

## Montana State Library Commission Meeting Minutes

**Date:** November 12, 2025

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

**Place:** Zoom

**Recording Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ev5P7q-hP9k>

### Attendance

**Commission Members:** Robyn Scribner (Chair), Peggy Taylor, Carmen Cuthbertson, Tom Burnett, Tammy Hall, Kris Goss (newly appointed)

**Staff:** Jennie Stapp (State Librarian), Victoria Gersdorf (Admin), Colet Bartow (Continuing Education Program), Tracy, Cole (Staff Committee Members)

**Guests:** Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras, Barb Hvizdak (LCL Trustee)

### Call to Order and Introductions

**Timestamp: 00:00:00**

- **Chair Robyn Scribner** called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
- **Jennie Stapp** welcomed new Commissioner Kris Goss, librarian at Helena College, and introduced Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras.
- **Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras** provided procedural guidance on the rulemaking process.

### Discussion: Administrative Rule 10.102.1159 – Serving the Community (Open Hours)

**Timestamp: 00:01:10**

The Commission reviewed public comments on proposed revisions to the open hours' standard.

- **Proponents:** One proponent supported the flexibility the rule would provide, citing improved staff coverage and alignment with community use.
- **Opponents:** Opponents expressed concern that reducing required hours could signal to local governments that libraries need less funding, potentially leading to budget cuts.
- **Discussion:** Commissioners emphasized that the rule is intended to increase local control, not reduce service. Data presented by the State Librarian showed that 89% of libraries already exceed the current standard. Commissioners discussed the importance of clarifying that the rule change does not alter funding formulas or eligibility.

- **Next Steps:** A consensus emerged to amend the rule's language by changing the column heading from "Desirable" to "Recommended" to better reflect aspirational goals without implying a mandate.

#### **Action Item (to be voted on in December)**

**Timestamp: 02:14:00**

Commissioner Cuthbertson indicated intent to move at the December meeting to adopt the rule with the amendment: "Change the column heading from 'Desirable' to 'Recommended.'"

#### **Discussion: Administrative Rule 10.102.1160 – Continuing Education and Certification**

**Timestamp: 01:09:31**

The Commission reviewed extensive public feedback on proposed changes to the certification program.

- **Proponents:** There were no public comments given in support of the change to the administrative rule.
- **Opponents:** Concerns of opponents included: Loss of local control over course selection, elimination of trustee and staff training tracks, lack of clarity on recertification and approval timelines, and potential exclusion of valuable external training (e.g., CPR, ARSL, MLA)
- **Discussion:** Commissioners clarified that the intent is not to centralize all training under MSL but to ensure quality and consistency through a pre-approved course catalog. The catalog will include external offerings, and staff will be empowered to recommend additions. Commissioners emphasized the need for clear standards, flexibility, and responsiveness to local needs.
- **Next Steps:** The Commission discussed the importance of grandfathering current certification tracks and ensuring that implementation (scheduled for summer 2026) allows time for libraries to adjust budgets and plans. Commissioners agreed that further communication and a detailed implementation report should be provided before the December vote.

#### **Future Action Items**

**Timestamp: 02:12:00**

- **Implementation Plan:** Committee to provide a detailed report before the December 10 meeting.
- **Grandfathering:** Individuals currently in certification cycles will be allowed to complete under existing rules.

- **Amendment Proposal:** Remove the word “regular” from the phrase “regular commission meeting” to allow flexibility in scheduling approvals.

### **Public Comment**

**Timestamp: 10:50 a.m.**

No additional public comments were received on non-agenda items.

### **Adjournment**

**Timestamp: 11:00 a.m.**

Chair Scribner adjourned the meeting.