

State Librarian's Report

August & September 2012

Prepared for the October 10, 2012 Commission meeting

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Goal Four—Consultation and Leadership

On August 9 I had the opportunity to testify before the State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee on the status of the Montana Land Information Advisory Council (MLIAC). My testimony was part of an overall review of advisory councils to the Department of Administration. I shared with the committee the status of the transition of responsibilities for the Montana Land Information Act from DOA to MSL, the positive work done by the Council to adopt a new land plan and information about the increased amount of funds available to local and tribal governments for MLIA grants. Senator Van Dyke expressed his appreciation for the value of the cadastral web application.

On September 6 I chaired the MLIAC Council meeting. Agenda items included a review of FY12013 budget, a legislative update, regular updates on the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure work plan, MLIA grants and a presentation by Quinn Ness, Bureau Chief for the DOA Public Safety Broadband program. He is involved in additional efforts to secure long-term grant funding that will support the build-out of broadband services for emergency first responders. MSL continues to monitor this funding opportunity to determine if and how it might benefit the library community through future increases in broadband and the GIS community through better delivery of GIS data used to support this effort.

Along with Evan Hammer and Stu Kirkpatrick, I attended the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) annual conference in Orlando Florida, September 8-14. This is the first time a State Librarian attended a NSGIC conference and I made many good contacts that could result in a closer relationship between State Librarians and State GIS offices. Evan and I participated on a panel that discussed the changing role of state GIS clearinghouses. This panel gave me an opportunity to share my perspective as a librarian on many of the topics they discussed and about the missions shared between the library and GIS communities.

On September 16 I facilitated the Plenary at the 2012 Fall Workshop. The topic of the plenary was the eContent Landscape. Plenary speakers included Sarah McHugh, retired librarian Suzanne Goodman, Michael Porter of Library Renewal, David Lee King, Digital Branch Manager from the Topeka Shawnee Public Library in Kansas and the Kansas State Librarian, Jo Budler. Each panelist shared their perspectives on the most pressing issues facing libraries in the world of eContent, how these issues may impact or be impacted by rural libraries and the role of consortiums to address eContent concerns. It was a lively discussion with many different opinions that illustrated the dynamic nature of the industry. I was pleased to hear both David and Michael state that they feel that Montana librarians are some of the most informed

librarians in the country on the subject of eContent. I believe this is due, in large part, to the growing number of libraries that participate in MTLibrar2Go and to our active promotion of the technology petting zoos.

On September 20 I facilitated a webinar that was attended by approximately 35 Montana librarians regarding the status of the recent AG opinion. I shared with attendees the history of the opinion, our understanding of its impacts and I sought feedback about their questions, concerns, and recommendations for next steps.

Staff has begun to review the BTOP feasibility study prepared by Montana State University Economy Faculty. Although much in the report is beyond the scope of MSL, staff believes that the proposal includes some good recommendations that can be implemented including a more up-to-date, user friendly webpage with technical and purchasing information to help librarians minimize cost when purchasing replacement IT equipment. We also plan to begin researching how we might more effectively manage e-Rate for Montana libraries.

Goal Five—Collaboration

MSL promotes partnerships and encourages collaboration among its users.

I was pleased to attend the retirement celebration for Havre-Hill Library Director, Bonnie Williamson in Havre on August 9. I shared with those in attendance the resolution passed the Commission on August 8 that honored Bonnie for her service.

At the request of Ken Egan, Executive Director of Humanities Montana, I wrote a letter of support for a National Endowment for Humanities grant proposal that they are preparing. If funded, Humanities Montana intends to develop what they are calling the Montana Cultural Map, a mobile application that would bring together online Montana information resources from a variety of sources including the State Library and the Montana Historical Society. Not only is this a great opportunity to collaborate with Humanities Montana, the application would provide improved public access to several MSL collections. Evan Hammer will serve on the project advisory committee.

On August 10, Jim Kammerer and I met with the Governor's Chief of Staff, Viv Hammill and Communications Director, Sarah, Elliot to share with them the current draft of the State Publications Management Plan. It was very well received. Sarah commended MSL for providing improved access to state publications while at the same time minimizing cost and the administrative burden to agencies. Viv expressed her appreciation for maintaining good communication with the Governor's Office.

On September 25 Evan Hammer and I will attend the Information Technology Committee meeting at the annual meeting of the Montana Association of Counties (MACo) in Great Falls. This will be a good opportunity to introduce ourselves and to share with them an overview of the variety of data, information technology resources and support that MSL provides to counties. MACo is considering a resolution that would change the funding model of Montana Land Information Act funds, reducing the amount of funds coming to the state. Attendance at this meeting will give us the opportunity to determine exactly what changes they are seeking, to explain the impact on GIS services we provide to counties, and to, hopefully, offer alternative solutions.

Goal Six—Sustainable Success

MSL is efficient and effective (measured against partner and patron outcomes) and is engaged in fulfilling its mission.

The University of Montana and the Montana State Library have revised the management structure of the Montana Natural Heritage Program, eliminating the Program Director position, at least for the term of the current contract which expires on June 30, 2013. Dr. Neil Snow has been assigned to other duties. The MTNHP and the State Library want to express our thanks to Neil for his sincere efforts and service to the program and we all wish him the best in his new assignment. Program Managers will continue to oversee day-to-day execution and long range planning of MTNHP's goals and functions, with administrative oversight and management being assumed by a Lead Program Manager. Allan Cox, the current Information Systems and Services Manager, will fill that role. We do not anticipate the change in management to have any significant impact MTNHP Services to our partners and users.

Staff is busily preparing the Legislative Snapshot for the 2013 Legislative session. In response to last year's user survey and thanks to improved GIS resources, the majority of the data included in the snapshot will be presented by House and/or Senate District rather than by county. Staff is also working to improve the online access tools to make the data presented more dynamic.

Following instructions from the Governor's Office of Budget and Program Planning, Central Services Manager, Kris Schmitz and I prepared budget and personnel documentation and submitted MSL's final proposed FY 14-15 budget to the Governor's Office on August 27. I am pleased that five of our Executive Planning Process requests were approved. The budget also includes an additional \$125,000 in new fixed costs to fund the increased use of the enterprise IT infrastructure managed by the State Information Technology Services Division. This increase is required to support the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure.

Working with Jim Scheier and staff from the Department of Administration we submitted draft bill language to the Governor's Office that, if approved by the Legislature, will change the following statutes:

- (MCA) 90-1-404 thru 90-1-413 or the Montana Land Information Act;
- (MCA) 7-11-1014 & 7-11-1029* regarding reporting of special district boundaries;
- (MCA) 76-6-212 regarding the management of Conservation Easement data;

*Note, legal review determined that (MCA) 7-11-1029 compliments (MCA) 7-11-1014 and must also be updated.

MSL received word from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) that our Library Services Technology Act (LSTA) five-year evaluation was approved. The Commission will recall that we had concerns over the quality and comprehensiveness of the report. In light of these concerns, with help from State Procurement, MSL was able to negotiate a reduced fee to Communication and Management Services. Additionally, IMLS accepted our new five-year plan with only minor suggested language changes.