

MINUTES

Sagebrush Federation of Libraries

MINUTES

March 20, 2026

Online Only

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

9:00 Meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. Attendees: Tracy Cook (Montana State Library), Barb Mitchell (Henry A. Malley Memorial Library), Mary Pluhar (Garfield County Library), Beth Meggers (Fallon County Library), Mary James (McCone County Library), Jennie Stapp (Montana State Library), Heather Cotter (Sidney-Richland County Public Library), Ned Cooney (Consultant), Peggy Taylor (Montana State Library Commission), Mindy Van Vleet (Wibaux Public Library), Torey Spring (Ekalaka Public Library), Sean Anderson (Montana State Library), Rolane Christopherson (Prairie County Library), Sarah Peterson (Miles City Public Library)

Barb Mitchell moved to approve the October 2025 minutes; Mary James seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Heather Cotter moved to set the October meeting to October 13 (the day before the commission meets in Miles City). Torey Spring seconded; motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Montana State Library Update

- Sean Anderson: Contracts and MOUs. Sean discussed the process MSL is undertaking related to formalizing grants and contracts with the state library. Cooperative service agreements exist but this will formalize the process for liability protection, highlighting success, and supporting best practices. He anticipates a master agreement for libraries using shared services like MSC, couriers, OCLC, and MT Lib2Go. It's not "crisis mode" and there are no changes being made; it's just shoring up documentation.
- Tracy Cook: IT support. Tracy discussed the running Google Doc where directors can input IT problems and solutions to create a record of member libraries' needs, struggles, and successes as we continue the discussion.
- Tracy introduced Ned Cooney, a consultant who is helping MSL with a feasibility study of having an AmeriCorps presence in the state. MSL received a planning grant to explore this idea. Jennie Stapp discussed a "venn diagram" idea to help align what AmeriCorps can do with what libraries need. Heather shared that Sidney has used many AmeriCorps volunteers around town, and Ned shared a link about AmeriCorps historical presence in SE MT. Tracy noted that this is just an information-gathering time.
- Tracy also shared news from the MSL Certification Committee: everything is still in draft form, new rules go into effect July 1; there will be a process for approving local "best practice" training

MINUTES

(like a CPR/First Aid class by the fire department); directors can begin the renewal track if already certified; drafts will be available at the April meeting which will then prompt the committee to begin drafting the course catalog.

Recap of Local Government Training

- Further questions/topics/ideas: ideas included website development, services for adults, and more local government-related training.

Plan of Service

- Sarah Peterson: Review FY2027 Plan of Service
- Tracy Cook: Trustee training ideas (funding dependent)
- **Action to accept FY2027 Plan of Service**
- **After review of the 2027 Plan of Service, Heather Cotter moved to accept the plan as it stands; Barb Mitchell seconded; motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

Sagebrush Federation coordinator election: action

Heather Cotter made the motion to reelect Sarah Peterson of Miles City as Federation Coordinator; motion was seconded by Rolane Christopherson. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Any other discussion topics? (no action) None

Adjourn

Mindy Van Vleet moved to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Mary James. Motion carried unanimously.