

DRAFT

NRIS

Memo

To: Karen Strege
From: Jim Stimson
CC:
Date: 12/18/07
Re: Request from NRIS Advisory Committee to Library Commission

On July 11, 1995, the Information Technical Advisory Council (ITAC) approved the formation of a GIS task force to help establish statewide GIS directions and standards. One proposal submitted by the task force and approved by ITAC was:

Support effective use of GIS in state agencies and local and regional government by implementing a GIS Metadata Coordinator/technical support position. The Metadata Coordinator will assist all sectors of the GIS community in Montana with the creation, management, and dissemination of metadata. The Metadata Coordinator will be one FTE and will work in the Montana Natural Resource Information System at the Montana State Library.

Metadata is documentation on GIS data that helps patrons to be more informed about the overall data quality and applicability for their task at hand. Funding for the Metadata Coordinator position is generated through computer terminal fees collected by the Information Services Division (ISD) of the Department of Administration. These funds are passed through to NRIS under an Interagency Agreement.

In a series of meetings I've had with ISD recently, they have expressed the desire to reduce or eliminate funding for the Metadata position at NRIS. They feel that the State of Montana is not receiving sufficient service from NRIS for the level of funding support. I disagree with their opinion and have informed them that NRIS routinely uses additional personnel to promote metadata creation and usage.

On September 22, I briefed the NRIS Advisory Committee on my meetings with ISD concerning the metadata issue. The Advisory Committee expressed strong support for keeping the Metadata Coordinator position at the State Library within the NRIS program. The Committee also requested that the Library Commission consider making a formal recommendation to that effect and asked you to carry this request forward on their behalf. I've drafted a recommendation for the Commission's

consideration. This draft recommendation could be adopted as is, or could be modified if the Commission so desires. Thank you for your assistance on this issue.

Draft Recommendation: The Montana State Library Commission acknowledges the importance of metadata to patrons that acquire data and information from the clearinghouse maintained by the NRIS Program. The Library Commission strongly supports continuing the statewide metadata coordination effort within the NRIS Program at the Montana State Library. The Commission directs the State Librarian and NRIS Director to work with other agencies and entities to secure long-term funding for the Metadata Coordinator Position within the NRIS Program.