

Memo

To: Montana State Library Network Advisory Council

From: Ken Adams, MSC Director

Date: November 12, 2013

Re: Montana Shared Catalog Project update

1. LSTA authorized for MSC new libraries; \$16,344 to cover vendor start-up costs, has not yet been expended. The vendors (SirsiDynix and DataMap) normally bill us after the final data loads and go-live of the new libraries (Fort Peck Tribal Library, Judith Basic County Free Library in Stanford and Hobson Community Library. Training and go-live had originally been scheduled to take place the week of Oct 14 but cancelled due to the federal government shutdown. Final data loads, training and go-live have been rescheduled to take place during the week of Nov 12 with go-live on Nov 15. We should receive invoices from the vendors soon after that date.
2. The MSC Fall 2013 Members Meeting was held in Helena on Sept 26. A key topic of the meeting was the request to add an additional FTE to the MSC support staff. The discussion was polite, lively and to-the-point with numerous, valid statements both for and against the proposal to add new staff. Options for reducing costs related to support were suggested and questions were raised as to how the system's policies could be re-organized in a way to make the MSC system more efficient. The final vote approved the creation of an additional position for MSC support. After the meeting, the MSC Executive Board met and agreed that an MSC reorganization effort must be made and asked the MSC Staff to prepare the information needed to determine the best approach for that effort. After several weeks of preparation, the requested information was delivered to the Executive Board on Oct 30 and it will be discussed during their meeting on Nov 4th. The information consists of current MSC governance structure and circulation policies with four options developed for reorganizing and streamlining MSC operations. The goal of the Nov 4th meeting is to select one of the four options. MSL staff included their recommendations for the Board to consider.
3. System testing is currently underway for the 'Shoutbomb' SMS messaging service, PayPal online bill payment, the Enterprise searching interface, and system policy name changes for Billings Public Library. Annual RDA Toolkit subscription renewals are being readied for delivery to ALA by Nov 30th.