



## 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

Laura Sankey - Attorney  
Daniel Collins - Secretary  
Pad McCracken - Research Analyst

# MINUTES LOG

October 07, 2021  
Great Falls, 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. Frank Smith (D)  
Sen. Bob Brown (R)  
Rep. Tyson Running Wolf, Chair (D)  
Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R)  
Sen. Jason Small, Vice Chair (R)

#### **MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Sen. Mike Fox (D)  
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)  
Rep. Joe Read (R)  
Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy (D)  
Sen. Susan Webber (D)

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Jameson Walker, Attorney  
Bri Nordhagen, Secretary  
Pad McCracken, Research Analyst

## **AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))**

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

## **COMMITTEE ACTION - none**

### **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

- 10:50:17 Chair Running Wolf called the meeting to order at 10:50 AM. The committee secretary took roll.
- 11:06:05 Meet with the Little Shell Tribal Council.
- 11:16:23 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway asked the committee: (1) if they've had to purchase land again now that they are federally recognized, and (2) the difference between Indian country and Indian property boundaries, and how that affects the city of Great Falls.
- 11:19:23 Sen. Brown asked if the plan was to distribute tribal revenue back out to the people.
- 11:23:14 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway asked: (1) about how someone becomes certified with the Little Shell if they don't live here today, (2) how many children in the Great Falls school system are Little Shell members, (3) do you find children a part of the tribe are getting a good education through the Great Falls school system, (4) how to reconcile tribes and children in the foster care system, and (5) what does tobacco mean as a gift/gesture.
- 11:33:40 Sen Brown asked if the Little Shell tribe has the same issues regarding missing persons, drug use, suicide rates, incarceration.
- 11:42:54 Rep. Smith asked Council Chairman Gray if they have a history on Little Shell.
- 11:47:39 Chair Running Wolf asked what have the council members seen as the benefits of the land in fee status, and if they want to keep it that way. Chair Running Wolf followed up asking if it was beneficial for individuals to use land as collateral.
- 11:50:32 Sen. Brown asked if there were any other tribes within the state doing that or if that concept that needs to be promoted.
- 11:56:21 Recess for lunch.
- 12:50:22 Reconvened.

### **Public comment on any matter not contained in this agenda and that is within the jurisdiction of the STRC**

- 12:51:03 Leah Wetzel, Montana's Peer Network shared her experience with addiction, incarceration, and recovery and her work now as a recovery coach
- 12:57:27 Sen. Brown asked where the incarceration system could be fixed

### **Governor's Office of Indian Affairs Update**

Misty Kuhl, Director of Indian Affairs, Office of the Governor's Office of Montana

- 13:07:05 Rep. Running Wolf asked Ms. Kuhl (1) how do you feel the data is on the tribes' economic contributions to the state, (2) is the governor's office on making it easier to streamline data being put into place through the system, is the workload too broad, does it need to be narrowed down, and (3) when is the decennial report due and when will it be finished.
- 13:15:12 Eli Clarkson, Attorney for the Montana Department of Transportation.

13:17:13 Lesa Evers, Tribal Relations Manager for the Montana Public Health and Human Services.

13:18:58 Maria Valandra Office of Indian Country Economic Development, Montana Department of Commerce. ([Exhibit 1](#))

13:24:51 Rep. Sheldon Galloway asked Ms. Valandra about (1) the impact study, (2) funds represented in the study, (3) businesses owned outside the reservation but owned from within, (4) financial transparency, (5) the initiation of the data study.

13:29:59 Rep. Running Wolf asked how much money is being brought into Montana from the tribes.

13:31:10 Sheldon Galloway asked about the report.

13:34:15 Sen. Small asked Mr. McCracken if he could bring the bill tomorrow for the meeting.

13:34:53 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway asked (1) can the committee demand every tribe report what the committee wants and (2) what's the resistance for the committee to know.

13:37:37 Kqyn Kuka, Tribal Liaison for Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks.

13:43:08 Rep. Sheldon Galloway asked why hunting can't happen on fee-land.

13:45:45 Jennifer Buckley, Chippewa Cree Tribe, Board of Crime Control, State Victim Liaison

13:48:01 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway asked Ms. Buckley about victims within the whole state or just within the reservations.

13:48:48 Harlan Trombley, American Indian Liaison for the Montana Department of Corrections. ([Exhibit 2](#)) ([Exhibit 3](#))

13:52:54 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway asked about the progress and success of drug courts.

13:53:45 Sen. Small asked how hard it is to coordinate different religious groups to have their own space to practice their beliefs.

#### **Staff updates and committee work session**

Mr. McCracken reviewed the draft work plan ([Exhibit 4](#))

14:06:03 Mr. McCracken went over the work plan outline ([Exhibit 5](#))

14:08:29 BREAK

14:18:14 Reconvened Mr. McCracken went through the fee-to-trust conversion materials. ([Exhibit 6](#)) ([Exhibit 7](#)) ([Exhibit 8](#))

14:30:10 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway asked if there was a possibility to read on all the reservations to see the treaties so research could be done

14:52:53 Rep. Sheldon Galloway asked where the idea came from that reservations would eventually not exist under the Dawes Act.

15:00:08 Rep. Running Wolf asked if it was known where the Ravalli county parcel was.

15:00:27 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway asked about a park that Little Shell is buying.

15:16:47 Pad McCracken discussed One-Time Only (OTO) funding. ([Exhibit 9](#))

15:22:07 Sen. Small asked how long that has been in effect.

15:23:53 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway asked if there is a right for transparency in the programs if they are funded.

15:27:10 IEFA litigation update, Jameson Walker Legislative Services Attorney.

15:32:05 Redistricting update. ([Exhibit 10](#))

15:49:00      Public Comment – None.  
15:49:14      Recess.