



LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE

68th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Mary Ann Dunwell
Russel (Russ) Tempel
Jeremy Trebas
Terry Vermeire

HOUSE MEMBERS

Larry Brewster
Tom France
Steve Gist
Greg Oblander

COMMITTEE STAFF

Toni Henneman - Research Analyst
Julie Johnson - Attorney
Daniel Rosenberg - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

November 09, 2023
Capitol Room 137
Helena, 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:

Rep. Larry Brewster, Chair (R)
Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Tom France (D)
Rep. Steve Gist (R)
Rep. Greg Oblander (R)
Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel (R)
Sen. Jeremy Trebas (R)
Sen. Terry Vermeire (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Toni Henneman, Research Analyst
Julie Johnson, Attorney
Daniel Rosenberg, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

VISITORS' LIST ([Attachment 2](#))

COMMITTEE ACTION

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

09:00:17 Presiding Officer Larry Brewster called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

MEETING OVERVIEW

09:01:15 Toni Henneman, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

DEQ SUBDIVISIONS RULE UPDATE

09:03:55 Lindsey Krywaruchka, Water Quality Division Administrator, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

[EXHIBIT 1](#)

[EXHIBIT 2](#)

09:08:43 Rachel Clark, Engineering Bureau Chief, DEQ

Public Comment

09:21:21 None

Committee Questions/ Discussion

09:21:45 Rep. Oblander

09:22:18 Rep. France joined the meeting.

09:22:29 Vice Presiding Officer Dunwell

LAND USE LEGISLATION STUDY TOPIC

09:25:10 Toni Henneman

Senate Bill 382 Implementation Update

09:25:41 Kelly Lynch, Executive Director, Montana League of Cities and Towns

Public Comment

09:31:19 None

Committee Questions/ Discussion

09:31:27 Rep. Gist

09:32:06 Vice Presiding Officer Dunwell

09:33:01 Presiding Officer Brewster

09:33:28 Vice Presiding Officer Dunwell

RECESS

09:35:48 Reconvened at 9:52 a.m.

HOUSE BILL 819: HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

House Bill 819 Overview

09:52:37 Toni Henneman

[EXHIBIT 3](#)

Committee Questions/ Discussion

10:01:57 Sen. Tempel
10:03:04 Vice Presiding Officer Dunwell

Community Reinvestment Organization Program Update

10:04:25 Mark Blasdel, Economic Development Director, Governor's Office of Economic Development
[EXHIBIT 4](#)
10:14:19 Rep. Green, HD 41

State Trust Lands Development

10:18:05 Shawn Thomas, Forestry and Trust Lands Division Administrator, Department of Natural Resources (DNRC)
10:23:58 Ryan Weiss, Deputy Administrator for Trust Lands, DNRC
[EXHIBIT 5](#)

HOMES Program Update

10:36:53 Dan Villa, Executive Director, Montana Board of Investments (BOI)
[EXHIBIT 6](#)
[EXHIBIT 7](#)
[EXHIBIT 8](#)
[EXHIBIT 9](#)
[EXHIBIT 10](#)
[EXHIBIT 11](#)

Community Planning Grants update

10:42:07 Galen Steffens, Administrator, Department of Commerce Community MT Division

Other updates including the Coal Trust Home Loan Program

10:45:43 Beki Brandborg, Developer, Echo Enterprises
10:53:04 Alex Burkhalter, Founder, Housing Solutions
[EXHIBIT 12](#)

Public Comment

11:03:44 None

Committee Questions/ Discussion

11:04:08 Rep. Gist directed a question to Mark Blasdel.
11:05:42 Vice Presiding Officer Dunwell
11:08:50 Vice Presiding Officer Dunwell redirected a question to Rep. Green.
11:11:58 Rep. Oblander directed a question to Ryan Weiss.
11:17:00 Rep. Gist directed a question to Dan Villa.
11:18:43 Rep. France
11:24:06 Rep. France directed a question to Mark Blasdel.
11:28:09 Vice Presiding Officer Dunwell directed a question to Beki Brandborg and Alex Burkhalter.

11:32:51 Vice Presiding Officer Dunwell directed a question to Galen Steffens.

RECESS

11:37:50 Reconvened at 1:03 p.m.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROPERTY TAX STUDY TOPIC

Overview of Property Tax basics

13:03:46 Megan Moore, Research Analyst, LSD

[EXHIBIT 13](#)

[EXHIBIT 14](#)

Committee Questions/ Discussion

13:08:49 Rep. France

13:13:08 Vice Presiding Officer Dunwell

13:20:25 Rep. Gist

13:24:34 Rep. France

13:27:58 Rep. Gist

13:29:55 Rep. Oblander

Property Tax Limits

13:32:10 Megan Moore

[EXHIBIT 15](#)

[EXHIBIT 16](#)

15-10-420 overview, history, calculation exercise, and discussion

13:41:48 Megan Moore

Committee Questions/ Discussion

13:50:37 Vice Presiding Officer Dunwell

13:51:32 Toni Henneman

15-10-420 overview, history, calculation exercise, and discussion

14:14:50 Megan Moore

Committee Questions/ Discussion

14:20:06 Vice Presiding Officer Dunwell

14:21:31 Presiding Officer Brewster

14:22:06 Rep. France thanked the staff for the presentation.

Determination of newly taxable property

14:22:53 Bryce Kaatz, Bureau Chief, Property Assessment Division Department of Revenue (DOR)

[EXHIBIT 17](#)

Committee Questions/ Discussion

14:28:45 Vice Presiding Officer Dunwell

15-10-420 History and Discussion

14:30:19 Bob Story, Former Legislator
[EXHIBIT 18](#)
[EXHIBIT 19](#)
[EXHIBIT 20](#) (handout)

Committee Questions/ Discussion

14:55:04 Vice Presiding Officer Dunwell
15:02:13 Rep. Oblander
15:03:52 Vice Presiding Officer Dunwell

Public Comment

15:07:09 Rose Bender, Montana Budget and Policy Center
[EXHIBIT 21](#) (handout)
[EXHIBIT 22](#) (handout)

RECESS

15:08:19 Reconvened at 3:21 p.m.

Public Comment

15:21:34 Susan Nicosia, City Manager, Columbia Falls

LITIGATION UPDATE

15:25:35 Julie Johnson, Staff Attorney, LSD
[EXHIBIT 23](#)

Public Comment

15:32:11 None

SENATE BILL 332 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

Overview

15:32:15 Toni Henneman
[EXHIBIT 24](#)
[EXHIBIT 25](#)

Implementation Discussion

15:35:39 Nancy Everson, Governmental Finance Director, Montana Association of Counties (MACO)

Committee Questions/ Discussion

15:38:23 Rep. Gist
15:39:17 Rep. France
15:40:48 Rep. Oblander
15:42:04 Presiding Officer Brewster
15:42:40 Vice Presiding Officer Dunwell
15:43:44 Presiding Officer Brewster

15:45:15 Sen. Tempel
15:46:02 Vice Presiding Officer Dunwell
15:47:10 Presiding Officer Brewster

Implementation Discussion

15:47:38 Kelly Lynch

Committee Questions/ Discussion

15:51:27 Rep. Oblander
15:52:37 Presiding Officer Brewster
15:52:46 Vice Presiding Officer Dunwell

Public Comment

15:53:36 None

COMMITTEE WORK SESSION

Review Timeline

15:53:40 Toni Henneman
[EXHIBIT 26](#)

Motion

16:00:39 Rep. Oblander moved to meet jointly with the Revenue Interim Committee on the afternoon of January 23, 2024, as mentioned by Toni Henneman in the Committee Timeline.

Vote

16:00:50 The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Further Directions to staff

16:01:00 Toni Henneman

Committee Questions/ Discussion

16:01:18 Sen. Trebas
16:02:10 Sen. Tempel
16:03:16 Presiding Officer Brewster
16:03:49 Vice Presiding Officer Dunwell
16:06:21 Rep. France
16:09:01 Rep. Gist
16:09:58 Rep. Oblander
16:11:02 Toni Henneman
16:13:33 Rep. Gist
16:14:17 Toni Henneman
16:14:43 Presiding Officer Brewster
16:18:02 Toni Henneman

PUBLIC COMMENT on any item in LGIC's subject matter jurisdiction

16:18:55 None

ADJOURNMENT

16:19:04 Presiding Officer Brewster adjourned the meeting at 4:19 p.m.