

March 3-4, 2016

**ITEM 170-2004-R0316**

**Request for Authorization to Construct Museum of the Rockies Collection/Storage Facility; Montana State University**

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**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 ITEM increases the existing authority to a total of \$3,950,000.

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**EXPLANATION**

1. Board of Regents ITEM 164-2008-R0914 authorized MSU to spend up to \$3,500,000 for the construction of the collections/storage facility for the Museum of the Rockies at MSU Bozeman. This request increases the amount authorized by the Regents to a total amount of \$3,950,000.
2. The original authorization request was based on a preliminary program outlining a 12,000sf facility. The completion of a more refined program and schematic design identified a 19,000sf facility which would better accommodate the Museum of the Rockies storage needs and related operations.
3. Inadequate space for collections storage has been an identified need for the Museum of the Rockies 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.
4. 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 along with support spaces at the southwest corner of the existing building.
5. 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.
6. The Board of Trustees of Museum of the Rockies, Inc. has currently funded \$3.85 million of the construction costs. Additional donations and/or non-state funding for the project are expected.
7. No state funds will be used for construction or operations and maintenance of this new non-state funded facility.
8. This project requires the authorization of the Board of Regents and the Consent of the Governor.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment #1 - Board of Regents Policy: Physical Plant B Section 1003.7