

## **Montana Land Information Advisory Council (MLIAC) – Executive Summary**

**Tuesday, April 2, 2019**

**1:30 p.m.**

**Clarion Copper King Hotel, Meeting Room 3, Butte, Montana**

### **Attendees:**

Members or Designees: Allen Armstrong for Joshua Alexander – U.S. Department of Interior Representative; Dawn Anderson – State Agency Representative; Mike Bousliman – State Agency Representative; Brandy Holstein for Gordon Conn – State Agency Representative; Janet Cornish – Public Utilities or Private Business Representative; Warren Fahner – Local Government Representative; Elaina Graham – U.S. Department of Agriculture Representative; Jerry Grebenc online – Private Business Representative; Matt Heller – U.S. Department of Interior Representative; Molly Hirschi online – GIS Professionals Representative; Lee Macholz – Local Government Representative; Eric Spangenberg – Local Government Representative; Jennie Stapp – Council Chair; and Kreh Germaine for John Tubbs – State Agency Representative.

Guests: Ken Wall – Geodata Services; Kyle Backe – Geodata Services; Jenny Connelley – MAGIP; Jeri Bucy – U.S. Census Bureau; Mary Craige – Montana Department of Commerce; Gerry Daumiller – MAGIP; Pam Fromhertz – NOAA/NGS; and James Colegrove – FWP.

Staff: Erin Fashoway, Evan Hammer, Michael Fashoway online, and John Kilgour.

**Chair Jennie Stapp called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.**

### **Welcome & Introductions**

Chair Stapp introduced John Kilgour, a new administrative assistant who recently joined the staff at the Montana State Library (MSL).

### **Administrative Updates/Agenda Changes**

Erin Fashoway mentioned that Pam Fromhertz, NOAA/NGS, might make some comments later related to Erin's GIS Coordinator's Report, but otherwise there were no administrative updates or agenda changes.

### **Approval of Executive Summary**

There were no corrections or additions made to the November 15, 2018, executive summary.

**Motion was made by Member Graham and seconded by Member Heller to approve the November 15, 2018, executive summary, and the motion passed with all in favor, none opposed, and none abstaining.**

### **State Librarian's Report**

Chair Stapp began her report by highlighting a recent public awareness campaign conducted by the State Library. There are a number of publicly available materials on the Montana Library Association website.

Chair Stapp then updated the Council about a trust that was recently formed by the State Library after working with a consulting firm called Library Strategies. The trust was created as a nonprofit organization that will support libraries and GIS initiatives in Montana.

Michael Fashoway then provided an update on the statewide GIS assessment project for NextGen 9-1-1. He explained PSAP participation rates, data collection, and results and answered questions from the Council. Chair Stapp explained the funding outlook for 9-1-1. The statewide assessment was paid for by a one-time appropriation in 2017. Currently House Bill 150 makes tribal governments eligible to receive state 9-1-1 funds. Two other bills this session contained ongoing funding for 9-1-1, but neither of them was introduced. The Department of Administration currently has a 9-1-1 grant program in its Public Safety Services Bureau.

Chair Stapp then provided an update on the 2019 legislative budget process. The governor's budget restored about half of the positions cut in 2017; combined with several recent hires, those positions will restore the Library to nearly full strength. Additionally, House Bill 2 would add \$250,000 to operational funding. No decisions have been made yet about how to spend that amount. Additionally, House Bill 633, a companion bill to House Bill 2, would create a state special revenue account to collect funding from a variety of sources. The sources have not been determined yet, but the goal would be to diversify the Library's funding sources. Overall, the Library received strong support from the legislature, and there was a desire to restore its funding.

Erin and Evan responded to questions from the Council about cadastral updates and when they'll be available.

In conclusion, Chair Stapp explained that the MSL's current position is that it cannot take on new programs and services unless they come with additional funding and support; the Library has been very direct in expressing this to other agencies and organizations.

### **MLIA Collections Report**

Erin Fashoway presented the MLIA collections report and explained that collections for FY2019 are currently lower than previous years. Erin, Evan, and Chair Stapp answered questions from the Council members about MLIA funding and possible reasons for its decline in recent years. There was some discussion among the Council members and staff of possible explanations for the decline in MLIA funds as well as other possible revenue sources. Ken Wall also addressed some concerns and questions from Council members regarding MLIA funding, and he discussed the importance of relationships between state government, particularly the State Library, and local governments when it comes to building GIS capacity in Montana, as well as some of the challenges to expanding GIS in rural counties in the state.

### **MLIA Available Grant Funds Report and Digital Library Financial Report**

Evan Hammer presented the Digital Library Financial Report for the second quarter. Chair Stapp explained that a significant expenditure in the amount of \$328,366 from the MLIA account is the result of ongoing personnel costs related to the 2017 staff reductions. Evan and Chair Stapp answered questions from the Council and clarified certain aspects of the reports.

Evan presented the MLIA Available Grant Funds Report to the Council. The estimated fund balance as of July 2019 will be \$991,000. Evan and Chair Stapp responded to questions and clarified certain aspects of the report.

### **MLIA Grant Administration (FY2018/2019) Report**

Erin Fashoway presented the MLIA Grant Administration (FY2018/2019) Report. Erin explained a change to the grant program for FY2019 that caps funding reimbursements for grantees at 80% of their approved funding until all aspects of their project have been finalized. She also noted that several FY2019 grantees

are behind schedule and explained some possible reasons for that. There was some discussion among the group about grantees falling behind schedule and ways to address it. Member Cornish made several suggestions for keeping grantees on schedule such as incorporating penalties for lateness into the grant contracts, providing levels of support for grantees who encounter project challenges, and establishing templates for reporting. Erin explained some of the difficulties that arise for the State Library with contractors who have an expectation that they can communicate directly with the Library about a project, whereas it is the library's expectation that all communication must come from the designated project manager who represents the local or tribal government or state agency.

Erin also provided an overview of the FY2018 grant cycle and the status of those grants. There were several grants extended, and MSL is working hard to get them completed. Erin addressed questions from the Council members about the FY2018 grants.

Erin discussed the prospect of incorporating planning grants into the MLIA grant program, and there was some discussion of this idea among the Council members and MSL staff.

### **Break from 3:03 p.m. to 3:19 p.m.**

#### **Subcommittee Reports**

##### Grant Review Subcommittee:

Erin acknowledged the work of the subcommittee and thanked them for their work. She explained the timeline for the MLIA grant applications and their review. Erin presented the report of the MLIA Grant Review Subcommittee and explained their work and recommendations. The Subcommittee decided to fund 15 of the 16 grant applications. The final recommendations amount to \$250,000 of grant funds. With the 16<sup>th</sup> grant—the DNRC Missouri-Broadwater grant application—the subcommittee did not recommend funding because the application failed to meet the relevance and public benefit requirements of the MLIA grant program. As was the case last year, there are pieces of certain grants that the subcommittee also decided not to fund.

Erin explained the new format of the application for PLSS/survey control grants and asked for feedback from the Subcommittee about how the process went. There was a feeling among the Subcommittee members that too much had been removed from the application. They felt that the streamlined application left too many unanswered questions about the purpose and need of the projects as well as the management of the projects. Member Bousliman suggested that the Council decide in advance how much funding would be allocated to the two different grant categories. He also suggested a follow-up process for the Subcommittee to reflect on its work and the grant application process. There was some discussion among the Council of the grant applications, the review process, and the MLIA budget, and Erin, Evan, and Chair Stapp addressed questions from the group.

**Motion was made by Member Cornish and seconded by Member Spangenberg to accept and approve the report of the grant subcommittee and make the MLIA grant awards as recommended by the subcommittee for passage on to the Library Commission. The motion passed with all in favor, none opposed, and none abstaining.**

Land Plan Subcommittee: There was some discussion of the Land Plan Subcommittee in passing during the MLIA Grant discussion, but there was no significant discussion of this agenda item.

#### **MLIAC MAGIP Representative**

Chair Stapp and Erin explained the desire to have a Council member sit on the MAGIP board and asked if there were any volunteers. Allen Armstrong, attending the Council for Member Alexander, expressed interest but will need to confer with Member Alexander. Chair Stapp said that State Library staff may follow up with Allen.

### **General MSDI Updates**

CadNSDI – Michael Fashoway explained recent CadNSDI adjustments in 2018. The adjustments affected 240 townships across roughly 30 counties. Some of the county adjustments were the result of MLIA grant projects. Adjustments also took place on the Crow, Northern Cheyenne, Fort Belknap, and Rocky Boy's Reservations. Erin presented an example of how the adjustments have improved parcel data and explained that the benefit of these adjustments is why the relevance and public benefit sections of the MLIA grant application were removed for PLSS/survey control projects. Member Fahner made the suggestion of hiring a surveyor in the future to survey whole sections in high-density areas to get an independent, accurate survey; it would help correct for the accumulation of small errors that add up over time. Pam Fromhertz suggested using some of the National Geodetic Survey tools. Ken Wall reiterated the value of CadNSDI adjustments and the importance of county involvement and cooperation.

Elevation – Erin presented on behalf of Troy Blandford of the Montana State Library. She explained the Elevation Working Group's work to develop a statewide LiDAR plan. The USGS goal for national LiDAR coverage is 2024. DNRC has FEMA funds for LiDAR, and NRCS and USFS will also be doing some collections this summer. Moving forward, MSL's goal is to coordinate among all levels of government in the state, and possibly with private and nonprofit entities, to submit a proposal to the USGS to collect LiDAR in Montana. Statewide LiDAR is challenging in Montana due to the size of the state and funding constraints. MSL's goal is to coordinate the resources of many entities in Montana and apply for a BAA grant in October 2019. Erin presented maps of current LiDAR coverage in Montana.

NAIP 2018/2019 – Erin explained progress on NAIP 2017, which had gaps due to snow and smoke. Montana is slated for a NAIP 2019 flight. It is uncertain what NAIP will look like moving forward. It might be addressed by the Geospatial Data Act; the USDA Farm Bill also allotted money for NAIP. Prior to the 2017 funding cuts, MSL had started looking into secondary imagery programs, but they've been on hold. It might be something for the Library to look into again. Washington state's approach to NAIP might also serve as a possible model.

### **GIS Coordinator's Report**

Montana Real Time Network – Erin provided an overview of the Montana Real Time Network and who has been involved in the working group. MSL is working with a variety of stakeholders to develop RTN for Montana. Currently, there is a pilot program in cooperation with the state of Washington. Washington is hosting a Pilot Project for Montana and has turned on several "pods" throughout the state. Gavin Schrock runs the RTN in Washington and has been a valuable resource for Montana's efforts. There is a lot of awareness of RTN in the legislature, but funding is needed before MSL can move forward with it. Once RTN is up and running, it would be self-sustaining.

USGS LiDAR Survey – This topic was addressed earlier in the meeting.

GeoEnabled Elections – Erin provided an overview of the work she has done with NSGIC on GeoEnabled elections. There is a pilot project underway in several states to update data for elections.

NSGIC Update – Erin provided an overview of the NSGIC Conference she attended earlier this year in Louisville, KY. She explained some of the workshops she attended and her presentation on a 3DEP pilot project. Ken Wall attended the conference as the Library Commission representative, and he offered some of his observations on the conference.

### **Census 2020 Update**

Mary Craigle from the Montana Department of Commerce and Jeru Bucy from the U.S. Census Bureau presented on Montana's efforts with the upcoming 2020 Census. The census is only one year away in Montana. Mary presented the Department's census website—[census.mt.gov](http://census.mt.gov)—and explained that the Department is currently working on promotional materials for the 2020 count. She explained the reasons why an accurate census count is important to the state. It has a big influence on the amount of federal funding received by the state. Montana is also very close to gaining an additional representative in Congress based on the state's population, so an accurate count is very important in that regard. Montana had a significant undercount in 2000 due to lack of funding from the legislature, and it resulted in a significant loss of federal funding to the state. Good census data is also important to the state's economy and business community. Mary explained that the Department of Commerce receives no federal funding to conduct the census; it is reliant on state funding. She concluded the presentation by urging people to promote the census and encourage people in their communities to complete and submit their census forms. Mary addressed concerns about privacy and security of personal information and explained that the Census Bureau and its employees are prohibited by law from releasing any personal information. Mary and Jerry then answered questions from the Council members and discussed issues such as efforts to correct undercounting, securing people's personal information, preventing duplicate counts, hiring temporary Census staff for 2020, and so on.

### **MLIAC Appointments FY20/21**

Chair Stapp explained that MLIAC member applications will be due soon. Appointments will be made after July 1. It is the Governor's preference that board and council appointees continue to serve until a new appointment is made, not just until the end of the fiscal year. There was some brief discussion of setting a meeting day to accommodate everyone's schedules. Member Cornish requested that meetings not be held on Thursdays. There was no opposition to the suggestion of Wednesday meetings.

### **MAGIP Report**

Jenny Connelley, vice president of MAGIP's board of directors, provided a MAGIP update. MAGIP approved its 2019 budget in January. MAGIP has board elections coming up soon, and Jenny explained some of their current board vacancies. Next year's MAGIP conference will be in Missoula.

### **Public Comment**

Chair Stapp asked for any public comment. Pam Fromhertz of NOAA/NGS spoke briefly about her intent to summarize upcoming issues and projects at the Council's June meeting.

**Chair Stapp encouraged the Council members to attend the MAGIP Public Night events and then adjourned the meeting at 5:13 p.m.**