

Montana State Library Commission Public Hearing Minutes

Date: Monday, November 3, 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Zoom

Recording Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=teKNUaqxxMg>

Commission Members: Robyn Scribner (Chair), Tamara Hall, Kris Goss, McKenna Gregg, Tom Burnett

Staff: Jennie Stapp (Montana State Librarian), Malissa Briggs (Central Services Administrator), Victoria Gersdorf (Admin), Corey Sloan (Statewide Consulting Librarian)

Public Hearing on Proposed Revisions to Administrative Rule 10.102.1159 – Serving the Community (Open Hours)

Call to Order

Timestamp: 00:00:00

- **Chair Robyn Scribner** calls the public hearing to order and reviews the notice of function of the administrative rule committee.

Summary of Proposed Rule Changes

Jennie Stapp provided a summary of the proposed rule changes, which include:

- Changing the reporting period for open hours from weekly to annually to align with the Public Library Survey
- Reducing the minimum number of required open hours to provide libraries with greater flexibility.

Public Comments in Support

Timestamp: 00:07:16

No public comments were received in support of the proposed change.

Public Comments in Opposition

Timestamp: 00:09:18

- **Andrew Albers (00:09:18):** Vice Chair, Miles City Public Library Board of Trustees. Expressed concern that the proposed language is vague and may weaken libraries' ability to justify budgets and staffing levels. Suggested including rationale directly in the rule text.

- **Jacque Scott (00:11:31):** Resident of Sweet Grass County. Questioned the motivation behind the changes and whether libraries had requested them.
- **Jonna Underwood (00:13:46):** Director, Sheridan County Library. Echoed concerns raised by Albers and Scott, requesting clarification on the origin of the proposal.

Clarification on Commission's Response to Public Comments

Timestamp: 00:12:53

Jennie Stapp clarified that responses to public comments will be addressed during the Commission's work session on November 12, 2025.

Adjournment

Timestamp: 00:16:54

Chair Scribner closes the public hearing for Administrative Rule 10.102.1159- Serving the Community (Open Hours).

Public Hearing on Proposed Revisions to Administrative Rule 10.102.1160 – Continuing Education and Certification Program

Call to Order

Timestamp: 00:16:55

- **Chair Robyn Scribner** calls the public hearing to order and reviews the notice of function of the administrative rule committee.

Summary of Proposed Rule Changes

Corey Sloan summarized the proposed rule changes, which aim to:

- Define a process for adopting a course of study for library director certification.
- Streamline the certification program under the Montana State Library's oversight.

Public Comments in Support

Timestamp: 00:24:20

No public comments were received in support of the proposed changes.

Public Comments in Opposition

Timestamp: 00:26:02

- **Andrew Albers (00:26:02):** Expressed concern that the rule centralizes control over acceptable courses, reducing local autonomy and flexibility.
- **Mary Drew Powers (00:27:35):** Director, Whitefish Community Library. Opposed limiting certification credits to those issued by the State Library. Emphasized the need for staff and trustee training and criticized the cumbersome process for adding new courses.
- **Jacque Scott (00:31:22):** Retired librarian and director. Opposed eliminating the librarian certification track, stating that different roles require distinct skill sets.

Adjournment

Timestamp: 00:34:30

Chair Scribner closes the public hearing for Administrative Rule 10.102.1160- Continuing Education and Certification Program.