

**Montana State Library Commission**  
**Minutes for April 2, 2003 Teleconference Call**  
**Helena, MT**

**Attendees:**

**Commissioners**

**(Via phone):** Ralph Atchley, Rosie Garvey, David Johnson, Bruce Morton, Linda McCulloch and Gail Staffanson

**Commissioner**

**Absent:** Al Randall

**Staff:** Karen Strege, Jim Hill, Barbara Duke, Sue Jackson, Bruce Newell

**Guests:** Debbie Schlesinger

**Introductions**

Karen Strege introduced the people in attendance at the library. Chairperson Ralph Atchely called the meeting to order at 02:00 pm.

**LSTA Budget**

Karen Strege reported that Congress had approved the FY03 budget and the Library's LSTA budget was now ready for approval. One budget memo was sent out last week and a revised one was sent out April 1 when the Institute of Museum and Library Services decided to use estimated state populations rather than using the population from the 2000 census to determine awards. This change reduced Montana's award by almost \$7,000. Atchley questioned why IMLS was using estimated population figures now. Sue Jackson explained it was because the estimated figures are from July 2002 and are therefore more current than the 2000 census figures.

The LSTA budget is close to the bone this year. MSL operations and the budget for the technology consultants stayed the same. Reductions were made in the Networking Task Force budget, and in printing, supplies and travel for the MLN. Gates Training Grant funds will be used to partially fund the summer institute and the fall workshop. SIRSI agreed to prorate the Library's license fee for additions to the catalog and Sidney has chosen not to join the shared catalog at this time, so those expenses have changed.

**Revised IT Plan**

Jim Hill presented a revised information technology strategic plan. He stated that NRIS has been gaining experience in the development and implementation of data. As NRIS and LISD move towards the merger into the Montana State Digital Library (MSdL), it is important that patrons have full-time access to its resources and that MSL have control of the content of the digital library. Hill feels that MSL should be in direct control of the server and software infrastructure and that it should be housed at the State Library and staffed by MSL. Some problems have arisen with housing the server for the shared catalog at ITSD and although ITSD has been good about solving the problems, there is the question of access. ITSD will not allow SIRSI direct access to the server. Instead SIRSI has to go through Bruce Newell who then has to call ITSD. It will be a lot more convenient to have the servers in the Library if applications need to be tweaked or servers restarted.

Bruce Morton said this plan would seemingly have significant budget implications. Hill agreed and said we do not have the resources available at this time to assure 24/7 coverage. However,

he added that if ITSD houses and maintains the server we would have to pay them. NRIS has some funding they can use to purchase a more secure storage system, but the money needs to be expended by the end of this fiscal year.

Morton asked whether Hill had had any preliminary discussions with ITSD about these issues. Hill said he had not because he wanted to get the commission's feedback on the plan before taking it to ITSD.

Morton said the plan makes operational sense, but he's not sure it makes fiscal sense. There needs to be some prudent planning in terms of figuring out if the Library even has the funds to consider this. Atchley added that there is a hiring freeze on, so questioned whether we will even be able to add the necessary FTEs if the plan is adopted. Morton suggested Hill draft a plan with input from technical staff detailing the steps necessary and the anticipated costs involved and the commission would consider the plan at the April meeting.

The revised IT plan was removed from the action items.

### **Legislative Update**

Strege reported that the Library received an additional \$160,000 from the coal severance tax joint account, putting our 04/05 budget at about 1% over the Governor's request.

The Senate Finance and Claims Committee will meet tomorrow to consider HB2. It's hard to say for sure if the budget will stick or not. We're waiting for the revenue picture to become clearer. There is still a serious deficit that needs to be addressed. Strege will keep the commission posted as she receives additional information.

### **Action Items**

Morton made a motion to accept the LSTA budget. Johnson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Strege announced that Ralph Atchley had taken a job with the Bureau of Land Management in Cheyenne, Wyoming and would be resigning from the commission as of May 1. She thanked him for serving on the commission and wished him luck in his new position. A potential replacement for Atchley is Carolyn Bitz, a former member of the Havre-Hill Library Board and a rancher. Strege will be speaking with the Governor's office this afternoon about the possible replacements for the commission.

Strege asked the three departing commissioners if they could write a two paragraph farewell notice to be included in the next edition of the Big Sky News which comes out in late April.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.