



STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

67th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Bob Brown
Mike Fox
Jason Small
Susan Webber

HOUSE MEMBERS

Casey Knudsen
Joe Read
Tyson Running Wolf
Lola Sheldon-Galloway
Frank Smith
Sharon Stewart Peregoy

COMMITTEE STAFF

Hope Stockwell - Research Analyst
Laura Sankey - Attorney
Laura Sherley - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

July 22, 2021
CSKT Council Chambers
Pablo, 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.

Access to an electronic copy of these minutes and the audio or video recording is provided from the Legislative Branch home page at <https://leg.mt.gov>. From the home page, select the "Committees" drop down menu at the top, then select Administrative or Interim, and the appropriate committee. The written minutes log can be located by expanding the accordion menu for the date of the meeting. Links to the audio/video files can be located by selecting the Video/Audio button on the same page, then the "past/current recordings" button. From there, use the calendar to select the date of the meeting you wish to view/listen to. The written Minutes Log, along with links to the audio and video recordings, is listed by meeting date on the interim committee's web page. Each of the Exhibits is linked and can be viewed by clicking on the Exhibit of interest. All Exhibits are public information and may be printed. Please contact the Legislative Services Division at 406-444-3064 for more information.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Bob Brown (R)
Sen. Mike Fox (D)
Sen. Susan Webber (D)
Rep. Frank Smith (D)
Rep. Joe Read (R)
Rep. Tyson Running Wolf (D)
Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R)
Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy (D)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Sen. Jason Small (R)
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)

STAFF PRESENT:

Hope Stockwell, Research Analyst
Laura Sankey, Attorney
Pad McCracken, Research Analyst
Laura Sherley, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

13:11:44 Rep. Smith called the meeting to order at 1:11 PM. The committee secretary took roll call.

Introductions

13:15:57 Rep. Stewart Peregoy
13:16:16 Rep. Smith
13:16:49 Rep. Running Wolf
13:17:16 Rep. Read
13:17:38 Sen. Brown
13:18:09 Sen. Webber
13:18:44 Sen. Fox
13:19:21 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway
13:20:11 Council Member Carole Lankford
13:21:21 Council Member Martin Charlo
13:24:06 Council Vice-Chair Anita Matt
13:25:35 Council Member Mike Dolson
13:25:48 Council Member Len Two Teeth
13:27:08 Ms. Stockwell
13:27:41 Ms. Sankey
13:27:50 Mr. McCracken
13:28:05 Ms. Sherley

MEET WITH THE CSKT TRIBAL COUNCIL

13:28:58 Council Member Lankford spoke on her involvement in the county drug court.
13:35:52 Council Member Charlo spoke on technological needs in his community.
13:41:03 Rep. Stewart Peregoy asked Council Member Charlo if the council has reached out to the state for funding assistance for technological needs in his community.
13:44:22 Rep. Stewart Peregoy asked Council Member Charlo if the airspace on the reservation has been reserved. The question was redirected to Rick Eneas, Director of Financial Management.
13:48:19 Rep. Stewart Peregoy spoke on broadband issues in rural areas and recommended the council reach out to the state for funding assistance for technological infrastructure.
13:49:35 Council Member Dolson spoke about Montana Missing Indigenous Persons (MMIP), the Indian Education for All program, nonbeneficiary students, BIE schools, and the state-tribal water compact.
13:53:53 Rep. Running Wolf responded to Council Member Dolson's comment regarding nonbeneficiary students and spoke on related legislation.
13:55:25 Sen. Webber commented on nonbeneficiary student related legislation during the 2019 and 2021 Legislative Session.
13:57:11 Council Member Two Teeth spoke on 2021 state legislation that impacted tribes, particularly voting rights. He also spoke on water compact issues.
14:01:57 Council Vice-Chair Matt spoke on 2021 state legislation regarding tourism and grants for Indian Country, MMIP, native language, agriculture, and climate change in the state.
14:04:47 Rep. Smith spoke on voting rights in Indian Country, and nonbeneficiary students.

14:06:36 Sen. Webber spoke on Indian Country economic development and Indian language preservation, nonbeneficiary students, Indigenous People's Day, and BIE Schools.

14:11:18 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway spoke on native children in the Great Falls foster care system and the desire for a cultural center to educate foster families. She also spoke on personal impact regarding MMIP.

14:15:09 Sen. Brown spoke on state funding related to MMIP, jurisdictional issues, fee vs. trust land, and Indigenous People's Day.

14:21:17 Council Member Two Teeth spoke on trust vs. fee land and funding for the aquatic invasive species inspecting stations.

14:24:11 Rep. Running Wolf spoke on the CSKT's lobbying efforts, the conversion of fee to trust land process, and tribal membership.

14:28:35 Rep. Running Wolf left the meeting.

14:28:36 Council Vice-Chair Matt spoke on MMIP, drug trafficking, and marijuana legislation.

14:31:15 Ms. Stockwell responded to Council Vice-Chair Matt comments regarding marijuana legislation.

14:32:25 Rep. Stewart Peregoy spoke on MMIP and asked Rhonda Swaney, CSKT Attorney, to talk to the committee about the impacts of the U.S. Supreme Court's recent *Cooley* ruling.

14:37:32 Sen. Webber asked Ms. Swaney for her opinion regarding the process to change fee property back into trust land.

14:39:40 Rep. Smith spoke on communication between tribes and the state and the need to educate legislators on state-tribal relations.

14:41:33 Rep. Read spoke on HB 656 (2021) and Public Law 280.

14:46:27 Council Member Charlo responded to Rep. Read's comments and spoke on tribal membership, the impact of COVID-19, the drug court, and the partnership between the state and tribal nations.

14:50:28 Rep. Read addressed Council Member Charlo's comments.

14:53:22 Council Vice-Chair Matt commented on the discussion, communication availability in the last year, and education for lawmakers on state-tribal relations.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MATTER NOT CONTAINED IN THIS AGENDA AND THAT IS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE STRC

None

CLOSING REMARKS

14:55:40 Rep. Smith commented on the future work of the committee.

14:56:09 Rep. Stewart Peregoy thanked the council for meeting with the committee and presented gifts to the council members.

15:02:07 Council Vice-Chair Matt welcomed Sen. Daniel Salomon (SD47), and Rep. Tom France (HD94), in the public audience.

15:02:51 Ms. Stockwell thanked the staff of CSKT for their assistance with the meeting.

RECESS TO TRAVEL TO BROWNING

Recess: 15:03:36