

Montana State Library Commission
Minutes for May 26, 2004 Teleconference Call
Helena, MT

Attendees:

Commissioners

(Via phone): Al Randall, Linda McCulloch, Gail Staffanson, Don Allen, Toni Broadbent

Commissioners

Absent: Caroline Bitz, Bruce Morton

Staff:

Karen Strege, Darlene Staffeldt, Barbara Duke, Bruce Newell, Anastasia Burton, Sarah McHugh

Introductions

Strege introduced the staff members present at the conference call.

LSTA Grants

Strege thanked the LSTA review committee, which was composed of Kathy Mora, Heidi Sue Adams, Colet Bartow and Andrine Haas of the NTF. She also thanked Newell for his input.

The Madison Valley Public Library in Ennis and the Legislative Research Library have the funds to join the Shared Catalog without LSTA money. The Bozeman Public Library was the only library to apply in the larger library program, and the review committee, the NTF and staff recommend that their joining be approved.

In the smaller libraries program, eight libraries are recommended for grant awards to join the catalog. There are four smaller libraries that are not recommended for funding. However, the State Library is negotiating with Sirsi, the system vendor, to reduce the cost of joining the Shared Catalog for smaller libraries. If that happens, it is likely that more libraries can be awarded LSTA grants.

Allen asked how the points were awarded. Newell explained that the grant application outlined what the review committee was looking for, which included whether the library was involved in collaborative behavior, how well would they fit into the Shared Catalog, if they would be a good partner with other catalog libraries and how prepared they were to join.

Randall asked how the negotiations with Sirsi were progressing. Newell said that they have agreed to add rungs to the bottom of the ladder, but they haven't agreed to add as many rungs as he wishes.

McCulloch asked why the Plains School Library was disqualified. Newell explained that respondents were limited to various numbers of words per question. Plains School answered several of the questions with one long essay, which did not conform to the mandatory format, so they were disqualified from consideration. Newell spoke with the Plains librarian, who understands what he did wrong and Newell hopes he will apply again in the future. Randall commented that he would like to see librarians ask for help from MSL staff before submitting their final applications to avoid this kind of problem.

Randall asked whether it's likely all four of the libraries who weren't recommended for LSTA funds would be if Sirsi changes its price structure. Newell said he's very hopeful about adding Wyola to the recommendations list and he has high hopes for Laurel too.

Action Items

McCulloch made a motion to accept the recommendation of the MSC Review Committee for LSTA funding for nine libraries to join the Shared Catalog. Staffanson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Newell thanked the Commission for their support of this project.

McCulloch asked what checks are in place to ensure that libraries are spending this money appropriately. Newell answered that libraries are responsible for local and a number of miscellaneous costs. The LSTA money is sent in one check to the Missoula Public Library, who is the fiscal agent for the Shared Catalog, and Missoula sends the money to Sirsi. The LSTA money is used only for Sirsi licensing, data conversion and other start-up costs.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50.