

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 54th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS & CULTURAL EDUCATION

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN MARJORIE I. FISHER**, on January 10, 1995, at 8:00 AM

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Marjorie I. Fisher, Chairman (R)
Sen. Larry J. Tveit, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. William T. "Red" Menahan (D)
Rep. Steve Vick (D)
Sen. Mignon Waterman (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Gary Aklestad

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Lisa Smith, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Mary LaFond, Office of Budget & Program Planning
Brandee Decrevel, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing: Montana State Library
Executive Action: None

DISCUSSION

Lisa Smith, LFA, gave the subcommittee a brief overview of the Library. The Library is funded with approximately 54% of general fund, a small amount of state special funding from the coal tax fund, and donations. Federal funds amount to about 40%. There is a present law adjustment for over a million dollars in federal grants. These funds are appropriated in a biennial appropriation and were not completely expended in the base year. This is not an increase, but an adjustment to equal the amount of grants appropriated by the previous legislature.

REP. VICK asked for more explanation about the amount.

Ms. Smith told the subcommittee the federal funds that the library gets can be spent over several years, they do not have to be spent in a specific year. In FY 94 the actual expenditures for

grants were lower than what they were appropriated. A portion of these federal funds can still be spent in FY 96 and FY 97.

The agency has reduced the amount they are requesting for a new proposal on the library automation system. The library has been working diligently since the budget analysis was prepared and has rebid a lot of the equipment and obtained cheaper services.

The Natural Resources Information System has volunteered to work on a performance base budget. The 1993 legislature encouraged the governor to start looking at performance base budgeting for state agencies.

Richard Miller, Montana State Librarian, gave the subcommittee a brief overview of the program. The presentation is divided into two parts. During the first part, he offered an overview of the State Library and its two programs: the State Library Operations and the Natural Resources Information System (NRIS).

Janice Bradley, Director of the Lewistown Public Library, stated that she came to speak in favor of increasing the funding for inter-library loans. Even the largest libraries do not have the funding to purchase the materials that are needed. Books are being published at an ever increasing rate. It is because of this that the libraries need the inter-library loan. Ms. Bradley said that the larger libraries share their books and materials with the rural areas and if funding is not increased they are going to discontinue the inter-library loan services or start charging for the services, which will lead to discontinuing the program.

Mary Bushing, Montana State University Librarian, told the subcommittee that she has worked for school libraries, public libraries, and for the state library. She is Vice President-elect of the Montana Library Association. She also spoke on behalf of the increased funding for the inter-library loan reimbursement. Montana libraries try not to develop collections that duplicate one another. Libraries have worked very hard to develop complementary collections.

In order for the collections to be effective, they now must have the means to take the specialized materials to citizens who have a current use for them.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS, AND DISCUSSION

REP. STEVE VICK asked if libraries charge fees for the inter-library loan service.

Mr. Miller responded that the administrative rule which covers the inter-library loan indicates that libraries may charge for actual postage costs, but this is discouraged. Most libraries do not charge for this service.

REP. VICK asked if the libraries work together to determine what books they purchase, so they do not duplicate books.

Mr. Miller answered yes, there is something called corporate collection development that every library has been working on for years. They do look at sharing resources. They utilize a database called WLN (Western Library Network) and they encourage libraries to use it.

Mary LaFond, Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP), told the subcommittee that there are currently 26 states turning to performance base budgeting. Agencies are now having to prove that what they're spending is worth it because the legislature is appropriating the money based on their achievements. Performance base budgeting is easier to define than it is to do. Montana used some ideas from Texas as a starting point. A letter was sent out in March of 1994 to agencies inviting them to join in if they felt that the criteria that was specified in the language in HB 2 coincided with their program. In preparing budgets they have to emphasize performance that takes a lot of leadership and quality.

Lisa Smith, LFA, told the subcommittee that if they adopt the performance base budget they need to direct the LFA and the OBPP to work together to determine presentation in HB 2.

Allen Cox, Director, Natural Resource Information System, provided the subcommittee with some background information on the program. The Natural Resource Information System is a program of the Montana State Library. It is mandated to make sources of data and information on Montana's natural resources easily and readily accessible. They serve government agencies, businesses, industries, and private citizens. The mission statement states that the Natural Resource Information System provides access to information about Montana's natural resources to all Montanans.

In the early 1980s, the legislature decided that the state library should stay neutral and have no lines for advocacy on a variety of issues. This is very important when they are dealing with issues regarding environmental conflicts and other controversies. They operate the service with three goals:

1. Operate a natural resource information clearinghouse.
2. Support interagency data coordination.
3. Provide users with technical assistance.

The budget is built around these goals. They try to accomplish these goals through three main components in the program:

1. The Montana Natural Heritage Program (MNHP) began operation in 1985 and maintains a computer-assisted inventory of biological resources in Montana. They emphasize rare or endangered species in biological communities in the state.

2. The Water Resources Information System maintains water - information such as surface water, underground water, and water quality. Water information in this state is gathered among many agencies in state government as well as in federal agencies. Some of this information is located on computers in North Carolina, Oregon, and Colorado.
3. The Geographic Information System (GIS) provides technical data on statewide projects. This program is fairly new, and is growing rapidly.

All Montanans are served by these programs.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:25 AM



MARJORIE I. FISHER, Chairman



BRANDEE J. DECREVEL, Secretary

MIF/BJD

INSTITUTIONS

Joint Appropriations Subcommittee

ROLL CALL

DATE 1-10-95

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Rep. Marj Fisher, Chairman	✓		
Rep. Red Menahan	✓		
Rep. Steve Vick	✓		
Sen. Larry Tveit, Vice Chairman	✓		
Sen. Gary Aklestad		✓	
Sen. Mignon Waterman	✓		