

NETWORK ADVISORY COUNCIL (NAC)
Tuesday, November 14, 2017
GoTo Meeting

ATTENDEES:

Council Members: Chair Tracy Cook, Matthew Beckstrom, Connie Behe, Pamela Benjamin, MaryKay Bullard, Dana Carmichael, Carly Delsigne, Sarah McClain, Kelly Anne Terry, Sonja Woods, Bruce Newell

MSL Staff: Jennie Stapp

Guests: none

Chair Cook called the meeting to order at 9:42am.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Member Beckstrom and seconded by Member Woods to approve the August 1, 2017 minutes as presented and the motion passed. Member Newell abstained as he was absent from the meeting.

SET MEETING DATES FOR NEXT YEAR:

Chair Cook led a discussion about the proposed dates for meeting in 2018. After some discussion about meeting dates including a conflict with the academic library symposium, the group recommended changing the May meeting to May 8, 2018. All other proposed meeting dates remained the same.

A motion was made by Member Beckstrom and seconded by Member Woods to approve the meeting dates listed on the memo with a change of moving the May meeting to May 8, 2018.

TRAILS UPDATE:

Member Benjamin gave the NAC an update about TRAILS which was established about a year ago. She shared the website of TRAILS with members: <http://trailsmt.org>. TRAILS is a consortium of academic institutions. She described the purpose of TRAILS, makeup of the consortium, the financing, and future plans for the group.

STATE LIBRARY UPDATE:

State Librarian Stapp reported that we are in the midst of a special session. Two weeks after implementing the cuts from Senate Bill 261, the State Library was asked to submit a plan for an additional 10% in cuts. The State Library asked for a reprieve from those cuts. As of the meeting, the Governor had identified cuts and granted a reprieve to the Montana State Library and the Montana Historical Society. Stapp presented the Governor's plan for handling the shortfall in revenue which included cuts, short-term revenue increases, and transfers. The Legislature is working through the proposals. We are waiting for them to begin looking through the overall budget.

Stapp reported on the plan to create a statewide library foundation that will benefit all types of libraries – a foundation that helps us to achieve all of our statewide library goals. The Commission approved moving forward. Stapp reported on the work that has been completed. The State Library hopes to release an RFP in late December/early January.

Stapp also reported on the second RFP that the State Library would like to release. This RFP is for an awareness campaign built around the essential nature of libraries. Stapp believes that we will benefit from having someone who has experience in marketing and public relations. She discussed how this fits with the work of the MLA lobbyist.

Stapp gave a report on Coal Severance Tax monies. She described the changes that have occurred – the most beneficial being the creation of a separate account for the State Library. Over the next four years pending revenue, the State Library's percentage will increase until it returns to historical levels. She reported that the Commission has authorized a one time only expenditure of CST monies to federations that is above and beyond their regular funding. The Commission also authorized using the funds for OCLC and the MSC. Stapp stated that one of the challenges of the new system is that we don't have cash in the account, so we must wait until the cash balance is built up to pay the various obligations. She reported that we received our first deposit, and she has requested information about the history of deposits and collections.

Stapp discussed a meeting we held with OCLC representatives in October. We discussed our past relationship which has involved resource sharing, development, and pilot projects. Over the years, the relationship has shifted to a customer/vendor one. We wanted to explore the possibility of returning to the partnership model we had in the past. We discussed community needs especially non-users, and we learned about a new system that OCLC has acquired. OCLC talked to us about our different programming needs/services and what libraries are doing. Member Newell expressed some concerns about the lack of follow-up and OCLC's shift away from consortia work.

Stapp discussed a nationwide project called "Measures that Matter" which is an effort to identify how to measure the impact of libraries. This study is designed to identify what other data we could collect to measure this impact. OCLC has also been engaged in thinking about these different kinds of metrics.

Cook reported that Katy Rende started as the new Montana Shared Catalog Trainer. She also reported that Rebekah Kamp will join the Montana Shared Catalog as a Systems Admin. Her final update was that Mike Price retired in early November. We are currently analyzing Mike's position to determine what we would like to do with that position as we don't need someone to provide hardware support. The Lifelong Learning Librarian position remains vacant until the special session is over.

BUDGET UPDATES:

NAC Members gave updates on the status of their budgets. Members reported that budgets have been stagnant and/or suffered anywhere from 2% to 10% to 33% reductions in budgets. The University of Montana has seen a 33% reduction in collections and a 30% reduction in personnel. The Lewistown Public Library and the Montana State Law Library reported positive support for their libraries.

NAC members discussed why they thought the budget cuts were occurring. Reasons included concerns about intellectual freedom; lack of connection between libraries and economic development; and concerns about administrations not seeing a need for physical libraries.

Member Newell asked Cook to create a summary of the budget discussion for the State Library Commission. Cook will also distribute a summary of the chat log for NAC members to review.

LDD WORK PLAN:

Chair Cook asked if anyone had any questions about the informational report she shared. She wanted to share the Library Development work plan to show how we used the goals and outcomes that the NAC identified at their August meeting to plan activities for this year. Technical difficulties kept Cook from showing the work plan.

NAC WORK PLAN:

Cook asked the group if they had any questions about the NAC work plan. She suggested that it would be best to review and take action at a face to face meeting. Member Newell talked about the role of the NAC. He proposed that the NAC should challenge the Commission with ideas for library services and where the State Library should be going in the future. NAC members discussed Member Newell's suggestion.

GATHERING NON-USER FEEDBACK:

Chair Cook asked NAC members for their thoughts on the idea of gathering feedback from those who do not use libraries. NAC members shared ideas for questions to ask people who don't use libraries. Members also discussed ways to gather this information. Cook will take these ideas back to the Statewide Consulting Librarians to implement a process for gathering this feedback.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There was none made.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There was none made.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 11:30am.