

## Montana State Library Commission Meeting Minutes

**Date:** October 8, 2025

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.

**Place:** Belgrade Community Library, 205 E Main Street, Belgrade, MT 59714

**Recording Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=47emnYXx2bI>

### Attendance:

- **Commission Members:** Robyn Scribner (Chair), Peggy Taylor, Tom Burnett, Brian Rossmann, Carmen Cuthbertson. Commissioner Tammy Hall was absent due to medical leave.
- **Staff:** Jennie Stapp (Montana State Librarian), Malissa Briggs (Central Services Administrator), Victoria Gersdorf (Admin), Colet Bartow (Continuing Education), Savannah Sill (Library Development)
- **Guests:** Federation Coordinators from Golden Plains, Tamarack (Abby Dooley), South Central (Nancy), Pathfinder (Val), Broad Valleys (Susan), and Sagebrush; Sarah Widger (MLA); Taylor Moorman (MSU); Carl Raymond (Miles City Public Library); Susan Gregory (Bozeman Public Library); Mitch Grady (Livingston-Park County Public Library)

### Call to Order and Introductions

**Timestamp: 00:00:00**

- **Chair Robyn Scribner** called the meeting to order.
- **Introductions:** Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.
- **Agenda Changes/Additions:** No changes or additions were made to the agenda.

### Consent Agenda

**Timestamp: 00:02:37**

- **Items:** August 13, 2025 meeting minutes
- **Motion:** To approve the consent agenda as presented.
- **Moved by:** Peggy Taylor
- **Seconded by:** Tom Burnett
- **Vote:** Unanimously approved.

## Federation Reports – FY2025

Timestamp: 00:03:21

- **Discussion:** Federation Coordinators presented updates on trustee training, infrastructure, and programming. Highlights included:
  - Golden Plains: 10 trustees attended training; suggestion to host a future meeting in Miles City.
  - Tamarack: Cost of living challenges continue and renovation in Polson led to increased patronage throughout the federation.
  - South Central: Mini-sessions and OWL camera use expanded access for meetings, particularly due to the increase in remote participation in meetings.
  - Pathfinder: 1/3 of usage from Library2Go in some libraries. Val reports that without Federation funding, they would not have been able to afford the most basic services for library patrons- access to digital books is important.
  - Broad Valleys: Equal distribution of funds; Bozeman Library reported 326,000 visits and 1,600 programs.
  - Sagebrush: Over 50% of patron transactions are done via Library2Go; infrastructure grants used for ADA compliance. Like South-Central, access to technology to allow for remote meetings has helped to facilitate training and trustee meetings, allowing for strong and active boards.
- **Motion:** To approve the FY2025 Federation Reports.
- **Moved by:** Carmen Cuthbertson
- **Seconded by:** Brian Rossmann
- **Vote:** Unanimously approved by voice vote.

## Montana Geospatial Information Plan (FY2026–2028)

Timestamp: 01:06:48

- **Discussion:** Staff presented the plan and explained funding, grant program goals, and flexibility for future updates. Benefits of the grant program are the ability for MSL to bring folks up to the addressing standard for NextGen 911, and to set the framework for other local and state governments.

- **Public Comment:** None
- **Motion:** To approve the Montana Geospatial Information Plan for State Fiscal Years 2026–2028 as presented.
- **Moved by:** Peggy Taylor
- **Seconded by:** Tom Burnett
- **Vote:** Unanimously approved.

### **State Librarian Evaluation Process**

**Timestamp: 01:20:35**

- **Discussion:** The Personnel Subcommittee (Burnett, Taylor, Cook) reported on the evaluation process. It is recommended that they utilize talent as needed and the Commission agreed to use a checklist provided by Commissioner Hall and to document the process for future use. Peggy suggests any action that is taken on this in the future to be put in writing, the timeline to get this to Peggy is by November.

### **Legal Services Update**

**Timestamp: 01:23:01**

- **Discussion:** Jennie Stapp reported that the Department of Justice's Agency Legal Services Bureau was dissolved. Interim legal support is being provided by the Department of Administration and the Governor's Office and the DOA is working with the Governor's Office to find solutions for agencies in the meantime, although they currently do not have a fully-formed model for this.

### **Montana Library Association (MLA) Relationship Audit**

**Timestamp: 01:26:02**

- **Discussion:** The Commission reviewed a staff-prepared audit of the MLA relationship. Topics included:
  - Value of MLA's conference and communication tools and the subsequent interest in continuing them as suggested by Peggy and Robyn.
  - Concerns about DEI-related programming and neutrality.
  - MLA's affiliation with ALA and its implications.
  - Public comments from MLA representatives and library directors emphasized the importance of continued collaboration and open dialogue.

- **Next Steps:** The Commission agreed to revisit the topic at the December meeting.

## **MSL Learn Platform Update**

**Timestamp: 02:19:55**

- **Presentation:** Colet Bartow presented an overview of MSL Learn, the State Library's online training platform. The system has issued over 500 course completions since its launch. Trustees can earn certification through the platform, which integrates with the Aspen system. Improvements are currently being made on the ASPeN legacy system.

## **Presentation: Artificial Intelligence and Libraries**

**Timestamp: 02:28:09**

- **Presentation:** Taylor Moorman (MSU) presented on AI literacy and its implications for libraries. Key points included:
  - Generative AI is a predictive tool that is good at pattern recognition, it is not truly intelligent. It does not generate unique thoughts and conversations, instead, it merely mirrors the person who is using it.
  - AI is best for supporting work rather than replacing work.
  - AI literacy is essential for students, library staff, and the public. The best resources for information on AI are peer-reviewed articles rather than books.
  - Libraries should support critical thinking and human-centered engagement.
  - MSU initiatives include interdisciplinary faculty collaboration, machine learning labs, and open-access resources.

## **Adjournment**

**Timestamp: 04:00:001**

- **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting.
- **Moved by:** Robyn Scribner
- **Seconded by:** Carmen Cuthbertson
- **Vote:** Unanimously approved.