

Friday September 24, 2021

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

11:10:28 Ms. Henneman began her overview of the “LC10: A bill draft to allow electronic public notice” handout. ([Exhibit 14](#))

Questions from the committee

11:21:03 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

11:23:26 Members began the city clerk discussion starting with Marty Rehbein from the city of Missoula, MT.

11:29:27 Stacey Amundson, City of Glasgow

11:31:34 Jodi Rogers, City of Choteau

11:33:19 Marie Johnson, Cascade County

Questions from the committee ***

11:37:16 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.

11:40:46 Rep. Kelker asked the panel to help the committee discuss parameters.

11:43:56 Sen. Sweeney asked what the budget is for some of the counties regarding legal notices, and what their budgets were for notices in newspapers.

11:49:41 Rep. Dunwell asked Ms. Johnson about the cost to publish the ballot electronically.

11:51:10 Rep. Fern asked Ms. Johnson about legal interpretations and considerations moving forward as more practices are going online.

11:52:42 Sen. Bogner asked if a statewide notice website would be beneficial.

Public comment

11:58:35 Director Clark, MSU Local Government Center

12:00:20 Rhonda Wiggers, Montana Broadcasters Association

LUNCH

12:06:45 Reconvened at 13:00:27

SJ 23 - Study of Public Notice via Electronic Means

13:00:38 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. ([Exhibit 15](#))

Questions from the committee

13:13:30 Rep. Fern asked Director Clark how the committee would define the parameters regarding what the review commission can do.

13:24:31 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.

13:29:08 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.

13:34:13 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.