



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL 68th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

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

HOUSE MEMBERS

Kim Abbott, Vice Chair
Laurie Bishop
Wylie Galt
Derek Harvey
Casey Knudsen
Rhonda Knudsen

COMMITTEE STAFF

Jerry Howe - Executive Director
Todd Everts - Legal Division Director
Fong Hom - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

October 5, 2022
Room 137/Zoom
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:

Sen. Mark Blasdel, Chair (R)
Sen. Jill Cohenour (D)
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)
Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R)

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM:

Rep. Laurie Bishop (D)
Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R)
Rep. Wylie Galt (R)
Rep. Derek Harvey (D)
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)
Sen. JP Pomnichowski (D)
Sen. Cary Smith (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Rep. Kim Abbott (D)

STAFF PRESENT:

Jerry Howe, Executive Director
Todd Everts, Legal Division Director
Fong Hom, Secretary

AGENDA (Attachment 1)

VISITORS' LIST (Attachment 2)

COMMITTEE ACTION

The Legislative Council took the following actions:

- Approved the 2025 Biennial Information Technology Plan
- Approved the submission of the Legislative Branch Budget to the Governor's Office of Budget and Program Planning
- Adopted the Proposed Price for Session Proceedings
- Directed Legislative Services Division staff to investigate how other states manage its legislative space in their respective capital buildings and report the findings to the Council

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

10:00:58 Presiding Officer Mark Blasdel called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The committee secretary took roll. [\(Attachment 3\)](#)

DIVISION UPDATES

Executive Director Update

10:02:20 Jerry Howe, Executive Director

Budget Update

10:03:02 Angie Carter, Financial Manager [\(Exhibit 1\)](#)

2022 National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses

10:04:04 Sen. Blasdel discussed the request from Rep. Regier and Sen. Flowers to help fund those legislators who wished to attend the 2022 National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses.

10:04:42 Sen. Flowers explained the request for funding. [\(Exhibit 2\)](#)

Questions from the committee

10:06:54 Sen. Blasdel asked Sen. Flowers what the dates of the caucuses are.

Motion/Vote

10:07:30 Sen. Cohenour moved to use the carryover funds for participation in the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucus.

10:07:59 The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

10:08:30 Sen. Blasdel asked Sen. Flowers about sending an invite to legislators to notify them of possible participation.
Sen. Flowers said that it would be appropriate for the co-chairs to put out a joint invitation.

10:09:18 Mr. Howe asked Sen. Flowers to copy Angie Carter and himself on the email that he sends.

10:09:54 Ms. Carter asked about adding an appropriation for the Sportmen's Caucuses into the budget for the 2025 biennium.

10:10:00 Sen. Flowers said the fact that Montana legislators are participating in the caucuses is because it is being held in Montana, and that this wouldn't be an ongoing budget item.

Office of Research and Policy Analysis Update

10:11:14 Joe Kolman, Director, provided an update of the activities of ORPA.

Legislative Orientation Update

10:13:01 Mr. Kolman provided an update on Legislative Orientation.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

Presentation of 2025 Biennium Budget

10:16:02 Ms. Carter discussed adopting the proposed budget and moving it to the Office of Budget and Program Planning. [\(Exhibit 3\)](#)

Information Technology 2025 Biennium Plan

10:18:35 Dale Gow, Chief Information Officer, Legislative Branch, discussed the 2025 Biennial Information Technology Plan. [\(Exhibit 4\)](#)

Motion/Vote to approve IT Plan

10:19:31 Sen. Cohenour moved to approve the 2025 Biennial Information Technology Plan.

10:19:58 The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote, with Rep. Abbott voting aye by proxy.

Legislative Services Division Program 21

10:20:39 Ms. Carter gave a presentation on Program 21. [\(Exhibit 5\)](#)

Legislative Audit and Fiscal Division Budgets (Programs 27 and 28)

10:22:15 Ms. Carter discussed the Fiscal Division's budget, Program 27. [\(Exhibit 6\)](#)

10:22:28 Ms. Carter discussed the Audit Division's budget, Program 28. [\(Exhibit 7\)](#)

Motion/Vote to adopt the Legislative Branch budget

10:22:59 Rep. Rhonda Knudsen moved to submit the Legislative Branch budget to the Office of the Budget and Program Planning in concurrence with approvals from the Legislative Audit and Fiscal Committees.

10:23:17 The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote, with Rep. Abbott voting aye by proxy.

Session Proceedings Cost Presentation

10:24:02 Dawn Field, Legislative Printing and Distribution Coordinator, presented the proposed price for Session Proceedings. [\(Exhibit 8\)](#)

Motion/Vote to adopt the session proceedings cost

10:25:05 Sen. Cohenour moved to adopt the proposed price for session proceedings as presented by Ms. Field.

10:25:32 The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote, with Rep. Abbott voting aye by proxy.

Legislative Office Space for 2023 Session

10:25:57 Mr. Howe gave a brief explanation of the flood in room 10 of the Capitol Building and discussed the temporary use of that space for the upcoming session.

Questions/Discussion

10:29:28 Sen. Pomnichowski asked Mr. Howe and Mr. Gow if the IT staff could remain in the offices on the 4th floor.

10:30:15 Mr. Howe explained that several IT managers and some staff would remain in the capitol building.

10:33:05 Mr. Gow reiterated that IT managers would maintain an office in the capitol building.

10:33:53 Sen. Pomnichowski discussed the idea of Sen. Esp regarding the presence of the Secretary of State in the Capitol Building. She asked if the Capitol Complex Advisory Committee could be helpful in making decisions for the upcoming session.

10:36:29 Sen. Cohenour said the Capitol Complex Advisory Committee is advisory only in nature.

10:37:29 Todd Everts, Legal Director, said that it would take legislation to change the current scenario in which the Department of Administration has oversight for capitol complex area outside the chambers of the Legislature.

Motion/Vote

10:38:47 Rep. Knudsen moved for Legislative Services Division staff to investigate how other states manage their legislative space in their respective capital buildings and come back with a recommendation.

10:39:24 The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote, with Rep. Abbott voting yes by proxy.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT - None

ADJOURNMENT

10:42:30 Sen. Blasdel adjourned the meeting at 10:42 a.m.