

# FINAL

## MONTANA STATE LIBRARY (MSL) COMMISSION MEETING 10:00 A.M., MAY 25, 2016 GOTOMEETING

### **ATTENDEES:**

Commissioners: Chairman Colet Bartow, Connie Eissinger, Anne Kish, Aaron LaFromboise, Brent Roberts and Ken Wall. Bruce Newell was excused.

Staff: Evan Hammer, Sarah McHugh, Cara Orban, Kris Schmitz, Jennie Stapp and Marlys Stark.

Visitors: Lisbeth Barnea, Pamela Benjamin, Cheri Bergeron, Karen Mayhall and Rachel Schillreff.

**Chairman Bartow called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.**

### **EXECUTIVE PLANNING PROCESS (EPP) BUDGET PRIORITIES:**

There were four draft requests reviewed in April and comments about those request follow. 1.) The Montana Land Information Act (MLIA) grant program \$300,000 request. Commissioner Wall had requested that references to local governments be changed to government entities. That update is not included in the meeting materials but it will be noted when the proposal is submitted to the Governor's office. 2.) Natural Heritage Program (NHP) request. The impact to their budget due to the increased cost of benefits to employees has been over \$20,000 this year alone which means the purchasing power in the contract is diminished without an increase. Staff attended the Governor's invasive species summit where the advisory council recommends NHP involvement in managing the data. There might be legislative or fiscal requests from that advisory council but those haven't not appeared yet. 3.) Talking Book Library (TBL) digital conversion request. Christie Briggs has confirmed that the budget request for the digital conversion through a third party contractor is adequate. 4.) Broadband support request. MSL has considered the suggestion that we evaluate regional requests as suggested by Commissioner Newell and ultimately decided to move ahead with a statewide request because doing otherwise might deepen a digital divide. Furthermore, regions of the state where the deepest impact could be felt are difficult to identify due to variables such as population centers, geography, available infrastructure, and priorities for providers.

Jennie Stapp and Kris Schmitz met with the Governor's budget office about the proposed requests and they suggested that all approved requests be submitted. No objections were put forth.

The Governor's office will take the lead to carry a budget request to backfill any loss in Coal Severance Tax (CST) funding but there are no details at this time. Any CST

# FINAL

funding requested put forth by MSL could weaken our other requests and would need to be prioritized lower based on the task force recommendations and needs.

Commissioner Wall would like the broadband request to include federal and state funds. An additional clarification is that the contracted company that would manage a statewide procurement vehicle would have contracts with multiple providers.

If the requests are approved to be put forward by the commission, Kris will enter them in IBARS and the requests are then public records for the Governor's office consideration. The Governor's office will refine and review the requests through summer. Around August or September, they will identify the preliminary approved requests but the final budget won't be done until November and it is then presented to the Legislature. The election of course could have an impact.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Kish and seconded by Commissioner LaFromboise to approve the EPP budget priorities as presented with the broadband revision to include federal funding as part of the overall request. Commissioner Roberts stated for the record that it is a good move to use the EPP as a means of moving some of the things MSL does out of tenuous funding into general funds. The motion passed.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Roberts to direct MSL to submit an EPP proposal for FY18 and 19 to cover those things that MSL has been paying for with CST with General Fund Dollars. After further discussion and clarification of the intent of the motion, the motion died for lack of a second.**

## **MLIA FY'17 GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**Commissioner Wall recused himself from this vote due to his involvement with writing some of the grant proposals.**

The Montana Land Information Advisory Council (MLIAC) approved the recommendations. The recommendation is to accept the top 12 out of the 26 applications received. The total funding request for the 12 grants is about \$6,000 more than is budgeted for in the Land Plan but staff believes funding is available to cover this difference. Reviewing the grants involved a lot of work for Evan Hammer and the subcommittee.

**Motion by Commissioner Roberts and seconded by Commissioner Eissinger to approve the MLIA FY'17 grant recommendations and the motion passed.**

## **CST REDUCTION:**

MSL was informed on May 16 of further reductions in CST revenue projections and cash flow. As a result MSL was directed by the Governor's Budget Office to reduce our CST expenditures by an additional \$166,000 over the \$46,000 reduction taken in January. The commission needs to provide guidance and take action on where to take

# FINAL

the reductions from the MSL budget. The revised budget will give direction to the Network Advisory Council (NAC) to implement the reductions.

The previous reductions are reflected in the spreadsheet provided as are the current proposed cuts. The statewide database contract is proposed to be eliminated. The \$68,682 remaining in the Library Development budget will be used to fund the new MSC libraries, the OCLC group services contract and the Montana Memory Project (MMP).

Commissioner Kish questioned whether purchasing one scholarly database would be feasible. There were other individual databases such as the automotive database that were discussed also. Based on statistical use, it is hard to justify that cost. The April budget did allow for more flexibility but the cuts were much deeper than anticipated.

**For the record, the State Librarian has received a letter from the Billings school librarians and other individual librarians and teachers expressing support of continuing funding the databases.**

It is too late in the process to reduce federation funding and contract dates will affect other items such as OCLC and MMP's ContentDM. Additional recommended cuts include reductions to the Professional Development budget, the funds to support new MMP collections and the complete elimination of the proposed operation budget for the new Lifelong Learning Librarian. Since the position was supported by the task force and seems to be important moving forward, the recommendation is to move forward with the recruitment. The EBSCO contract is a biannual contract renewable in July.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Wall and seconded by Commissioner Eissinger to approve the CST reduction as presented in the meeting materials.**

NAC will be working under a budget approved by the commission. If a cost sharing formula is developed or TRAILS is able to fund any databases, NAC would work with them. Commissioner Roberts wondered if it would be possible to approve the reduction but then have a motion to seek alternate funding. MSL will work with interested parties regarding alternate funding without a separate motion. **The motion passed with Commissioner LaFromboise opposed.**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Several comments were received but none that were recorded verbatim. The summary of all comments was the MSL should keep communicating, working hard and trying!

## **OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The next meeting is on June 8<sup>th</sup> and a strategic planning work session will be held on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

# FINAL

**The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.**