

**Montana State Library  
Library Development Study Task Force Summary  
Wednesday, May 27, 2015**

All currently seated task force members attended with the exceptions of Debbie Wellman and Susan Gregory. MSL staff in attendance was Jennie Stapp, Sarah McHugh, Lauren McMullen and Marlys Stark.

Jennie stressed that it is very important that the task force leads itself with feedback and input from MSL and the community as a whole in order to give recommendations. State Library staff is serving as staff only and not task force members.

This first meeting was designed to discuss the charge of the task force, review the materials and background information that was provided, answer any immediate questions and leave with an understanding of what the task force needs to accomplish and how.

The key charge is to gather input from the community and use that input to make recommendations as a task force. No consensus will be required and the focus must remain on the future. The task force is to look at what is needed and the network advisory council, staff and commission can determine how to achieve what is recommended. Jennie further stated that bold recommendations are needed rather than small change around the edges.

How information will be gathered from various sources will be determined by the task force. The task force will meet in November to make draft recommendations for the December Commission meeting. Final recommendations will be made for the February Commission meeting to be done in time for the library services technology act (LSTA) award process so that the recommendations can be used to guide those decisions. Final recommendations would also then be made in time for the Executive Planning Process (EPP) for the next legislative session.

Sarah felt that, in the history she provided, the most important thing was the gradual change in what was happening statewide due to a nationwide change in focus from the library construction act to LSTA which affected how MSL worked. Positions have of course change over the years and programs have been added and changed. FTE and funding both matter and are factors in every decision.

The statutes identified are parameters that must be worked within but legislation can be changed if needed and recommended by the task force.

Funding sources currently available currently are LSTA, Coal Severance Tax and the General Fund. The task force may recommend use of any funds within given parameters, allowing for possible legislation in order to accomplish certain goals. MSL would benefit from having a grant writer on staff but that is not feasible within the current resources. LSTA has only been decreasing lately with expenses increasing. Funding new FTE has always been a challenge. General Fund money includes resource sharing funds. CST is being used to support federation grants, statewide databases and a small amount of state funds are also used.

The task force can use a google group for information sharing and MSL does have various communications tools such as GoToMeeting which can be used. The fall workshop schedule has a listening session opportunity and of course federation meetings are a source also.

Key stake holders that need to be given a vote need to be identified. These include legislative representatives, librarians, trustees, the Governor's office, program representatives, students, live long learners, local government, OPI, social service agencies and many others. The task force will need a presence at the Montana Education Association. Discussion on the google group and other communication means will need to include what information do members need to draw things out of the state holders and what are the talking points or questions needed to form the understanding required for making recommendations.

Based on her expressed interest, Barry nominated Susan Gregory as chair. Susan will be the chair. Bill would like the co-chair to be from the opposite type of the community but nobody expressed interest or had any suggestions. The discussion of a co-chair will be continued between now and the next meeting.

The next meeting will include a review of any requested information, choosing a co-chair, deciding how to approach identified stake holders and maybe have a survey to start with at MEA.

Members need to think about the timeline and what needs to be accomplished and how it can be done in that timeline as well as choose questions to ask.