

Videoconferencing & Remote Testimony

Legislative Council
February 9, 2016

Alaska

- ▶ Alaska (public testimony/session):
 - Telephone in most locations
 - Video in 3 largest sites (rarely used)
 - Uses Cisco Systems WebEx – installed 1999
 - At peak, 7 simultaneous feeds
 - 2014: 5,000 hours and 4,215 people in 90 days
 - All meetings have a moderator from the Legislative Information Office (21) locations in each site – some staff is session only

Colorado

- ▶ Colorado (public testimony/session):
 - Video conferencing technology – no need to televise or for public to see members as long as they can hear
 - May enter into agreements with Higher ed or resources, including facilities, equipment, & staff
 - \$135,354 and 1.0 FTE, \$300,00 for equipment and \$1,000 month for remote locations
 - Strict Exec. Committee Policies (would provide good example to start)

Hawaii

- Hawaii State Senate: Neighbor Island Videoconferencing Pilot Program (public testimony/session)
 - Since '13: Senate will continue our Videoconferencing (SVC) Pilot Project for 2016 session. In 2016, the SVC Pilot Project will give state and county departments, agencies, and constituents the opportunity to testify remotely via videoconference for measures during most hearings of the Committee on Economic Development, Environment, and Technology (other committees assigned to Room 414 may be incorporating videoconference presentations and other online meeting tools in selected informational briefings during the 2016 legislative session.)
 - Hearing notices for the pilot project hearings indicate if videoconferencing testimony allowed and contain a link to instructions for the public on how to participate
 - Requires application 24 hours prior & submittal of written testimony

Wyoming

- ▶ Wyoming Interim Video Conferencing
 - Committee video and telephone conferencing
 - Requires permission of Presiding Officer and Committee Chair
 - Requires use of a specific room and dependent on availability & resources
 - Costs charged to interim committee budget
 - Video – up to 5 sites using State Wyo Video Conferencing System, Dept. of Ed Wyoming Equality Network & Dept. of Admin & Information system
 - 5 types:
 - Public testimony– video only
 - Expert testimony– video or telephone
 - Video conference for legislators unable to attend meetings
 - Entire Committee may meet via video conference
 - Special events

Wyoming

- ▶ “Thanks to a legislative videoconferencing pilot program, some State Capitol committee hearings will be broadcast to eight remote locations around the state. The two-way system not only allows Wyomingites around the state to see committee hearings live, it allows residents to share their views with the committee, even if they're hundreds of miles away.
- ▶ Only a fraction of the committee meetings held this session will be available via videoconferencing. That's because only one State Capitol committee room is wired to handle the technology, and scheduling limits mean that only meetings on Thursdays between 7–10 a.m. and noon–2 p.m. will be available on the system.” *Star-Tribune, Feb. 2010*

Our and others' experience

- ▶ Nevada and Kentucky use for individual legislators to participate in meetings or simultaneous meeting between locations.
- ▶ Montana Senate Local Government Committee held 6 public hearings via videoconferencing in 2005. Originated from Room 472. Other locations included colleges of Tech, High Schools, health care facilities around the state.
- ▶ Various groups have held regular videoconferences with folks back home, via Rm 472, for many sessions.
- ▶ Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission held videoconferences in last round.
- ▶ Other interim committees have received expert testimony via videoconferencing.

Considerations

- ▶ Interim or Session
- ▶ Various uses: for legislator members, public, expert testimony, etc.
- ▶ Public notice and participation requirements
- ▶ Quorum in at least one location (when members are in different locations)
- ▶ Staff requirements
- ▶ Minutes
- ▶ Cost
- ▶ Type of technology
- ▶ Rooms and/or public must be equipped – most states have few rooms (1-3)
- ▶ Application required to testify in advance
- ▶ Rules and policies set forth: permission, advance registration, written testimony, etc.

Montana Stats

- ▶ 22 communities are over 250 miles from Helena
- ▶ 10 communities are over 250 miles from Billings or Helena
 - 8 in Eastern Montana –Culbertson, Ekalaka, Glasgow, Plentywood, Poplar, Scobey, Sidney, Wolf Point – within approx. 116–218 miles of Miles City
 - 2 in Northwestern Montana –Eureka, Libby – within 64–88 miles of Kalispell

Technologies Used

- ▶ Montana Leg has used Webex (limited free version) for expert testimony
- ▶ Options in Montana: ITSD SummitNet (have current subscription)
- ▶ GoToWebinar – Hawaii
- ▶ Cicso Meeting Place – Webex – Alaska
- ▶ Skype – Minnesota, Texas

SummitNet Sites

City	Capacity	Location
Billings	24	Montana State University-Billings 1500 University Dr. College of Ed Bldg., Rm. 158
Boulder	10	Montana Developmental Center Administration Building, Room 123; 310 E. 4th Street, 59632
Bozeman	30	Montana State University-Bozeman Engineering Physical Science Bldg. (EPS), Rm 126, Corner of S. 7th and Grant, 59717
Butte	12 to 15	Montana Tech of the University of Montana Health Science Bldg. Rm 008, 1300 West Park St, 59701
Dillon	12	Western Montana College of the University of Montana-Dillon Swysgood Technology Center STC, Room 201 (2nd Floor), 710 S. Atlantic, 59725
Great Falls	24	Montana State University College of Technology-Great Falls Rm B133, 2100 16th Ave. S., 59405
Havre	18	Montana State University-Northern, Havre Hagener Science Center, Rm 202, 300 11th St W, 59501
Helena	13	Mitchell Bldg. 125 N. Roberts, Room 13A, Helena, MT 59620 25 Helena College of Technology of The University of Montana Rm 208, 1115 N. Roberts, 59601 12 Department of Public Health and Human Services Rm C-209 1400 Broadway 59620
Kalispell	148	The DPHHS Auditorium is available by calling 444-3130. 30 Flathead Valley Community College Learning Resource Center, Rm 120 777 Grandview Dr, 59901
Miles City	40	Miles Community College Rm 313, 2715 Dickinson, 59301
Missoula	30	University of Montana-Missoula Gallagher Bldg, Rm 104, Corner of Arthur & Eddy, 59812

Additional accessible sites

Montana Tribal Colleges	Eastern Montana Telemedicine Network (EMTN) (657-4870)	REACH Montana Telemedicine Network (455-5588)	Montana Partners in Health Telemedicine Network (237-8654)
Salish Kootenai College, Pablo	Baker	(455-5588)	Absarokee
	Big Timber	Big Sandy	Ashland
	Billings	Box Elder	Billings
	Colstrip	Chester	Bozeman
	Columbus	Chinook	Butte
	Culbertson	Choteau	Dillon
	Forsyth	Conrad	Hardin
	Glasgow	Cut Bank	Harlowton
	Glendive	Fort Benton	Helena
	Helena	Great Falls	Lewistown
	Livingston	Havre	Miles City
	Malta	Shelby	Red Lodge
	Miles City	White Sulphur Springs	Roundup
	Plentywood		Stanford
	Poplar		Cody, WY
	Red Lodge		Sheridan, WY
	Scobey		
	Sidney		

Questions, comments...

- ▶ Council member discussion
- ▶ Directions to staff