



State-Tribal Relations Committee

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62nd Montana Legislature

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STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE

2011 — 2012 WORK PLAN

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Introduction

The eight-member State-Tribal Relations (STR) Committee is unlike other interim committees that have administrative rule reviews, agency monitoring, program evaluation, or the requirement to review draft legislation of agencies that the committee monitors. The STR committee can potentially have the need to liaise with *any* state agency because issues affecting the tribes can cut across all government functions. Instead, the committee has the following duties, as listed in 5-5-229, MCA:

1. act as a liaison with tribal governments;
2. encourage state-tribal and local government-tribal cooperation;
3. conduct interim studies as assigned; and
4. report its activities, findings, or recommendations to the legislature and propose any legislation recommended by the committee

In the past, the committee has fulfilled the liaison and cooperation responsibilities by visiting two or three Indian reservations during the interim and then meeting with state agency officials to discuss issues brought to its attention by tribal leaders and communities. Conversely, visits to the tribes provide opportunities for the committee to bring agency personnel who can speak of state-tribal issues of importance to an agency. In conducting its role as liaison and an entity that can foster cooperation the STR committee is mindful of the jurisdiction of government at the local, state, federal, and sovereign tribal levels and of processes or negotiations that have been ongoing (in some cases for years).

Travel Schedule

Starting with the 2001-2002 interim, the first interim for the newly constituted State-Tribal Relations Committee, the committee began visiting reservations. This has been the rotation:

- 2001 - 2002: Rocky Boys and Flathead
- 2003 - 2004: Fort Belknap and Northern Cheyenne Reservations
- 2005 - 2006: Fort Peck and the Blackfeet Reservations
- 2007 - 2008: Flathead, Little Shell, and Crow Reservations
- 2009 - 2010: Rocky Boys, Fort Belknap, and Blackfeet Reservations

Although each new STR committee determines its travel destinations, notwithstanding other considerations, the historical rotation would *suggest* visits this interim to the Northern Cheyenne and Fort Peck reservations. At the committee's first organizational meeting, members decided upon visits to the **Northern Cheyenne, Crow, and Fort Peck** reservations. Note that (1) dates selected by the committee for reservation visits are

contingent upon the given tribe's interest and availability, and (2) leadership of the tribes that we cannot visit during this interim are of course invited to attend our Helena meetings.

Budgeting for the committee includes salary, travel, and per diem for multi-day meetings expected during visits to the reservations in addition to the meetings in Helena. Travel is of course difficult much later than October or earlier than May, so STR visit dates are planned accordingly. Staff suggested dates for meeting this interim and members were requested to consider those dates and propose alternative times for ones that do not work well. The proposed dates were as follows:

1st meeting:	June 28	Helena
2nd meeting	September 27-30	Northern Cheyenne Reservation
3rd meeting	January 13	Helena
4th meeting	April 3-6	Fort Peck Reservation
5th meeting	July 20	Helena
6th meeting	September 7	Helena

Assigned studies

In this interim, the committee has no studies assigned to it but may want reports (or presentations in order to be kept apprised) from other interim committees studying water issues, education, and health care or other issues of potential interest to committee members.

Target Issues

State-tribal relations intersect with almost every conceivable sector of governance. The issues that the STR discuss and agree to prioritize in its work plan for this interim flow from (1) members' concerns, (2) issues raised by keynote speakers at the STR's organizational meeting, and (3) opportunities following from legislation in the 2009 Session that either passed, failed, or was drafted but not introduced.

Target issues also flow later from (4) discussions held at reservations the STR committee visits. Thus there must be "room" left in the Pork Plan to take up these yet-to-be-determined topics too. The following topics (not necessarily presented in sequence here) may be considered a starting point for discussing the committee's priorities.

State-Tribal Relations Interim Committee Work Plan
Prepared by Casey Barrs

	June 28, 2011	September 27-30	Jan. 13, 2012	April 3-6	July 20	September 7
Committee Priorities						
	Disaster emergency service →	✓ Field investigation at Northern Cheyenne. Met with both DES & FEMA personnel	✓ Presentation by DES division administrator	✓ As requested	✓ As requested	✓ As requested
	Job Creation →	✓ Discuss with state and private economic development entities as well as employers and tribal leadership ✓ Hear panel of local tribal entrepreneurs	✓ Examination of Indian Country Economic Development (ICED) Program	Testimony (Fort Peck): ✓ Tribal economic and workforce development ✓ Oil & gas industry growth	✓ As requested	✓ As requested

	June 28, 2011	September 27-30	Jan. 13, 2012	April 3-6	July 20	September 7
	Suicide →	✓ Discuss with state, university and nonprofit entities and tribal leadership	✓ Suicide → bullying nexus (emerged from N. Cheyenne discussions)	Suicide: ✓ Tribal, UM, DPHHS presentations Bullying: ✓ Staff review of proposals in MT and statutes in other states	✓ Staff update on (1) BPE possible new rules, and (2) OPI new anti-bullying website	✓ As requested
	2010 Census →	✓ Leadership of every Montana tribe canvassed for opinion about census results	✓ As requested	✓ As requested	✓ As requested	✓ As requested
	Cultural & historical preservation →		✓ Discuss LC-6666 (amend MT Antiquities Act) with potentially affected stakeholders	✓ Testimony of Tribal Historic Preservation Officer from Fort Peck	✓ Final consideration of (1) LC-6666, and (2) staff alternate wording option	✓ As requested
	Law enforcement: - Incarceration - Other →	✓ As requested (t.b.a.)	✓ Overview of inter-jurisdictional relationships and cross-deputization ✓ Update on racial profiling	✓ As requested	✓ As requested	✓ As requested

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	Natural resources →	✓ Timber resources ✓ Timber bonds	(Legislative requesters asked these items be dropped)	✓ As requested	✓ As requested	✓ As requested
	Full Faith and Credit →			✓ Staff review of the Uniform Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Act [UEFJA]	✓ Examine draft wording that expands the UEFJA	✓ As requested

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Tribal visits & resulting priorities		N. Cheyenne →				
		Bullying in schools: Cigarette &/gasoline taxes: College tuition Increases: Multi-purpose judicial Center:	✓ Tribal health officer invited to Helena ✓ As requested. ✓ As requested. ✓ Staff provided judge state & federal program contacts	✓ Discussed again @ Fort Peck	✓ As requested	✓ As requested

	June 28, 2011	September 27-30	Jan. 13, 2012	April 3-6	July 20	September 7
				Fort Peck →		
				Education Health Veterans' issues Job Corps / MT	✓ As requested ✓ As requested ✓ As requested* ✓ As requested*	✓ As requested
				✓ As requested	✓ As requested	✓ As requested

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