

Network Advisory Council (NAC)
Wednesday, May 08, 2019
Montana State Library Grizzly Room and GoTo Meeting

Attendees:

Council Members: Chair Tracy Cook, Cody Allen (online), Honore Bray (online), Pamela Benjamin (online), Dana Carmichael (online), Sarah McClain, Susie McIntyre (online), Stacey Moore, Bruce Newell, Kate Peterson (online), Jodi Smiley (online), Sonja Woods

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

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 Moore and seconded by Member Carmichael to approve the March 14, 2019 minutes, and the motion passed. Member Newell abstained.

State Library update:

State Librarian Stapp gave a legislative update. The legislature adjourned in April. Governor is working his way through the bills. Stapp is watching HB633 which created a special revenue account for the State Library. There will be an interim study to look at sources of funding for this revenue account. Stapp reported that we received enough funding to replace some of the positions that were lost in the 2017 session. MSL is not filling those positions in the same way. Stapp gave a report on the different positions which include a data management coordinator, junior web developer, a metadata/data technician, and two GIS techs. She also reported that we will receive an additional \$250,000 over the biennium in operations. This does not restore MSL to 2017 levels but does provide some funding to carry us through the next biennium as MSL staff and the legislature explore alternative revenue sources. MSL Staff have not decided how this funding will be spent. Ideas include restoring some of the cuts to the Natural Heritage Program as well as operational costs for new and current staff. State aid per capita for public libraries will be returning this fall. It was a quiet legislative session for libraries, but Stapp and Cook were heartened by the support for libraries.

State Librarian Stapp reported that Congress is working on FY20 federal funding. The House is calling for a \$15 million increase, but how that increase will be allocated within the Institute of Museum and Library Services is still to be determined. Senate will probably recommend less funding. The House and Senate will have to agree. At this time, we are not hearing about any proposed cuts to federal funding for libraries.

Stapp reported that MSL is in an open comment period on the Fair Library Access Resolution the NAC reviewed in March. MSL staff are summarizing the comments. Highlights include being inclusive of all types of libraries and looking at communities versus individuals. The Commission hopes to adopt the

resolution at their June meeting. Member Newell reported that the resolution will include extensive endnotes that will reflect some of the comments. He also stated that the NAC should be the group to address those endnotes. Stapp also stated that the resolution would be used to inform MSL's work in defining and creating a useful information infrastructure. It is challenging to articulate what that is. We want to better define that strategy, so that we can best meet the needs of our patrons. We would like to hire a consultant to help us define this path and carry out the work of creating a useful information infrastructure.

Stapp stated that the public library standards are going to be reviewed and updated. We want the Fair Library Access Resolution to be fed by the new standards, and we want the standards to reflect 21st century libraries. This work will include the Library Development Study Task Force Recommendations.

Member Carmichael reported that the American Association of School Librarians released a new set of school library standards that OPI is going to use to update Montana's standards. She reported that some of those standards blend well with the resolution and the useful information infrastructure work.

Stapp gave a staffing update. She reported that we have one vacant FTE, and that Cook will step into that role become a lead consulting and learning librarian that provides consulting and oversees consulting, continuing education, and lifelong learning. In the short-term we will not fill the Director of Library Development position. This re-organization allows us to hire a System Administrator for the Montana Shared Catalog. MSL will also begin merging the two divisions as part of this process. The transition will begin in July. Stapp will become the Chair of the NAC. Cara Orban and Tracy Cook will be support staff for the work of the NAC.

Stapp reported that we will host a Regional Research Institute for Public Libraries (RIPL) in Montana. It will be October 7-9 in Billings. It is focused on data metrics and reporting. Registration will open July 1. There will be a pre-conference led by Delaware State Librarian, Dr. Annie Norman, who has been using the data driven planning model for many years.

MSC new libraries funding proposal:

Chair Cook stated that with the staffing changes that Stapp mentioned the Montana Shared Catalog can re-open the application process for new libraries. She requested approval to use some of the Coal Severance Tax funds for adding new libraries. Member Newell asked if \$20,000 was sufficient. Cara Orban reported that based on interest increasing it to \$25,000 would be ideal.

A motion to recommend using up to \$25,000 of Coal Severance Tax funds to add new libraries to the Montana Shared Catalog was made by Member Woods and seconded by Member Moore, and the motion passed. Member McIntyre abstained.

Economic development funding proposal:

Chair Cook asked for feedback on the desired deliverables for a contract with an individual with economic development expertise. Members liked the list but expressed concerns about whether or not this could be done for \$10,000. Cook and Stapp explained why they thought it was best to start small and build from there. Stapp stated that it would be wise to see what respondents have to say before making significant changes to the deliverables. NAC members requested that we consider adding the

Department of Labor, the Small Business Administration, the Governor's Office, and the Montana Chamber of Commerce to the list of potential partners. They were very interested in the data analysis piece and recommending including Community Development Block grants to identify themes. Members also want to know how libraries fit into the work of the Economic Development Association.

A motion to recommend using up to \$10,000 of Coal Severance Tax funds to contract with an individual with economic development expertise was made by Member Carmichael and seconded by Member Woods, and the motion carried.

Update on homelessness and civil discourse work

Chair Cook reported that Amelea Kim is working with Humanities Montana on both homelessness and civil discourse work. Humanities Montana is very interested in creating a homelessness program that can be used in libraries. Kim is also talking to the Colorado State Library who has book/program kits - one of those focuses on homelessness. Humanities Montana is willing to assist with facilitator training for civil discourse programming. Chair Cook reported that there are a variety of ways we could focus on the civil discourse work. She requested assistance from NAC members on selecting the best path forward to benefit the most libraries and their communities. NAC members expressed a willingness to add that topic to their August agenda.

DPLA e-book pilot project:

State Librarian Stapp reported that MSL is working on a contract with the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) who will subcontract with Lyris to setup the pilot e-book project the NAC discussed in March. MSL staff and the NAC have defined their success measures, and MSL staff will use those to evaluate the project.

Hiring interns to assist with ASPeN:

Chair Cook requested up to \$9,000 to hire interns to assist with creating documentation for IT staff as well as a technical support intern to assist those who have not yet logged into ASPeN.

A motion to recommend using up to \$9,000 to hire two interns to assist with improving ASPeN was made by Member McIntyre and seconded by Member McLain, and the motion carried.

FY19 LSTA budget:

Chair Cook shared the budget with changes for LSTA and the use of Coal Severance Tax funds. She said there are still Coal Severance Tax remaining to be allocated. Kim and Cook would present a proposal for programming for civil discourse and homelessness. She recommended not allocating the remaining funds at this time as we have other projects such as the Gigabit Toolkit and Montana Shared Catalog work that may require additional funds. Member Newell asked if we could hire an economist to look at one public library and return on investment. He would like to focus on more than just monetary return on investment. Other NAC members thought that was an intriguing idea.

August Retreat:

Chair Cook stated that members typically have bigger picture discussions or deeper learning opportunities during their August retreat. She asked members what they would like to cover during that time. Members requested discussion about the revised Library Development Study Task Force Recommendations, civil discourse, and reviewing what we have accomplished in the previous year. Members were also interested in a training about growth mindset. Chair Cook will follow up on the discussion items. Member Benjamin will follow-up on the growth mindset training.

Other business and announcements

Member Benjamin reported that she and Member Bartow were working on obtaining e-resources for the K-12 community. She would like input from NAC members and school librarians on what resources would be valuable. Members Peterson and Carmichael volunteered to assist with the process.

Public Comments:

There was none made.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 11:07 am.