

Executive Summary
Montana Land Information Advisory Council (MLIAC)
Thursday, June 14, 2018
10:00 a.m.
DNRC, Helena, Montana

Attendees:

Members or Designees: Chair Jennie Stapp – Montana State Library (MSL); Dawn Anderson – State Agency Representative; Mike Bousliman – State Agency Representative; Rudy Cicon online – MARLS Representative; Gordon Conn – State Agency Representative; Janet Cornish – Private Business Representative; Elaina Graham – U.S. Department of Agriculture Representative; Jerry Grebenc – Private Business Representative; Matt Heller online – U.S. Interior Department Representative; Molly Hirschi online – GIS Professional Representative; Valentijn Hoff online – Montana University Systems; Lee Macholz – Local Government Representative; Cathy Maynard – U.S. Department of Agriculture; Jon Sesso online – Montana Senate Representative; Shawn Dell Walks Over Ice – Indian Tribal Interests; and Leslie Zolman – GIS Professional Representative.

Guests: Chris Chalmers, Gerry Daumiller, Pam Fromhertz (online), Bruce Newell, and Ken Wall (online).

Staff: Troy Blandford, Erin Fashoway, Michael Fashoway, Evan Hammer and Marlys Stark.

Acting Chair Evan Hammer called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

Administrative Updates/Agenda Changes

The NGS proposal discussion will be postponed because the official draft was just received and there has been no review time.

Approval of Executive Summary

The April 19, 2018 summary was posted for approval.

Motion was made by Member Cornish and seconded by Member Graham to approve the April 19, 2018 executive summary and the motion passed.

State Librarian's Report

Senator Tester signed on as a co-sponsor for the National Geospatial Act bill.

The PR campaign contract has been signed and the company, Bannock, performing the work does understand public agencies. The goal of the campaign is to help Montanans understand GIS work and library work and how it all supports them. The next steps will include a survey about the broad nature of the work MSL supports. Bannock wants feedback from the GIS community about what is most important and would resonant most with the communities represented.

The planning committee for the non-profit foundation being formed has been advised not to limit themselves on plans and to let the planning proceed prior to defining their scope. The steering committee met this week and will help advise about the legal makeup, forming the corporation and filing for non-profit status. The foundation will have to be careful to not push into anyone else's space and must be careful that public funds are jeopardized but rather the foundation funds are used to leverage and enhance public funding.

The typical budget planning process for the legislative session is not being conducted this year. Instead the Governor's office is doing a program inventory which will identify statutory requirements and funding. Agencies have been told there will be no new funding for the upcoming legislative period.

MSDI Updates

Troy Blandford reported on updates for the water information team. They have agreed to assume the elevation lead since there is a direct correlation with that and water. There are some water projects that must be wrapped up first but going forward the team will shift to responding to user requests rather than bulk revisions for water information.

Troy discussed LiDAR for Montana and needs and plans and then there was a long council discussion about collection, costs, the future and so on as well as the importance of the data and that it should be collected on a regular basis.

The council also discussed the pros and cons including mechanical, technical and financial issues in collecting our own data.

Michael Fashoway reported on updates for the land information team. The 911 assessment project has been a little slow but is moving forward. He gave a update on LUCA which involves census address verification and collection which needs to be completed by August 15. The census instructions did not work for MSL and once that was determined, work is moving forward.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is moving into parcel fabric management and have agreed to use the parcel fabric MSL has been maintaining for the last several year which is very exciting.

MLIA Account Review and Financial Report

Nothing has changed since the last report. The information submitted is the same. Money is still coming in for May and likely will do so until the end of June. Currently, the amount is down significantly from last year at the same time. Final for this year will be available at the next meeting.

Member Sesso wondered if we could ask for a county report on collections and he also wondered how much has been sent out to counties over the years. The council discussion feasibility, options and considerations of requesting that information.

MLIA Grant Administration (FY2017/2018) Report

There are three grant years being presented. FY'17 looks good with two extensions. Some underspent monies will be returned to the fund.

FY'18 has an extension request deadline of tomorrow. Lots of requests are coming in and Erin frequently hears that there is more work than expected or that snow slows them down. Extensions used to be a regular thing and causes a lot of work. Since this is intended to be a one-year grant program, she would like to limit grants that are extended. There was a suggestion from the council to run in phases so they are aware of the work needed and are ready to start work when the weather clears. Erin is going to add something to the statement of work so they have to submit reports.

FY'19 is currently in the process of developing the statements of work which should go out next week as July 1 starts the actual grant year.

Subcommittee Reports

Generally, the council looks for volunteers to sit on and chair various subcommittees but members might be assigned if necessary.

For the land plan subcommittee, Member Cornish volunteered to chair and would like to consider a slightly different approach by calling it an annual plan but adopting a five-year plan with edits every year and a broader approach. State Librarian Stapp said the base of the current process doesn't allow any reflection time. Members Maynard, Conn, Grebenc, Bousliman and Anderson all volunteered for the subcommittee.

Member Bousliman will serve on the grant subcommittee but not chair it. The council will consider tying the two subcommittees together and suggest some function to make sure the grants are followed through. Perhaps the amount of the grant could be a trigger for responsibilities. This discussion was postponed to be further discussed in the land plan priorities agenda item.

GIS Coordinator's Report

On a national level, Erin reported on elections with NSGIC and that she is part of a steering group to discuss those elections. NAIP gaps are being flown again. FSA has proposed charging for access to NAIP information. NSGIC is coming up the first of October so council members should talk to Erin if they are interested in attending. Erin is looking internally at the dissemination side of MLA. New systems might point to an outside list rather than data. There is ELA update.

Land Plan Priorities for the Council

A discussion was held with the council about the land plan and the priorities that were identified for the council. Numbers three, five and six were the main items of discussion. Discussion for item three included having meetings with MACo and MLCT which doesn't necessarily have to be council work but members could help MSL draft 'contracts'. Tribes should be training for components of grants. Suggestion was made for streamlining some small projects applications by not going through the grant process but just a set amount if they qualify for certain ideas. Another suggestion was for phases to be tied to certain amounts of funding. State Library Stapp suggested that staff, Members Cornish and Bousliman should meet to talk about the scope of work of adding larger items to council work and to decide measurable benchmarks for the grant program. GIS Coordinator Fashoway gave a summary of what she has done for number six and what she wants to do and is currently working on and feels there is an IT gap. She would like agencies input. Council help is needed to match statutes to data layers for number five.

NGS Coordinators

The action item will be postponed until the next agenda. Pam Fromhertz gave a quick presentation.

Census 2020

LUCA was already mentioned but Leslie Zolman held a brief discussion on how census information will be collected this year.

MAGIP Report

Elections were held in May and Bob Cochran is the new president. All election results and other information can be found on the website. A map vendor list and GIS 101 has been put up on the website as well as a salary survey for member. The next conference will be in Butte. MAGIP has begun to hire a consultant to arrange the conference but local people will be needed to help occasionally.

Public Comment

Mike Sweet is retiring and the council will miss public comment from Mike Sweet.

The meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.