



MONTANA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

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Director
AMY CARLSON

DATE: October 18, 2018
TO: Legislative Finance Committee
FROM: Study of State Labs Interim Subcommittee
RE: Addendum to Study of State Lab Report

The Report on the HB 661 Study of State Labs was presented at the September LFC meeting. Subsequently, the interim State Labs Subcommittee held their wrap-up meeting on October 18, 2018 to formally adopt the report and finalize committee work. The State Labs Subcommittee supported a motion to endorse Option 1 as defined in the Report, with a caveat to pursue Pittman-Robertson funding as a source for construction which then would add the FWP Wildlife Lab as a tenant in the new constructions (Option 1A). The supported motion also included pursuing a variety of options for funding rather than relying solely on general fund obligation bonds.

The State Labs Subcommittee chose to adopt the report with the following additions:

- **Effluent Treatment.** The Veterinary Diagnostic, Analytical, and Wildlife Labs do not have an effluent treatment mechanism/process prior to fluids entering the Bozeman sewer system. Although the lab consultants determined that effluent treatment was not required for these labs under current regulations, the subcommittee felt that disposing of untreated lab effluent directly into the Bozeman sewer system is not a good practice and therefore a deficiency that should be corrected during any upgrades or new construction
- **FWP Hoist/Trolley System.** The FWP Wildlife Lab uses a hoist and trolley system supported off the facility's structural system, which in the past has been insufficient to reach all areas needed when handling large animals within their facility. There is a project currently underway in the FWP lab that may address these deficiencies. The subcommittee remains concerned about this problem and, if not fixed within the current upgrades, recommends that it be corrected through additional structural upgrades or new construction
- **Hazardous Chemical Storage.** The lab consultants noted the lack of access control in the Analytical Lab as an increased risk of accidental contact with hazardous chemicals. The subcommittee acknowledges the need for physical security, and in addition feels as though there is a deficiency of secure storage for hazardous chemicals in the Analytical Lab that needs to be addressed in the existing facility or through new construction
- **Additional Funding Option – Public/Private Partnership.** Cited in the final report, on page 15, was a statement indicating public-private partnerships have only been utilized by the university system. However, the new Department of Natural Resource and Conservation headquarters building in Helena was constructed by a private entity as a

lease back to the agency. The subcommittee would like this to be understood as a potential funding option for the labs

- **USDA Rural Development Opportunities.** The report discussed the USDA - Rural Development (USDA-RD) loan guarantee program. Charles Robison, Montana State Director for USDA-RD, provided a memo detailing the opportunities available for assisting the State of Montana in meeting its infrastructure needs. The subcommittee would like this added as an appendix in the report

The State Labs Subcommittee sends this addendum to the LFC, to respectfully inform the LFC about their final subcommittee action in adoption of the Report on the HB 661 Study of State Labs.