

**November 17-18, 2011**

**ITEM 153-2001-R1111**

**Authorization to Proceed with Design and Construction of Museum of the Rockies Planetarium Upgrade – MSU (Bozeman Campus)**

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**THAT**

The Board of Regents authorizes Montana State University to proceed with design and construction of a project to upgrade the existing planetarium facility in the Museum of the Rockies at Bozeman campus. This authorization is for \$1,500,000.

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**EXPLANATION**

1. The existing planetarium facility at the Museum of the Rockies (MOR) is 22 years old and houses outdated equipment which is no longer serviceable with current technology. The planetarium is used to provide educational outreach programs to K-12 school children, MSU students, tourists and visitors from throughout Montana. The 102-seat Taylor Planetarium is the only planetarium accessible to the public on a regular basis in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming.
  2. This project will replace the existing planetarium projection system and sound system and upgrade the existing electrical and data service to the facility. The project will also provide facility improvements including new seating and flooring which will enhance public accessibility to the facility, and will include upgraded equipment, task lighting, and building finishes.
  3. MSU will administer the project on behalf of the Board of Trustees of Museum of the Rockies, Inc. and it expects to commence construction and equipment installation in fall of 2012 to be completed in spring 2013.
  4. The project will be entirely financed by the Board of Trustees of Museum of the Rockies, Inc. through a combination of grant funds, private fundraising and its own financial reserves.
  5. This request authorizes MSU to proceed to solicit architects and general contractors to complete design and construction. This authorization is for \$1,500,000.
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**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 – BOR Policy: Physical Plant B Section 1003.7