



MEMO

To: Montana State Library Commission
From: Tracy Cook, Lead Consulting and Learning Librarian
Subject: Federation Task Force
Date: July 7, 2023

I talked to members of the federation task force about the Commission's request to review the federation structure. Members are willing to further review the structure and identify better ways to meet needs. Some of the task force members expressed a desire to have Commissioners attend federation meetings. They worried that the Commission may do away with federations without having experienced at least one meeting. It would be helpful for librarians and board members to be able to meet with Commissioners at a federation meeting.

I would like to propose the following timeline and ideas for the Commission to consider.

Possible timeline and activities for the federation structure review:

August 9, 2023: Discussion about history of federations, the request to consider attending at least one fall meeting, and discussion about process and timeline.

Sept - October 2023: Each Commissioner attends at least one fall federation meeting. MSL staff will present the Commission's request for re-looking at federations to attendees. Staff will collect public comments and feedback.

December 2023: Commissioners and MSL staff will discuss Commission experience at fall meetings. What was valuable about federations? What could be improved? What would the Commission like the federation task force to review and consider? The results of this discussion would be used to create a charge for the federation task force.

Jan 2024: Federation task force deliberates on charge from Commission and directs MSL staff to create a document with options to be presented at February Commission meeting.

February 2024: Draft options are presented to Commission.

March - May 2024: MSL staff present options and obtain public comment at federation meetings and Montana Library Association conference.

June 2024: Commission reviews options and public feedback. If desired the Commission may act on recommendations.

August 2024: Commission makes final decision on options to pursue.

Fall 2024: MSL staff complete next steps based on Commission decision.



Request for the Commissioners

1. Please review the [federation history video and historical documents](#) to learn about how federations have changed and the role of the Commission in overseeing federations. Make note of any questions you have.
2. Please review the proposed timeline to discuss any needed changes or questions.
3. Please review the Commission calendar to see which meeting(s) you can attend. Staff recommend attending a face-to-face meeting to experience a full federation meeting.