CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL (RECONVENED)
09:09:00 Rep. Custer called the Local Government Interim committee to order at 9:00 AM. The committee secretary took the roll.

HJ 30 - Study of County Water and/or Sewer Districts
09:00 Ms. Henneman began her overview of the “Special Districts Statutory Authority” handout. (Exhibit 12)
09:09:00 Dan Clark, MSU Local Government Center Executive Director, began his review of the “Power, Form and Plan of Montana’s Local Governments” presentation. (Exhibit 13)

Questions from the committee
09:21:09 Rep. Dunwell asked if there could be septic system districts and if community water systems were special districts.

HJ 30 - Study of County Water and/or Sewer Districts (continued)
09:23:10 Director Clark continued the presentation.

Questions from the committee
09:43:44 Rep. Kelker asked Director Clark if the MSU Local Government Center trainings deal with the culture of a community.
09:47:57 Rep. Fern asked Director Clark if there were too many or too few special districts.
09:50:36 Rep. Dunwell asked Director Clark if special districts were working as well as they looked on paper.

Public comment
10:11:22 None

HJ 30 Panel Discussion
10:12:19 Steve Wade, Montana Rural Water Systems
10:21:24 Pam Ellis, County Water District of Billings Heights
10:38:17 Julie Spencer, Bigfork Water & Sewer District

Questions from the committee
10:43:04 Rep. Fern asked how many districts have a management system.
10:46:39 Rep. Kelker asked who the stakeholders were on the water boards.

Public comment
10:55:41 None

BREAK
10:55:52 Reconvened at 11:10:00

SJ 23 - Study of Public Notice via Electronic Means
Ms. Henneman began her overview of the “LC10: A bill draft to allow electronic public notice” handout.

Questions from the committee

Rep. Dunwell asked Ms. Henneman about the time requirement differences in public notices regarding online publications and newspapers.

SJ 23 - Study of Public Notice via Electronic Means

Members began the city clerk discussion starting with Marty Rehbein from the city of Missoula, MT.

Stacey Amundson, City of Glasgow

Jodi Rogers, City of Choteau

Marie Johnson, Cascade County

Questions from the committee

Rep. Fern asked what the acceptable use of social media is in the context of the challenge of informing people of meetings the open meeting laws.

Rep. Kelker asked the panel to help the committee discuss parameters.

Sen. Sweeney asked what the budget is for some of the counties regarding legal notices, and what their budgets were for notices in newspapers.

Rep. Dunwell asked Ms. Johnson about the cost to publish the ballot electronically.

Rep. Fern asked Ms. Johnson about legal interpretations and considerations moving forward as more practices are going online.

Sen. Bogner asked if a statewide notice website would be beneficial.

Public comment

Director Clark, MSU Local Government Center

Rhonda Wiggers, Montana Broadcasters Association

LUNCH

Reconvened at 13:00:27

SJ 23 - Study of Public Notice via Electronic Means

Director Clark began his discussion of self-governing and general power governments, forms of county and city governments, and the 10-year voter review handouts.

Questions from the committee

Rep. Fern asked Director Clark how the committee would define the parameters regarding what the review commission can do.

Rep. Kelker asked Director Clark if a city has chosen to have self-governing power and a charter, does that make them more independent and less dependent on the Legislature.

Rep. Fern asked Director Clark if home rule was as popular in the 70’s as it is now, and if the committee could get an example of a statute a city could not implement now if we didn’t have home rule.

Rep. Dunwell asked Director Clark why other local governments aren’t self-governing.
13:37:05 Rep. Brewster asked Director Clark if it was true counties in general don’t like having charters.

13:50:10 Rep. Dunwell asked Director Clark if governments can mix and match types of governments and powers.

13:50:40 Sen. Sweeney asked Director Clark how consolidated city-counties are typically governed.

14:01:26 Rep. Fern asked Director Clark if he could point to a specific example of what a charter might enable a local entity to do.

Public comment
14:13:33 None

Committee Work Session
14:15:17 Ms. Henneman reviewed the Draft Work Plan Matrix and committee work session.

Motion
14:17:24 Rep. Kelker made a motion the committee accept the rule amendment resolution regarding the ballot initiative process as presented.

Vote
14:17:47 The motion to accept the rules resolution as presented passed unanimously on a voice vote with Rep. Gist excused.

Motion
14:31:11 Rep. Kelker made a motion to adopt the draft work plan and matrix as presented.

Vote
14:31:36 The motion to accept the draft as presented with .853FTE of the committee's time allocated to studies and member topics and .147FTE remaining for emerging issues passed unanimously on a voice vote, with Rep. Gist excused.

Motion
14:40:39 Rep. Kelker made a motion to adopt the meeting schedule as printed on page 14 of the draft work plan.

Vote
14:41:02 The motion to adopt the meeting schedule as on page 14 passed unanimously on a voice vote, with Rep. Gist excused.

ADJOURNMENT
14:44:34 Chair Custer adjourned the Local Government Interim Committee at 2:44 P.M.