

Executive Summary
Montana Land Information Advisory Council (MLIAC)
Thursday, September 14, 2017
DNRC, Helena, Montana

Attendees:

Members or Designees: Chair Jennie Stapp – Montana State Library (MSL); Joshua Alexander – U.S. Department of Interior Representative; Dawn Anderson online – State Agency Representative; Mike Bousliman – State Agency Representative; Rudy Cicon – MARLS Representative; Gordon Conn – State Agency Representative; Janet Cornish – Private Business Representative; Warren Fahner – Local Government Representative; Jerry Grebenc – Private Business Representative; Molly Hirschi – GIS Professional Representative; Cathy Maynard - U.S. Department of Agriculture; Eric Spangenberg – Local Government Representative; and Leslie Zolman online – GIS Professional Representative.

Guests: Gerry Daumiller.

Staff: Erin Fashoway, Michael Fashoway, Evan Hammer, Bryce Maxell, and Marlys Stark.

Chair Jennie Stapp called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

Approval of Executive Summary

The summary was not posted so this agenda item will be moved to the next meeting.

MLIAC Representative on MAGIP Board

Leslie Zolman talked about the fact that the seat on the MAGIP board which is available for a MLIAC representative has been vacant for several years. Leslie would like to volunteer to be that representative.

Motion was made by Member Cornish and seconded by Member Bousliman to appoint Member Zolman as the council representative to the MAGIP board and the motion passed.

State Librarian's Report

The State Library is currently planning for an additional ten percent cut to general fund dollars as the Governor has requested. If those cuts go forward, they would basically come out of the digital library budget. This would be additional to the cuts already made and would result in an additional \$220,000 cut for each of the next two years. The earliest MSL would know if those cuts will be necessary will be mid to late October. The commission met to discuss those cuts and agreed to a plan moving forward. First they have appealed the cuts considering how deep the budget has been slashed already. If they have to move forward, Kris Schmitz is looking into loans to help pay for the buyouts necessary from the position cuts in order to give more budget

flexibility. The commission directed to make any additional FTE cuts as a last resort. Any cuts will affect more GIS departments than just MSL. The MLAC budget is not ready for review due to the cuts and uncertainty but it will be contained within the land plan.

All federal advisory committees were under review so the National Geospatial Advisory Council (NGAC) that Jennie Stapp sits on just had the first meeting of the advisory group. Jennie will be serving on a subcommittee looking into the role of federal government in providing data and the relationship with the private sector. She is hoping to share the white paper to use as a touch stone to look at a project with. Another group is looking at Lansat going forward. The group also talked a bit about the geospatial act.

A year ago the state library commission conducted a strategic planning process due to the volatility of different funding sources. Last winter they began talking about forming a Montana information foundation as a third leg of the funding stool. They began work on exploring the idea of forming a nonprofit foundation as a long term project. With the current issues it was realized that this was definitely needed. Over the summer MSL received a nice estate donation. All donation go in to the trust and can't be used to pay for staff or normal operating expenses. The commission has approved using a portion of the monies to hire a consultant to begin the process to form a nonprofit foundation which must be a separate legal entity. This will be a long term project.

An additional amount of that donation will be used to enter a contract with a public relations firm or something of the sort to help with an awareness campaign of open information and the services provided by the State Library. Stories in the media refer to the 'non-essential' nature of the work that MSL does and obviously staff strong disagree but those perceptions need to be changed. MSL lost key marketing/public relations staff as a result of the cuts but would have needed to hire professionals for a public awareness campaign anyway. The council suggests that MSL websites/administration sites should have the MSL banner or something on it.

MLIA Account Review and Financial Report

Collections are usually about a month behind so the August report hasn't been received yet. The current report shows that collections are about average for the last several years. The financial report will show a different number as there is always a discrepancy. The financial report is the actual figures with the collections report based on county reporting.

FY2016/2017/2018 MLIA Grant Reports

Choteau for FY18 is on hold because they haven't been able to purchase the necessary software. FY17 has several completed grants, some are closed and of those some underspent their funding. Several have asked for extension but seem to be on track to finish. The FY16 grants are all closed even though not all were successful. Glacier County didn't spend any of their funds and the reason wasn't reported.

Next Gen 9-1-1 GIS Data Assessment

HB61 required a GIS data assessment be conducted for 911 data. Two subcommittees for various 911 groups will combine to do both the assessment and a plan. That combined subcommittee will meet every two weeks.

Land Plan Subcommittee

Janet Cornish discussed the draft of the FY2019 land plan and the reason for the plan. She requested council input on ranking the priorities section of the draft. The council discussed, reworded, edited, reprioritized and so on. The updated document will be brought to the council in November for approval and the draft will also be sent out for public input.

Updates

Updates were reported by Erin Fashoway. There are only two council vacancies. A pre-grant process/training might be done in October. Erin is looking into a grants software program. Outreach performed was a tour of the water shed, attendance at MACo and NSGIC meetings. A State of Montana Story Map User Group might be forming. There has been several trainings on Story Maps and there is a great interest by state employees.

MAGIP Report

Gerry Daumiller summarized MAGIP activity since the last council meeting. A highlight of the report is that the intermountain GIS conference will be rebranded as the Big Sky GeoCon.

Census 2020

Leslie Zolman talked briefly about Census 2020 and the CEIC website.

Public Comment

There were none received.

The meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m.