



STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE 68th 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

Pad McCracken - Research Analyst
Bethany McDowell - Secretary
Laura Sankey Keip - Attorney

MINUTES LOG

July 26, 2022

Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council Chambers
Lame Deer, 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. Jason Small, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Bob Brown (R)
Sen. Mike Fox (D)
Rep. Joe Read (R)
Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R)
Rep. Frank Smith (D)
Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy (D)
Sen. Susan Webber (D)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)
Rep. Tyson Running Wolf (D)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Pad McCracken, Research Analyst
Bethany McDowell, Secretary
Laura Sankey Keip, Attorney

AGENDA (Attachment 1)

VISITORS' LIST (Attachment 2)

COMMITTEE ACTION

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

10:58:46 Sen. Jason Small called the meeting to order at 10:58 AM.

OPENING REMARKS

10:59:32 Introductions of present members of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council and the State-Tribal Relations Committee, as well as members in attendance.

DISCUSSION ON SUCCESSES, CONCERNS, QUESTIONS RELATED TO STATE-TRIBAL OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT-TRIBAL RELATIONS

11:05:14 Sen. Small opened discussion on the agenda item.

11:06:44 Lane Spotted Elk, Northern Cheyenne Tribal Councilmember, discussed jurisdictional issues on the reservation.

11:13:09 Sen. Webber asked Mr. Spotted Elk how many tribal law enforcement members are employed on the reservation.

11:14:43 Sen. Webber asked about cross-deputization on the reservation.

11:16:16 Sen. Webber asked about MMIP/MMIW policy issues that can help the reservation.

11:20:07 Rep. Stewart-Peregoy commented on concerns surrounding public safety on the Northern Cheyenne and Crow reservations.

11:25:40 Rep. Stewart-Peregoy asked the Council about the implications for the reservation of the McGirt v. Oklahoma decision.

11:30:36 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway commented on the first 24 hours in the search for a missing person. She continued by asking the Tribal Council about jurisdiction over missing person cases.

11:33:11 Sheriff Allen Fulton, Rosebud County, stood to answer Rep. Sheldon-Galloway's question.

11:34:00 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway asked Sheriff Fulton about solutions to jurisdictional issues.

11:35:16 Norma Gorneau, Northern Cheyenne Tribal Councilmember, responded to Rep. Sheldon-Galloway's question.

11:43:04 Sen. Small commented on jurisdictional issues related to missing person cases on the reservation. He asked Mr. Spotted Elk about limited law enforcement resources on the reservation.

11:47:02 Sen. Small asked Mr. Spotted Elk about staffing for law enforcement on the reservation.

11:47:46 Rep. Smith commented on cross-deputization.

11:49:24 Rep. Pena, HD 41, stood to comment on the jurisdictional issues surrounding Hwy 212 on the Northern Cheyenne reservation. She also commented on satellite voting access on the reservation.

DISCUSSION ON VOTING ACCESS/ALTERNATIVE ELECTION OFFICES AND FEE-TO-TRUST

- 12:02:27 Mr. Spotted Elk commented on voting access on the reservation.
- 12:03:44 Ms. Gorneau commented on increased voting opportunities for Northern Cheyenne tribal members.
- 12:04:12 Rosebud County Commissioner, Ed Joiner, stood to comment on voting on the reservation.
- 12:09:06 Big Horn County Election Administer, Dulcie Bear Don't Walk, stood to comment on voting access initiatives for Big Horn County and Northern Cheyenne and Crow reservations.
- 12:13:09 Sen. Webber asked Ms. Bear Don't Walk about the differences between satellite offices and alternative voting sites.
- 12:15:49 Sen. Webber asked Ms. Bear Don't Walk about mail-in ballots for Big Horn County.
- 12:18:51 Sen. Small asked the Tribal Council if they had any comments or questions on fee-to-trust.
- 12:19:48 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway asked about locations for satellite offices.

RECESS/LUNCH

- 12:20:22 Reconvened at 12:29:59.

OFFICE OF MONTANA STATE AUDITOR – Troy Downing, Montana State Auditor

- 12:30:27 Mr. Downing

Committee Questions

- 12:35:34 Mr. Spotted Elk commented on Mr. Downing's visit to the reservation.

NORTHERN TRIBES' DUI TASK FORCE

- 12:37:34 Sen. Small updated the committee and the Tribal Council on the DUI Task Force.

DISCUSSION ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADBAND ISSUES

- 12:38:12 Mr. Spotted Elk began the discussion on the agenda item by commenting on broadband issues on the reservation and potential solutions.
- 12:41:57 Sen. Small commented on work being done at the Department of Commerce for broadband issues on reservations.
- 12:43:40 Mr. Spotted Elk commented on satellite internet access for the reservation.
- 12:45:37 Sen. Webber commented on internet inaccessibility for multiple Montana tribes.

DISCUSSION ON CELL TOWER EXPANSION

- 12:47:19 Sen. Small opened discussion on the agenda item.
- 12:48:45 Mr. Spotted Elk commented on potential solutions for cell tower expansion.
- 12:49:19 Angel Becker, Northern Cheyenne Acting Disaster and Emergency Services (DES) Coordinator and Public Information Officer, commented on Emergency Services for the reservation.
- 12:53:27 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway asked Ms. Becker about hand-radios for emergency services. She followed by commenting on the cruciality of cell towers.
- 12:56:43 Sen. Small asked about the reservation's repeater system.

Public Comment on any matter within STRC's jurisdiction

12:57:53 Jade Bahr, Montana Budget Policy Center ([Exhibit 1](#))

Committee Questions/Discussion

13:00:31 President Serena Wetherelt commented on the issues that the committee and the Tribal Council spoke about during the meeting.

RECESS

13:01:38 Recess until Crow Agency meeting later on July 26, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

13:01:53 Sen. Small recessed the meeting until 3:30pm at Crow Agency.