Positions

Staffeldt said the new administrative assistant starts June 26, 2006. Staffeldt is also seriously looking at rewriting her former position and trying to fill that one, rather than Orr's right now. There have been two positions open for most of the year and these may stay open longer to coincide with our long-range planning.

Meeting adjourned