

NRIS Advisory Committee  
1:00 p.m., July 26, 2012  
Montana State Library (MSL)  
Grizzly Conference Room  
1515 E. Sixth Ave., Helena

**ATTENDEES:**

Members: Lydia Bailey, Nat Carter, Kreh Germane, Joe Kolman, Liz Lahey, and Tom Martin

Staff: Evan Hammer, Stu Kirkpatrick, Bryce Maxell, Jennie Stapp and Marlys Stark

Visitors: Bonnie Gundam and Deb Wambach

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m.

**NRIS BACKGROUND:**

The biggest change since NRIS was written in statute is the organization changes that joined BMSC, another program written in statute, with NRIS as one program through an interagency agreement. Amending the statutes involved will be part of the 2013 legislative process. The new joined program is called Geographic Information. This is an ongoing process of collecting information to be able to combine the two programs in the best fashion, including how to give out information and what kinds, changing positions and personnel and many others. There have been a few personnel arrangement changes and there might be more in the future. Currently Stu oversees the GIS analysts and Evan has been promoted to oversee several programs including this one. As part of the process, staff would like to receive responses from partners, users and others regarding the web presence, marketing, outreach, needs and information sharing.

Natural Heritage Program is part of NRIS by statute. It is set up to be either direct employees of the library or contracted out and is currently contracted out to University of Montana. It is only partly funded through the state and has partners to contribute to funding.

NRIS works with several different groups which use different data layers that NRIS provides access to.

The NRIS advisory committee and the MLIAC have overlapping interests but mostly are two distinct areas. MLIAC is concerned with framework layers. The advisory committee members should be representatives for their agencies, expressing their agency needs or preferences for the focus of the committee such as mineral rights or energy needs. The statute specifically mentions natural resources but anything that would impact them also needs to be considered. NRIS also manages the data clearinghouse which is not natural resource related.

Reorganization of NRIS and BMSC does not mean an expansion of services but a streamlining and less duplication. Prioritizing of needs and goals needs to be done.

### **COMMITTEE GOALS AND DUTIES:**

A 'survey' of members will be done to see what the agency priorities are currently. Items to consider are the individual agencies business needs and how that can be discussed as a group and how to better meet the needs for the state as a whole. Members will gather information from their agencies before the next meeting in order to further the discussion.

### **MOU AND ANNUAL REPORT:**

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) is done each biennium between each of the core funders which are mentioned in statute and the state library. In that MOU an annual report is mentioned. Each member needs to discuss with their agencies as to whether they need or use the biennium MOU and also whether they want to continue requiring an annual report. A future agenda item will be to decide the need for the MOU and if a need is found, to review the current MOU to include any wording revision and whether to include the annual report. Members need to be prepared to speak for their agencies.

### **MEETING REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS:**

Agenda items for next meeting will include the biennium MOU, the annual report, and agency business needs and priorities.

Meetings will be set on a May/November time line in future.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

The chair closed the meeting at 3:37 p.m.