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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

67th Montana Legislature

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Mark Blasdel, Vice Chair
Margaret (Margie) MacDonald
JP Pomnichowski
Scott Sales
Jon Sesso
Fred Thomas

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Casey Schreiner, Chair
Kim Abbott
Seth Berglee
Wylie Galt
Greg Hertz
Shane Morigeau

COMMITTEE STAFF

Susan Fox - Executive Director
Todd Everts - Attorney
Fong Hom - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

Zoom Conference Call

October 15, 2020
Remote Room 102, Capitol Building
Helena, Montana

Please note: This document is a Minutes Log and provides annotation of the time elapsed between the beginning of the meeting and the time at which the item was presented or discussed, a motion was made, or a vote was taken. The narrative presented here is provided only as a guide to the audio or video recording of the meeting. The official discussion, motion, or vote is available on the audio or video archive of this meeting. The Legislature does not prepare a transcript of the meeting activities. The time designation may be used to locate the referenced discussion on the audio or video recording of this meeting.

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MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. Casey Schreiner, Chair
Sen. Mark Blasdel, Vice Chair
Rep. Kim Abbott
Rep. Seth Berglee
Rep. Wylie Galt
Rep. Greg Hertz
Sen. Margaret (Margie) MacDonald
Rep. Shane Morigeau
Sen. JP Pomnichowski
Sen. Scott Sales
Sen. Jon Sesso

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Sen. Fred Thomas

STAFF PRESENT:

Susan Fox, Executive Director
Todd Everts, Attorney
Fong Hom, Secretary

AGENDA [\(Attachment 1\)](#)

COMMITTEE ACTION

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

13:01:08 Rep. Casey Schreiner called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM. The committee secretary took roll. Sen. Thomas was excused.

OBPP BILL DRAFT REQUEST

Heritage Preservation Grant (HB 12)

13:03:02 Susan Fox, Executive Director, explained that the Office of Budget and Program Planning had requested that the bill draft for the Heritage Preservation Grant be reserved as House Bill 12. [\(Exhibit 1\)](#)

Motion/Vote

13:04:02 Sen. MacDonald moved to approve the Heritage Preservation Grant as House Bill 12. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

2021 SESSION PREPARATION

Budget Information

13:05:33 Ms. Fox discussed the Legislative Branch's Final Submission Budget. [\(Exhibit 2\)](#)

Budget Memo from Directors

13:06:33 Ms. Fox briefly discussed the memo from the Directors regarding the Legislative Branch Personal Services costs in the 2023 Biennium. [\(Exhibit 3\)](#)

Session Proceedings Costs

13:08:42 Ms. Fox discussed the session printing costs. [\(Exhibit 4\)](#)

Committee Questions/Discussion

13:09:58 Sen. Pomnichowski asked Ms. Fox why there is the need for an increase in printing costs if the Legislature is anticipating a decrease in printing.

Motion/Vote

13:12:10 Sen. Pomnichowski moved to approve the increase for the printing and mailing costs for the session. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Report on COVID funding

13:13:21 Angie Carter discussed the funding through the CARES Act. [\(Exhibit 5\)](#)

Update on Zoom and Remote Capabilities

13:14:32 Ms. Fox gave an update on the zoom and remote capabilities that are being worked on for the upcoming 2021 Session.

Updates on 2021 Session Planning

Review proposed Caucus and Orientation Schedule

13:20:09 Ms. Fox discussed the schedule for caucus and orientation. [\(Exhibit 6\)](#)

Committee Questions/Discussion

13:25:18 Sen. Pomnichowski discussed conducting a floor session training and a remote voting test run through. She asked if more than one floor session training be done and is the remote voting system tied into committee work?

Local Government Interim Committee request on Entitlement Share Training

13:24:13 Ms. Fox discussed the Local Government Interim Committee's letter regarding Entitlement Share Training at the legislative orientation. ([Exhibit 7](#))

Anonymous Zoom Polling Capability

13:27:25 Lindsey Krywaruchka gave a presentation/demonstration on the Anonymous Zoom Polling Capability.

Committee Questions/Discussion on Zoom Polling

13:29:31 Ms. Fox

13:29:59 Rep. Schreiner

13:30:36 Sen. Pomnichowski

13:32:07 Rep. Schreiner

13:32:53 Rep. Hertz

13:34:20 Rep. Schreiner

Discussion on the schedule

13:34:48 The Council discussed having a one-day or a two-day orientation schedule.

13:41:40 Rep. Schreiner asked the committee if they agreed to having a day and a half for orientation.

Committee Questions/Discussion on the Local Government Interim Committee request on Entitlement Share Training

13:44:57 Sen. MacDonald commented on the Entitlement Share Training and said it was a good idea.

13:45:05 Rep. Schreiner asked if the members are willing to have training on entitlement share during orientation.

Testing and Results Protocols

13:46:04 Ms. Fox briefly discussed the documents in the meeting packet: 2021 Session Scenarios & Decision Points ([Exhibit 8](#)), the Appendices ([Exhibit 9](#)), and Protocols for People in the Capitol Building during the Session ([Exhibit 10](#)).

Committee Questions/Discussion

13:58:18 Rep. Hertz thanked Ms. Fox for her work on this issue. Rep. Hertz asked Mr. Everts if public participation can be limited with the open meeting laws.

14:02:54 Ms. Fox commented on working on a protocol to help presiding officers manage public testimony at hearings.

Vote Board Guidelines

14:04:35 Ms. Fox discussed the new vote board guidelines. ([Exhibit 11](#))

Snack Bar Options

- 14:05:30 Ms. Fox discussed the memo date October 5, 2020, regarding solicitation for proposed 3rd floor snack bar. [\(Exhibit 12\)](#)
- 14:05:56 Marilyn Miller, Secretary of the Senate, gave an update on the proposals to vendors for the snack bar. Ms. Miller said she would like to do a "soft opening" of the snack bar during caucus and orientation.

Public Comment

None.

RULES SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Status Report on Proposed Changes

- 14:09:31 Sen. Blasdel gave a report on the Rules Subcommittee's activities.
- 14:09:57 Mr. Everts gave an overview of the two packets of rule changes that were done by the subcommittee: language changes that was forwarded to the Legislative Council in August and the work done on October 9 with language options for session during a public health emergency.

Committee Questions/Discussion

- 14:14:41 Rep. Schreiner asked about the first packet of rules changes was something that the Council would want to forward onto in the traditional manner and then wait on the other packet.
- 14:15:36 Rep. Blasdel said he feels comfortable with the initial set of rules that Mr. Everts discussed and he would like to move that forward. As for the second packet, the rules subcommittee has done its job and it is up to the next legislative body and the new leadership to make the ultimate decision on how the next session will be laid out.

Motion/Vote

- 14:17:26 Sen. Blasdel moved the first packet of changes reported by staff to the Rules Committee. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.
- 14:18:09 Rep. Schreiner said that without further objection, the Council will not take further action on the second packet.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

- 14:21:02 Rep. Schreiner adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.