

September 17-18, 2014

ITEM: 164-2008-R0914

Authorization to Construct Museum of the Rockies Collection/Storage Facility

THAT

Consistent with the provisions of MCA-18-2-102(2)(c), the Board of Regents of Higher Education authorizes Montana State University to construct a collection/storage facility for the Museum of the Rockies at MSU. This request is for a total of \$3,500,000

EXPLANATION

1. Inadequate space for collections storage has been an identified need for the Museum of the Rockies (MOR) for many years and was noted as a concern in the 2008 accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums. The MOR's inability to properly house the University's collections threatens the mission as a collecting museum and the MOR's recognition as a repository for paleontological specimens found on federal land.
 2. The project will look to expand the existing capacity of the MOR's collections and museum storage through the construction of a new facility/addition to the existing MOR building. The project encompasses construction of a secure, climate-controlled two-story collection and storage facility at the southwest corner of the existing building.
 3. The movement of stored collections will be improved by the addition of a new loading dock and freight elevator as part of the storage facility.
 4. The Board of Trustees of Museum of the Rockies, Inc. has currently funded \$2.5 million of the construction costs. Additional donations and/or non-state funding for the project are expected.
 5. No state funds will be used for construction or operations and maintenance of this new non-state funded facility.
 6. This project requires the authorization of the Board of Regents and the Consent of the Governor.
-

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment #1