

Fox, Susan

From: Robert Story [robertstory727@msn.com]
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2011 8:32 PM
To: Fox, Susan
Subject: Legislative Council report on wolf meetings

Dear council members:

I understand that you are faced with a problem as to expenses incurred by the multi-state wolf committee that met during the last interim. I will try to outline the process as I recollect.

Senator Shockley contacted me and informed me that a group of legislators were going to meet to discuss the wolf issue as it pertained to the several states that are under the wolf recovery plans of the federal government. He wanted to attend the meeting and was wondering if he could be reimbursed for travel. I told him that he could attend, and that I would be more comfortable if the group was bi-partisan, and probably included house members if they could find travel money. I asked Senator Hamlet to attend, and Senator Barrett as her district is one of the most impacted. I authorized reimbursement from the presidents budget for travel and expenses, with the direction that they would drive if possible.

At some point in the process I had a phone discussion with a member of the Idaho delegation who was organizing the meetings. He mentioned the need to hire legal help to prepare for court filings. I explained to him that we could not fund legal assistance without an appropriation from the legislature, and we would not be meeting until 2011. Idaho and Wyoming were in a similar situation, but they are basically one party legislatures, and would have little problem appropriating money to cover their share of the costs. I had discussions with legislative staff regarding funding for outside counsel, and we came to the conclusion that current funds could not be used for this unless Legislative Council approved and funded this. As the Council was already involved in the suit with the Governor I did not feel it appropriate to approach them for this expense. I did have brief discussions with Senator Williams, and Senator Perterson to inform them what was going on with the multi-state wolf meetings, but do not believe I made them aware of the possibility of the group hiring legal help. I also believe that I had a discussion with Senator Shockley as the difficulty of an ad-hoc group such as the wolf group contracting with legal help as they had no authority of their own, and could not obligate the individual states to pay for this help.

Very little of this process was documented through letters or e-mail. Much was done through phone conversations.

I hope this information is helpful to your deliberations. If there is anything else I can contribute please feel free to contact me.

Bob Story