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PAUL SLITER

# Montana Legislative Council

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## MINUTES

Second Meeting of Interim  
Room 104, State Capitol  
April 12, 1999

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed. Exhibits and tapes are on file in the offices of the Legislative Services Division.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Rep. William T. "Red" Menahan (Chairman)  
Sen. Tom Beck (Vice Chairman)  
Sen. B.F. "Chris" Christiaens  
Sen. Bruce D. Crippen  
Sen. Debbie Bowman Shea  
Sen. Mack Cole  
Sen. Steve Doherty  
Rep. John A. Mercer  
Rep. Emily Swanson  
Rep. Paul Sliter  
Rep. Karl Ohs  
Rep. Billie Krenzler

### STAFF PRESENT

Robert B. Person, Executive Director  
Greg Petesch, Legal Director

Dave Bohyer, Research Director  
Todd Everts, Legislative Environmental Policy Office Director  
Lois O'Connor, Secretary

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

authorized the Environmental Quality Council, the Law, Justice, and Indian Affairs Interim Committee, and the Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission to meet and prepare recommendations regarding the issues surrounding the proposed compact agreement with the Crow Tribe.

approved that the Law, Justice, and Indian Affairs Interim Committee and the Revenue and Taxation Interim Committee membership be expanded to include four more members to be appointed by the Speaker of the House and the Committee on Committees

approved May 17, 1999, as the next meeting date and tentatively scheduled a meeting for August 12 and 13, 1999, at Yellow Bay

### **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order by Sen. Beck, Vice Chair, at 10:32 a.m. Roll call was taken; all Council members were present. (ATTACHMENT #1)

Sen. Cole said that because of the inability to thoroughly review and discuss the proposed Water Compact with the Crow Tribe in the remaining days of the Session, the Legislature decided that a 1-day special session would be needed to enact the Compact. The special session is tentatively scheduled for June 16, 1999, or on the call of the Governor.

Sen. Crippen **moved** that the Legislative Council authorize the Environmental Quality Council, the Law, Justice, and Indian Affairs Interim Committee, and the Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission to meet and prepare recommendations regarding the issues surrounding the proposed compact agreement with the Crow Tribe.

The Council and the House and Senate Leadership will be kept apprised of the progress of the meetings to ensure that the Water Compact could be adopted in a 1-day special session. The Legislative Services Division will prepare the legislation needed to implement the Water Compact and a Joint meeting of the House and Senate Natural Resources Committees will be held prior to June 16, 1999, to review the proposed legislation. In addition, because of Capitol restoration and the impending move of the Legislative Services Division staff, Mr. Person was asked to monitor the availability of space needed for the special session.

Sen. Crippen's motion passed unanimously.

### **DISCUSSION OF INTERIM STUDIES AND FUTURE MEETINGS**

Mr. Bohyer provided an overview of the impending interim studies and related activities and Mr. Person provided a biennial calendar of proposed Council meeting dates. (EXHIBITS #1 and #2 respectively)

Following a thorough discussion, the Council decided that:

- C a poll of the interim studies would be provided to all legislative members for ranking and prioritization purposes;
- C interim committee study limits will be based upon the amount of funding allocated to each committee and the amount of available staff time;
- C the Legislative Council will be the clearing house for all proposed interim studies and it will assign the studies to the appropriate interim committee created under Senate Bill No. 11; and
- C the Legislative Council will be the authority to authorize the creation of subcommittees within the interim committees.

House Joint Resolution No. 35 (study of mental health managed care) will be conducted by the Legislative Finance Committee. Staffing issues have not been discussed to date.

Rep. Sliter **moved** that the Law, Justice, and Indian Affairs Interim Committee and the Revenue and Taxation Interim Committee membership be expanded to include four more members to be appointed by the Speaker of the House and the Committee on Committees. Motion carried unanimously.

The Council approved May 17, 1999, as the next meeting date to be held in the Federal Building. The agenda will include the Council's consideration of rules regarding the implementation of SB 11. It also tentatively scheduled a meeting for August 12 and 13, 1999, at Yellow Bay.

Mr. Bohyer requested that the Council consider its authority to place on the interim study poll any study that it believes should be done even if it is not incorporated in a resolution or bill and notify him before adjournment Sine Die.

There being no further business, the Council adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

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