

# Memo

**To:** Montana State Library Commission

**From:** Jennie Stapp, State Librarian

**Date:** January 26, 2022

**Re: Executive Planning Process and initial discussion of priorities**

As an executive branch agency, the State Library (MSL) follows the guidance of the Governor's Office, through the Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP), when considering legislative priorities and budgetary requests ahead of the 2023 Legislative session. Key dates include:

<b>Legislative Planning event</b>	<b>2022 Date</b>
OBPP distributes instructions for legislative proposals	February 17
OBPP distributes Executive Planning Process instructions	April 12
Agency legislative proposal concepts due	May 6
Agencies submit EPP requests to OBPP	June 6
Agencies submit budget requests to OBPP	September 1
Governor issues Governor's Budget	November 15

As we begin to think about budgetary requests the following items are known needs to address:

- Evaluate Montana Land Information Act funding authority: when the Legislature passed House Bill 49 to increase the Montana Land Information Act (MLIA) recordation fee, the Legislature increased the MSL's spending authority based on 5-year average collections. This average has increased over the last two years so spending authority should be aligned so that collections are spent efficiently, and fees collected do not go unspent.
- One-time-only (OTO) funding authority for the Montana Real Time Network (MRTN): To the extent that the balance of the MLIA account exceeds a desired threshold, OTO funds may be requested to provide continued support for the MRTN.

- MRTN enterprise funding authority: MSL intends to implement a subscription-based model to help fund the MRTN. Subscribers would be those individuals and companies who need access to the data in real time. MSL will need legislative authority to spend revenue generated through the subscription service.
- Digital Library Services fixed costs: in 2020, the Legislative Finance Committee asked the Governor to create two new fixed costs to fund digital library services. The Governor approved funding in the base budget of 19 state agencies that pass through to the State Library to support digital library services. A second fixed cost that would be funded by all agencies was not enacted but is worth future discussion.
- Indirect cost rate: MSL needs legislative authority to spend indirect cost dollars received through grants and contracts.

MSL will seek input from the Network Advisory Council and the Montana Land Information Advisory Council regarding additional funding needs.