

NETWORK ADVISORY COUNCIL (NAC)
Tuesday, November 13, 2018
Montana State Library Grizzly Room

ATTENDEES:

Council Members: Chair Tracy Cook, Cody Allen (online), Colet Bartow, Pamela Benjamin (online), Elizabeth Jonkel (online), Sarah McClain, Susie McIntyre, Stacey Moore (online), Bruce Newell, Kate Peterson, Doralyn Rossman, Jodi Smiley, Laura Wight, Sonja Woods (online)

MSL Staff: Jennifer Birnel(online), Pam Henley (online), Cara Orban, Jennie Stapp

Guests: Micah May, Digital Public Library of America, Rachel Rawn (online)

Chair Cook called the meeting to order at 9:30am.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

No changes to the minutes. A motion was made by Member Newell and seconded by Member McIntyre to approve the August 14, 2018 minutes, and the motion passed.

STATE LIBRARIAN'S UPDATE:

State Librarian Stapp reported that Congress passed a budget that included funding for LSTA. We haven't received our award, yet. We are expecting to received notification in December. ALA and others are working on re-authorization of the Library Services Technology Act (LSTA). That work includes a provision to raise base funding. Stapp also reported that there is a national effort to increase the grants to states (the official name of our award) to \$325 million. State associations have been passing resolutions, and MLA will also be asked to pass a resolution supporting this effort.

Stapp reported on the Coal Severance Tax Budget. It is positive, but volatile. She gave the group a reminder of how management of that account changed with the last legislative session. The State Library now manages their own fund. This requires managing cash flow. We were able to successfully do that this year. Stapp reported that we have paid a portion of the contract costs for the MSC and OCLC as well as made our payments to federations. Stapp stated that she wants to work with the NAC and Commission to create a cash flow management policy.

Stapp updated members on the upcoming legislative session. Revenue estimates continue to be positive, but people are cautious. No new funding proposals are allowed. The State Library will focus on regaining part of the funding that was lost during the cuts in the 2017 session. Stapp reported that the Governor's budget will be released on November 15. At this point, we believe the budget will include funding for the majority of FTE that were lost in the 2017 Legislative Session. The budget will reduce the State Library's operating costs. Some of that reduction is due to closure of the library reading room which will not re-open. Stapp stated that state aid for public libraries is scheduled to come back July 1, 2019 as long as no one touches the legislation. Library Legislative Day is scheduled for February 5, 2019.

Stapp gave an update on the Trust Fund and the role of NAC. As of the NAC meeting, three people have agreed to serve on the board. We need five to complete the non-profit paperwork. We want geographic and balanced gender representation on the board. Stapp stated that once the board is up and running, there needs to be clear communication between the board, the NAC, and the State Library Commission about funding and projects. Stapp sees the NAC as a body that would be part of presenting ideas as well as reviewing programs from libraries to make recommendations to the Foundation on scalability and funding. Paperwork for the new non-profit should be filed in January. The founding board will develop policies and seek operations funding.

Stapp showed NAC members the website for the new public awareness campaign and shared materials and information about the videos.

Orban gave a quick update on the courier. She reported that it has been a volatile year. The group was informed that their long-time courier was going out of business in January. The group was only given one day's notice. They had an interim vendor that supported the project for 90 days. That vendor was not selected in the formal bidding process required of the courier. That vendor also appears to have gone out of business. The current vendor is struggling. Orban met with member libraries to discuss problems and possible solutions. Orban answered questions about sorting and the overall quality and cost and how much does the courier need to be successful.

NATIONAL DIGITAL PLATFORM FOR LIBRARY E-CONTENT:

Micah May from the Digital Public Library of America gave a presentation about a possible solution for handling e-content. He discussed Library Simplified, SimplyE, and a Circulation Manager that libraries can use to manage different kinds of e-content.

LSTA 18 ALLOCATION OF FUNDS:

Chair Cook quickly summarized the four proposals before the NAC. They are funding for Ready2Read Goes Wild trunk refurbishing, a public library statistics vendor solution, the Montana Memory Project Ambassadors Program, and a Crisis Intervention Training Request. The total for these projects is \$27,804. Member Newell asked if there was funding to cover these projects. Chair Cook reported that there was. NAC members had a few questions for Cook on what exactly the public library statistics vendor covered and how that differed from IMLS's product. Cook reported that this product helped collect the data that IMLS uses in their product. It also would give the libraries a way to run reports. NAC members also asked about including other libraries and community members in the Crisis Intervention Training. Cook reported that including community members was a requirement of the organization that would lead the training. She also stated that she would ask the Lifelong Learning Librarian to include other libraries.

A motion was made by Member Newell and seconded by Member Bartow to approve all of the proposals, and the motion passed.

MONTANA LIBRARY CARD:

Chair Cook shared a possible proposal for a Montana library card to the NAC. It was intended to generate discussion about the idea. Member Newell stated that we need to step back and consider the bigger picture – one that is focused on Montanans. NAC member weren't sure that the time was right

to discuss this idea. They expressed concerns about equity, impact on staff, funding, and needs of Montanans. Other NAC members thought we should look at different services. Others thought this could be done on a local or regional level. Stapp and Cook stated that perhaps the discussion needed to start with whether or not we agree that equitable access is important. The group ended with the idea that success is that every library and community receive value from this effort, and that what is received is well-defined.

LSTA 19 IDEAS FOR FUNDING:

Chair Cook stated that she would be bringing a budget to the NAC in March, but she wanted to use this time to ask NAC members to brainstorm possible uses for roughly \$50,000 of unallocated funds. Cook kept a list of what the NAC created. She will share that list with staff for further input.

SET MEETING DATES FOR NEXT YEAR:

Chair Cook mentioned that the Tuesday dates seem to be a bit tricky for people. There are times when the Monday before the meeting is a holiday which negatively impacts members traveling from a distance. NAC members discussed possible alternatives and suggested that Thursdays might be better. This means the NAC would meet on March 14, May 9, August 8, and November 14.

A motion was made by Member McIntyre and seconded by Member Smiley to accept the newly proposed dates, and the motion passed.

FREEZING MSC APPLICATIONS FOR 2019:

Chair Cook stated that she was recommending freezing the MSC application process in 2019. MSL would like to work on staffing solutions and would like to give staff permission to focus on the addition of the Lewis & Clark Library system. The MSC Executive Board is aware of this request

NAC WORK PLAN:

NAC members reviewed the logic model for promoting interlibrary cooperation. Member Bartow asked about connecting with TRAILS which is one of the outputs from the logic model. She would like to know what unique things TRAILS offers, how they work, how to connect our resources or services to make it easier for patrons. Member Benjamin had to leave the meeting early, so Member Rossman volunteered to tell Member Benjamin that we are interested in learning more about TRAILS.

BETTER DEFINITION OF BALANCING TRADITIONAL VS. DIGITAL:

NAC members discussed the questions from Library Development staff about what they meant in recommending a desired outcome of balancing traditional versus digital services. Members discussed the limitations of traditional budget structures and about the desire to communicate and help customers/patrons understand that many of the digital services they use are library services. NAC members also want to see innovative services. Chair Cook summarized their discussion and will share the information with LDD staff.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There was none made.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There was none made.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.