

Memo

To: Montana State Library Commission

From: Jennie Stapp, State Librarian

Date: November 26, 2012

Re: Executive Planning Process update

The bill to transfer the following pieces of legislation now has a bill number, House Bill 38.

- (MCA) 90-1-404 thru 90-1-413 or the Montana Land Information Act;
- (MCA) 7-11-1014 & 7-11-1029 regarding reporting of special district boundaries;
- (MCA) 76-6-212 regarding the management of Conservation Easement data;

Representative Pat Ingraham of Thompson Falls has agreed to sponsor the bill. Representative Ingraham was the chair of the State Administration and Veterans Affairs Interim Committee that I testified before in August so she is familiar with the status of MLIA and the proposed changes.

In partnership with the Department of Administration we prepared a full legislative packet with contact information, testimony, executive summary, section-by-section analysis, and anticipated questions and answers for Representative Ingraham and other stakeholders. This bill is considered a housekeeping bill and we anticipate little opposition however it is important to communicate the value of these changes to stakeholders. I anticipate that the bill will be introduced prior to the December Commission meeting.

The following budget items were included in Governor Schweitzer's budget that was released on November 15. Note that the New Proposal amount for the transfer of the Base Map Service Center has been reduced from \$1.4 million to \$954,000. This reduction was recommended by the Governor's Budget Office because it more accurately reflects annual funds collected in the MLIA account and approximate expenditures from the account. This change keeps the account structurally balanced and will not impact services.

Additionally, the Water Information System Manager request was approved as a one-time-only item to give agencies a chance to demonstrate the value and cost-effectiveness of the position.

State Library New Proposals (annual costs):

NP001	Base Map Service Center transfer to MSL
\$954,062	This proposal will formally complete the transfer of the Base Map Service Center from the Department of Administration to the State Library. This transfer includes the <i>transfer</i> of six FTE and funding authority for Montana Land Information Act coordination, Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure support as approved by the MLIA Council and MLIA grant funds to local and tribal governments. Under this proposal a current .25 modified FTE, an accounting technician in MSL's Central Services Office, would be made a current level .25 FTE.
NP006	Inflationary Increase for Statewide Database costs
\$13,000	The Montana State Library manages contracts with periodical database vendors to provide statewide access to this invaluable content. Funds for these contracts are made available through the Coal Severance Tax Fund however current funding does not allow MSL to keep pace with inflationary costs that average 3-5% annually. Without inflationary increases, MSL is forced to reduce the number of databases available to Montana libraries and patrons.
NP007	Reinstate Online Information Resources
\$40,000	In 2011 MSL lost approximately \$40,000 in operation funds from the Coal Severance Tax fund. MSL was able to absorb some of the cuts because certain database vendors and our web archive vendor, The Internet Archive, were willing to negotiate reduced license fees equal to the percentage of the budget cut. MSL does not anticipate that these vendors will be willing to continue to reduce their costs beyond the current biennium. Further, as a result of the loss of these funds, MSL could not renew the E&E Publishing (Environment & Engineering) database, a database requested and used by several agencies including Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), and the Attorney General's office. This proposal brings our Library Information Services operation budget to our 2008 base budget.
NP009	Water Information Systems Manager
\$72,472 one-time-only	MCA 90-15-305 directs the Montana Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) to operate the Montana Water Information System (WIS) which "shall make available and readily accessible, in a usable format, to state agencies and other interested persons, information on the state's water resources, out-of-state water resources that affect the state, existing and potential uses, and the existing and potential demand." This proposal would fund a Water Information Systems Manager, a position that MSL has not had in almost a decade, to more effectively develop and deliver this

	<p>water information. The need for water information is more critical than ever in Montana. Several state agencies currently maintain in-house hydrography data to support water related business needs such as the State Water Plan, currently being updated by the Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation under MCA 85-1-203. In addition to being costly to maintain, these local datasets differ across and sometimes within agencies making it difficult to quickly and efficiently pull together data from different work groups to analyze water issues spanning different professional disciplines (water rights vs. water management vs. water quality vs. fisheries). It is for this reason that agencies including DNRC, DEQ and FWP encouraged MSL to put forward this proposal which would enable the state to use a single hydrography.</p>
NP012	Talking Book Library Digital Transition
\$25,000 one-time-only	<p>This one-time-only proposal for the FY14/15 biennium would provide contract funds to support the Montana Talking Book Library's transition from analog cassettes to digital files. TBL currently offers over 1,500 analog titles of Montana local recordings in cassette format. To keep pace with user demands and requirements of the National Library Service, these cassettes should be migrated to an easily accessible digital format for patrons. Additionally TBL would like to offer these and future local Montana recordings in a downloadable format for patrons who are able to download books via the web. TBL does not currently have adequate staff to accomplish this transition.</p>

Governor Bullock's budget will be released at the beginning of the Legislative Session.