



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL 67th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Mark Blasdel
Jill Cohenour
Jason Ellsworth
Pat Flowers
JP Pomnichowski
Cary Smith

HOUSE MEMBERS

Kim Abbott
Laurie Bishop
Wylie Galt
Derek Harvey
Casey Knudsen
Rhonda Knudsen

COMMITTEE STAFF

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

MINUTES LOG

April 12, 2022

Room 137/Zoom
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 IN PERSON:

Sen. Mark Blasdel, Chair (R)
Rep. Laurie Bishop (D)
Sen. Jill Cohenour (D)
Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R)
Rep. Derek Harvey (D)
Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R)

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM:

Sen. Pat Flowers (D)
Rep. Wylie Galt (R)
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)
Sen. JP Pomnichowski (D)
Sen. Cary Smith (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Rep. Kim Abbott (D)

STAFF PRESENT:

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

AGENDA (Attachment 1)
VISITORS' LIST (Attachment 2)

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

09:01:40 Presiding Officer Mark Blasdel called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. The committee secretary took roll. (Attachment 3)

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SUCCESSION PLANNING

Public Information Report on Process

09:03:28 Rep. Rhonda Knudsen gave a report on the work of the Subcommittee on Succession Planning.

Committee Questions/Discussion

09:07:14 Sen. Cohenour asked Rep. Knudsen about the interview process and stated her concerns.

09:09:38 Sen. Cohenour asked Sen. Blasdel about the process of interviewing the one candidate today.

09:10:20 Sen. Blasdel responded.

09:10:49 Sen. Ellsworth gave an overview of the hiring process.

09:12:36 Sen. Cohenour said her concern is the process that we are going through and the timing, and the Council relying on moving someone forward that might result in leaving people behind who also are well-qualified for the position.

09:16:51 Sen. Ellsworth commented.

09:19:14 Sen. Cohenour said that the subcommittee is not the Council and her big concern is about the interview process.

09:20:23 Sen. Pomnichowski said she doesn't consider that the work of the subcommittee is finished. There are other qualified candidates and they should, on their merits, be granted a full interview before Legislative Council.

09:21:27 Sen. Flowers asked Rep. Knudsen to summarize the qualifications that was used to assess each applicant.

09:21:55 Rep. Knudsen responded.

09:22:45 Sen. Flowers asked Rep. Knudsen if it was her opinion that out of the 28 candidates that the subcommittee reviewed that the single candidate who is coming before us is the only person that met those qualifications.

09:23:22 Rep. Knudsen said that her opinion is immaterial.

09:24:09 Sen. Flowers said that, based on Rep. Knudsen's comments, what he didn't hear is the subcommittee deciding to bring forward qualified applicants, but that the subcommittee is bringing forward only one candidate that they agreed on.

Public Comment

09:24:54 Rep. Mary Ann Dunwell, HD 84

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT - None

ADJOURNMENT

09:28:52 Sen. Blasdel adjourn the meeting at 9:28 a.m.