

**MINUTES**

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
59th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**Call to Order:** By **MADAM CHAIR EVE FRANKLIN**, on January 11, 2005  
at 8:03 A.M., in Room 102 Capitol.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Eve Franklin, Chairman (D)  
Sen. Don Ryan, Vice Chairman (D)  
Sen. John Esp (R)  
Rep. Bill E. Glaser (R)  
Rep. Verdell Jackson (R)  
Rep. Carol C. Juneau (D)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Carol Williams (D): Arrived at 8:15 A.M.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Mike Burke, OBBP  
Mark Bruno, OBPP  
Marilyn Daumiller, Legislative Branch  
Diana Williams, Committee Secretary  
transcribed by Kim Leighton

**Please Note.** These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed. Tape counter notations refer to the material immediately preceding.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: Montana Historical Society

Executive Action: None

**Opening Remarks by MADAM CHAIR FRANKLIN:**

Opened the meeting with a welcome and an explanation of the proceedings.

**LFD Comments:**

**Marilyn Daumiller, Legislative Fiscal Division**, provided the proposed budget for the Montana Historical Society. She stated that it is pretty straightforward. She discussed this document at length.

**EXHIBIT** (jeh07a01)

*{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 14.7}*

**MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY HEARING****OVERVIEW OF AGENCY**

**Arnie Olsen, Director, Montana Historical Society**, introduced himself and other staff members as well. His staff members are: Gina Ashmore, Administrative Assistant; Dennis Drake, Chief of Operations; Charlene Porsol, Library and Archives; Clark Whitehorn, Publications Program; Jody Brandt, Budget Director; Sue Neer, Museum & Education; Mark Balmer, State Historic Preservation Office. He discussed a folder with information that he provided to the Subcommittee. This folder contained information on the Historical Society, a calendar, a copy of Montana Magazine, as well as some general information such as an annual report.

**EXHIBIT** (jeh07a02)

**Mr. Olsen** also provided the Subcommittee with a folder that contains his PowerPoint presentation.

**EXHIBIT** (jeh07a03)

*{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 14.7 - 18.9}*

**Mr. Olsen** began his PowerPoint presentation. He stated that in the past couple years they have tried to improve attendance. He added that marketing has helped them. He reiterated some annual figures and explained that there is a demand for their library archives. It continues to increase. **Mr. Olsen** explained that their archives are very full. They have approximately two football fields worth of archives that came in last year. He touched on SB 180. He stated that the building is on the national registry, and that they have outgrown the facility. They are involved in several different outreach programs. He added that one program they are working on is a legacy

collection. He discussed that process. They also do fund raisers for the Original Governor's Mansion. He mentioned the Capitol art project that they oversee. He discussed another bill that they are working on. He stated that the Lewis and Clark Commission is terminating this next biennium, and the Historical Society would like to pick-up the revenues for license plates to continue projects related to the commission. He also stated that they would take half of those funds and distribute them out around the state. Next, **Mr. Olsen** discussed the shared catalog in the library.

***{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 18.9 - 30}***

8:32

(REP. JUNEAU left.)

**Mr. Olsen** discussed some short-term exhibits that were at the Montana Historical Society. He also mentioned a gold collection that they were not able to exhibit due to security concerns. He stated that they are working on a textbook through private donations. They are trying to make a more comprehensive book that is inclusive of Montana history. He stated that they recently received a Federal Grant to study 20th Century history. **Mr. Olsen** spoke about some publications that have won national awards. He touched on the statues of Jeannette Rankin and Wilbur Fisk Sanders.

***{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 12.6}***

8:45

(CHAIR FRANKLIN left.)

**Mr. Olsen** spoke about a family in Glendive that were ranchers; they left \$250,000 in their wills to the Montana Historical Society. He described some issues where that money will be applied. He posed the question, "Why should we preserve and interpret history?" He also questioned who the players are that should manage Montana history. He also mentioned some private players that are involved in the preservation of the Montana Historical Society. He added that he is appointed by a Board of Trustees rather than the Governor. He discussed this Board of Trustees further.

**Mr. Olsen** explained some statutory changes, expenditures, funding sources, proprietary funds, and functions of some programs.

***{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 12.6 - 30}***

**Mr. Olsen** provided some actions that they have taken to help themselves. He discussed the impacts and consequences of special sessions. He spoke about cuts that took place in FY04 and some anticipated cuts in FY05. He explained how they are trying to restore these cuts.

#### PUBLIC TESTIMONY

**Amy Sullivan, Executive Director, Montana History Foundation**, supports these budget requests. She stated that the Montana Historical Society struggles quite a bit. She mentioned that donors usually like to know what the State's commitment is; they want to know that it is strong so that their hard earned money is going to a good, worthwhile cause. She added that they appreciate everyone's support. She stated one of her favorite quotes, "If we don't remember history, we will repeat it."

*{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 6.2}*

#### BUDGET REQUESTS

**Mr. Olsen** walked the Subcommittee through the issue involved in the proposed budget. He referred to Exhibit 4.

[EXHIBIT \(jeh07a04\)](#)

**Mr. Olsen** discussed contingency language as well as the Scriver Center. He stated the conditions of the lease for the Scriver Center; there is a 3% inflation factor involved. He added that they were not given enough authority to pay their lease. He requested the Subcommittee's approval for this portion of the budget proposal.

**Mr. Olsen** reiterated the growth in State records that has happened recently. He mentioned that need for a professional archivist. This greatly decreases the percentage of materials. He asked that the Subcommittee consider budgeting two more Full Time Equivalents (FTE).

**REP. JACKSON** asked about the criteria for the records in the 350 boxes. **Mr. Olsen** referred the question to Charlene Porsol. **Ms. Porsol** stated that there are two processes: 1) through the Governor's office; and 2) through the Montana Historical Society. She discussed certain established rules that each body uses.

**Mr. Olsen** continued by discussing digitization. He reiterated that one of the documents distributed earlier refers to this concept. He stated that the cost of digitization is very high. He highlighted where they estimated how much this would cost. He added that they have received a grant from a private donor to

research this a bit. He also expressed some difficulties with electronic records.

**Mr. Olsen** began talking about the first Decision Package (DP) which deals with security issues.

**SEN. RYAN** inquired if their insurance policy addresses security needs. **Mr. Olsen** attested that they do. However, they are not entirely happy with the present security system.

**Mr. Olsen** touched on some possible weaknesses in the system. He talked about theft and requests they have for the security system. He also mentioned server replacement change.

*{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 6.2 - 30}*

**Mr. Olsen** stated that they would like to have the portion of the budget that deals with the servers to be a biennial appropriation. Another issue he wished to discuss was information technology (IT) support. He hoped to have an IT person who can dedicate their duties to the Society. He explained the Historical Society's needs in this area. **Mr. Olsen** discussed entrance fees and exhibits. Some of these entrance fees would be applied to expenses of the exhibits.

**Mr. Olsen** discussed the history conference that takes place every year. He explained what takes place at this conference and the importance of it. He continued discussing the DP's.

**Mr. Olsen** expressed the importance for general resources. He continued discussing budget requests for the museum program. He requested some funding for some major maintenance problems. He added that most of this is raised either through fees or private donations.

9:40

(REP. JUNEAU returned.)

**Mr. Olsen** stated that the next item is the Historic Preservation Program. He discussed the issues involved with this and where the funding is needed.

*{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 16.7}*

#### OBBP Comments

**Mike Burke** spoke about the DP's brought forth by Mr. Olsen. The Office of the Governor believes this is a good allocation of money. He stated that they had asked Mr. Olsen for an estimate

on the needs of the security package; the information he brought forth is good and they support it. He also spoke about the need for computers and IT support. He touched on HB 164 and discussed the Office of the Governor's stance on this issue.

**{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 16.7 - 18.9}**

#### QUESTIONS FROM SUBCOMMITTEE

**SEN. RYAN** asked Mr. Burke if there is anyone else looking at the dollars in HB 164. **Mr. Burke** redirected the question to Mr. Olsen. **Mr. Olsen** stated that there is always somebody else looking at the money if it is available. He touched on the license plate fees and stated some federal facilities that would be interested in these funds.

**SEN. RYAN** thanked Mr. Olsen for his explanation; he has had several interested groups contacting him with questions.

**CHAIR FRANKLIN** asked Mr. Olsen to expand on the expectations of the fund-raising he spoke about earlier. **Mr. Olsen** stated some problems with the bicentennial was that there were high expectations and the anticipated results did not happen. He discussed what they foresaw happening with private sectors. He also stated what the Commission did and what they hope to do in the future.

**REP. JACKSON** asked Mr. Olsen about Virginia City. **Mr. Olsen** opined that it is not in the right area. He stated that the Historical Society opposed the move to put it in Commerce. They felt a better home for it was the State Parks.

**{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 18.9 - 30}**

**REP. JACKSON** followed up by asking what their perspective is on what can be done. **Mr. Olsen** attested that it is a tough issue. He added that the needs are extensive. He said that they will need to downsize or put a considerable amount of money into it.

**Mr. Olsen** added some commentary about some notebooks that have been put together by the Historical Society that contains press releases. He passed them around for the Subcommittee to take a look at. However, they were not distributed as an exhibit.

#### OTHER SUBCOMMITTEE ACTIONS

**CHAIR FRANKLIN** made some comments on the schedule. She added that they should review the budgets and use the staff members to

their advantage. Later on, they will focus on education budgets and discuss some possible field trips for the Subcommittee.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 10:00 A.M.

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REP. EVE FRANKLIN, Chairman

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DIANA WILLIAMS, Secretary

EF/dw

Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([jeh07aad0.PDF](#))**