



## STATE TRIBAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

### 69th Montana Legislature

#### SENATE MEMBERS

Josh Kassmier  
Gayle Lammers  
Susan Webber  
Jonathan Windy Boy

#### HOUSE MEMBERS

Lyn Bennett  
Shelly Fyant  
Terry Nelson  
Tyson Running Wolf  
Curtis Schomer  
Jade Sooktis

#### COMMITTEE STAFF

Maddie Krezowski - Legal Staff  
Casey Pallister - Lead Staff  
Maddelyn Pennington - Secretary

# MINUTES LOG

December 09, 2025  
Room 137 & Zoom  
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.

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:

Rep. Tyson Running Wolf, Presiding Officer (D)  
Sen. Gayle Lammers, Vice Presiding Officer (R)  
Rep. Lyn Bennett (R)  
Rep. Shelly Fyant (D)  
Sen. Josh Kassmier (R)  
Rep. Terry Nelson (R)  
Rep. Curtis Schomer (R)  
Rep. Jade Sooktis (D)  
Sen. Susan Webber (D)  
Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

#### MEMBERS EXCUSED:

#### MEMBERS ABSENT:

#### STAFF PRESENT:

Maddie Krezowski, Legal Staff  
Casey Pallister, Lead Staff  
Maddelyn Pennington, Secretary

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

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

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

08:59:37 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf called the meeting to order at 9:07 AM.  
The committee secretary took roll.

### **STAFF UPDATES**

09:00:33 Maddelyn Pennington, Secretary, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
09:00:55 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf  
09:01:20 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy  
09:02:57 Casey Pallister, Lead Staff, LSD

[EXHIBIT 1](#)

[EXHIBIT 2](#)

[EXHIBIT 3](#)

[EXHIBIT 4](#)

[EXHIBIT 5](#)

[EXHIBIT 6](#)

[EXHIBIT 7](#)

[EXHIBIT 8](#)

[EXHIBIT 9](#)

### **NATIVE AMERICAN TUITION WAIVER: OVERVIEW & RECENT CHANGES**

09:07:43 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf  
09:08:17 Galen Hollenbaugh, Deputy Commissioner for Government Relations & Communications, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE)  
09:15:27 Joe Thiel, Deputy Commissioner, Academic Research and Student Affairs, OCHE

### **Committee Questions / Discussion**

09:21:22 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy  
09:21:44 Joe Theil, OCHE  
09:22:21 Galen Hollenbaugh, OCHE  
09:25:44 Sen. Susan Webber  
09:26:02 Joe Theil, OCHE  
09:27:48 Galen Hollenbaugh, OCHE  
09:28:17 Rep. Curtis Schomer  
09:28:34 Joe Theil, OCHE  
09:30:29 Rep. Shelly Fyant  
09:32:11 Joe Theil, OCHE  
09:35:09 Sen. Susan Webber  
09:35:50 Joe Theil, OCHE

09:37:02 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy  
09:39:09 Rep. Jade Sooktis  
09:39:21 Joe Theil, OCHE  
09:40:38 Vice Presiding Officer Gayle Lammers  
09:41:25 Joe Theil, OCHE  
09:43:12 Sen. Susan Webber  
09:43:42 Joe Theil, OCHE  
09:43:50 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf  
09:44:17 Galen Hollenbaugh, OCHE  
09:45:29 Joe Theil, OCHE

**Public Comment**

09:50:02 None

**PROPOSAL FOR DISPLAY OF CHIEF EARL OLD PERSON BUST IN THE CAPITOL ROTUNDA**

09:51:37 Sen. Susan Webber  
(See Exhibit 4)  
09:55:07 Casey Pallister, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
[EXHIBIT 10](#)  
(See Exhibit 4)

**Public Comment**

09:58:33 Jonnalea Tatsey– St. Goddard, Montana Electric Cooperative Association

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

09:59:33 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy  
10:00:13 Casey Pallister, LSD  
10:01:04 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf  
10:01:36 Sen. Susan Webber  
10:02:41 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf

10:03:30 **Recessed**

10:22:36 **Reconvened**

**MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS PERSONS: STRC PROPOSAL FOR TRAINING & CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT**

10:22:53 Sen. Josh Kassmier left the meeting during recess.  
10:24:47 Casey Pallister, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
[EXHIBIT 11](#)  
[EXHIBIT 12](#)  
(See Exhibit 5)

10:25:41 Katie Bloodgood, Legislative Liaison, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)  
[EXHIBIT 13](#)  
[EXHIBIT 14](#)  
[EXHIBIT 15](#)  
[EXHIBIT 16](#)

**Public Comment**

10:31:18 None

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

10:31:46 Sen. Susan Webber  
10:32:34 Katie Bloodgood, OPI  
10:33:32 Rep. Curtis Schomer  
10:34:02 Katie Bloodgood, OPI  
10:34:15 Vice Presiding Officer Gayle Lammers  
10:34:34 Katie Bloodgood, OPI  
10:35:25 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf  
10:35:33 Katie Bloodgood, OPI

10:38:41 **Recessed**

10:59:17 **Reconvened**

**UPDATES FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

10:59:32 Misty Kuhl, Director, Office of Indian Affairs

**Public Comment**

11:13:10 None

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

11:13:29 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy  
11:18:58 Dir. Misty Kuhl, Office of Indian Affairs  
11:23:22 Sen. Susan Webber  
11:24:18 Dir. Misty Kuhl, Office of Indian Affairs  
11:25:52 Rep. Shelly Fyant  
11:26:11 Dir. Misty Kuhl, Office of Indian Affairs  
11:31:11 Vice Presiding Officer Gayle Lammers  
11:32:21 Dir. Misty Kuhl, Office of Indian Affairs  
11:36:18 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf  
11:36:28 Dir. Misty Kuhl, Office of Indian Affairs

**AGENCY UPDATES**

11:36:56 Heidi DeRoche, Tribal Relations Manager, Department of Public Health &

Human Services (DPHHS)

[EXHIBIT 17](#)

11:52:03 Linda Bearcrane-Couture, Anti-Human Trafficking Coordinator, Department of Corrections (DOC)  
11:58:49 Mitchell Couture, Indigenous Programming Liaison, DOC  
12:07:15 Nina Sanders, Curator of Indigenous Collections, Montana Historical Society (MHS)

**Public Comment**

12:21:18 None

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

12:21:33 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf  
12:21:45 Heidi DeRoche, DPHHS  
12:22:07 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy  
12:22:28 Mitchell Couture, DOC

12:25:32 **Recessed**

14:37:00 **Reconvened**

**STATE-TRIBAL CONSULTATION: OVERVIEW AND STUDY PRIMER**

14:37:01 Rep. Curtis Schomer left the meeting during recess.  
14:37:29 Casey Pallister, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
[EXHIBIT 18](#)

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

14:40:52 Vice Presiding Officer Gayle Lammers  
14:41:55 Sen. Susan Webber  
14:43:32 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy  
14:44:19 Rep. Shelly Fyant

**STATE-TRIBAL CONSULTATION: OVERVIEW AND STUDY PRIMER - Continued**

14:45:14 Casey Pallister, LSD  
(See Exhibit 8)  
(See Exhibit 18)

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

14:50:14 Sen. Susan Webber

**STATE-TRIBAL CONSULTATION: OVERVIEW AND STUDY PRIMER - Continued**

14:50:28 Casey Pallister, LSD  
[EXHIBIT 19](#)  
(See Exhibit 6)

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

14:55:15 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy  
14:55:55 Rep. Shelly Fyant  
14:56:02 Casey Pallister, LSD  
14:57:06 Sen. Susan Webber  
14:59:45 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf  
15:03:03 Sen. Susan Webber  
15:05:01 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy  
15:06:19 Rep. Shelly Fyant  
15:06:42 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf  
15:07:41 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy

**Public Comment**

15:09:26 None

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 29: STUDY COORDINATING EFFORTS BETWEEN OPI AND DPHHS IN ADDRESSING IMPACTS ON CHILDREN OF PRENATAL EXPOSURE TO METH AND FENTANYL**

15:10:02 Casey Pallister, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
[EXHIBIT 20](#)  
(See Exhibit 7)  
15:12:32 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy  
15:16:41 Heidi DeRoche, Tribal Relations Manager, Department of Public Health & Human Services (DPHHS)  
15:20:09 Kathy Deserly, American Indian Child & Family Program Officer, DPHHS  
15:26:05 Patrick Cates, Senior Manager of Special Education, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)  
15:27:59 Rep. Jade Sooktis left the meeting.

**Public Comment**

15:29:50 Lance Four Star, Wolf Point

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

15:34:34 Patrick Cates, OPI  
15:35:34 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy  
15:37:07 Sen. Susan Webber  
15:40:31 Rep. Lyn Bennett  
15:41:12 Vice Presiding Officer Gayle Lammers  
15:41:47 Patrick Cates, OPI  
15:42:30 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf  
15:42:48 Heidi DeRoche, DPHHS  
15:45:28 Patrick Cates, OPI

## **COMMITTEE WORK SESSION, APPROVAL OF WORK PLAN, NEXT STEPS**

### **Proposed Meeting Schedule**

15:46:31 Casey Pallister, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
(See Exhibit 1)

### **Committee Questions / Discussion**

15:48:45 Sen. Susan Webber

### **Motion**

15:49:23 Rep. Shelly Fyant moved to approve the proposed meeting schedule.

### **Vote**

15:49:26 Carried unanimously by voice vote.  
Sen. Josh Kassmier voting 'yes' by proxy.

## **COMMITTEE WORK SESSION, APPROVAL OF WORK PLAN, NEXT STEPS – Continued**

### **Work Plan**

15:50:05 Casey Pallister, LSD  
15:50:58 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf

### **Committee Questions / Discussion**

15:51:18 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy  
15:51:37 Casey Pallister, LSD  
15:51:49 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf

## **COMMITTEE WORK SESSION, APPROVAL OF WORK PLAN, NEXT STEPS - Continued**

### **Senate Joint Resolution 29**

15:52:40 Casey Pallister, LSD

### **Committee Questions / Discussion**

15:54:41 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy  
15:54:58 Casey Pallister, LSD  
15:56:00 Sen. Susan Webber  
15:57:41 Rep. Lyn Bennett  
15:58:09 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy  
15:58:46 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf

## **COMMITTEE WORK SESSION, APPROVAL OF WORK PLAN, NEXT STEPS - Continued**

### **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP)**

15:59:44 Casey Pallister, LSD

### **Committee Questions / Discussion**

16:00:35 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf  
16:01:13 Sen. Susan Webber

16:04:13 Rep. Shelly Fyant  
16:05:08 Rep. Lyn Bennett  
16:05:27 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf  
16:05:53 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy  
16:07:30 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf  
16:07:50 Casey Pallister, LSD

**Motion**

16:08:40 Rep. Lyn Bennett moved to adopt the final workplan as proposed.

**Vote**

16:08:48 Carried unanimously by voice vote.  
Sen. Josh Kassmier voting 'yes' by proxy.

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

16:09:08 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf  
16:09:35 Vice Presiding Officer Gayle Lammers

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MATTER NOT CONTAINED IN THIS AGENDA AND THAT IS  
WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE STATE TRIBAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE (STRC)**

16:10:15 Lance Four Star, Wolf Point  
06:11:46 Callie Parr, Zero to Five Montana

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 16:14:50