



## 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

February 10, 2026  
Capitol Room 102 & 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.

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### 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**

- 09:01:50 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.  
The committee secretary took roll.
- 09:02:49 Rep. Terry Nelson
- 09:03:13 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf

#### **STAFF UPDATES**

- 09:04:15 Casey Pallister, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
[EXHIBIT 1](#)  
[EXHIBIT 2](#)
- 09:09:30 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf
- 09:09:38 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy
- 09:11:46 Sen. Susan Webber

#### **TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES PANEL DISCUSSION ON STATE-TRIBAL CONSULTATION Update on Montana American Indian Caucus**

- 09:12:21 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf
- 09:14:58 Rep. Shelly Fyant

#### **History of Topic and Introductions**

- 09:16:41 Casey Pallister, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
(See Exhibits 1 & 2)
- 09:22:56 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf

#### **Main Panel Discussion**

- 09:25:31 Delina Cuts the Rope, Planning Director, Fort Belknap Indian Community

#### **Committee Questions / Discussion**

- 09:36:29 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf
- 09:36:46 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy

#### **Main Panel Discussion - Continued**

- 09:37:23 Tony Incashola Jr., Director of Tribal Resource Management, Confederated  
Salish & Kootenai Tribes (CSKT)
- 09:48:42 Kathryn 'Katie' McDonald, Tribal Relations Specialist, CSKT
- 09:59:43 Steven Small Jr., Chief Appellate and Chief Constitutional Judge, Northern  
Cheyenne Appellate and Constitutional Courts
- 10:09:47 Jordan Thompson, Attorney and former Executive Director, CSKT
- 10:14:57 Len Two Teeth, Board of Directors, Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council,  
CSKT

**Public Comment**

10:33:15 Cher Old Elk, Fort Belknap Indian Community

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

10:47:20 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy  
10:55:08 Rep. Curtis Schomer  
10:55:20 Judge Steven Small, Northern Cheyenne Appellate and Constitutional Courts  
10:56:49 Tony Incashola Jr., CSKT  
10:58:59 Sen. Susan Webber  
10:59:43 Casey Pallister, LSD  
11:00:43 Judge Steven Small, Northern Cheyenne Appellate and Constitutional Courts  
11:03:21 Rep. Shelly Fyant  
11:08:18 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf  
11:09:00 Katie McDonald, CSKT  
11:12:57 Rep. Terry Nelson  
11:16:06 Katie McDonald, CSKT  
11:19:44 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf  
11:23:03 Rep. Terry Nelson  
11:24:00 Tony Incashola Jr., CSKT  
11:32:46 Sen. Susan Webber  
11:34:53 Cher Old Elk, Fort Belknap Indian Community  
11:39:07 Tony Incashola Jr., CSKT  
11:41:15 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy  
11:47:36 Katie McDonald, CSKT  
11:50:28 Cher Old Elk, Fort Belknap Indian Community  
11:51:58 Rep. Shelly Fyant  
11:54:46 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf  
  
11:55:22 **Recessed**  
13:30:09 **Reconvened**

**OREGON'S "TASK FORCE ON TRIBAL CONSULTATION"**

13:30:16 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf  
13:30:53 Patrick Flanagan, Executive Director, Oregon Legislative Commission on Indian Affairs (LCIS)

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

13:43:03 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy  
13:43:56 Dir. Patrick Flanagan, LCIS  
13:46:55 Sen. Susan Webber  
13:47:49 Dir. Patrick Flanagan, LCIS  
13:54:07 Rep. Lyn Bennett

- 13:54:47 Dir. Patrick Flanagan, LCIS  
13:59:35 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf left the meeting, Vice Presiding Officer Gayle Lammers assumed the position of Presiding Officer.

**UPDATE FROM THE NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES AND REPATRIATION ACT (NAGPRA) TEAM AT UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA (UM)**

**Introductions**

- 13:59:49 Vice Presiding Officer Gayle Lammers  
14:00:21 Sen. Josh Kassmier left the meeting.  
14:00:51 Dr. Kelly J. Dixon, Professor, Department of Anthropology, UM  
14:02:58 Lisa Hunt, PhD Candidate, NAGPRA-Repatriation Specialist and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) Liaison Team Leader, UM  
14:04:03 Mikalen Running Fisher, PhD Student, Blackfeet Historic Preservation Office Liaison, Collections and Repatriation Specialist, UM  
14:05:39 Jennifer Wilkinson, Student Liaison, Rocky Boy THPO

**Presentation**

- 14:06:09 Dr. Kelly J. Dixon, UM  
[EXHIBIT 3](#)  
[EXHIBIT 4](#)  
[EXHIBIT 5](#)

**Public Comment**

- 14:22:34 None

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

- 14:22:51 Sen. Susan Webber  
14:23:55 Dr. Kelly J. Dixon, UM  
14:27:08 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy  
14:31:23 Vice Presiding Officer Gayle Lammers

**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY (DLI) UPDATE: TRADES, CERTIFICATION, AND OUTREACH**

- 14:32:38 Alicia Doney, Tribal Youth Outreach Coordinator, DLI  
[EXHIBIT 6](#)  
[EXHIBIT 7](#)

**Public Comment**

- 14:41:10 None

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

- 14:41:24 Rep. Curtis Schomer  
14:42:30 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy  
14:44:25 Sen. Susan Webber  
14:44:43 Alicia Doney, DLI

14:46:50 Rep. Shelly Fyant  
14:47:03 Alicia Doney, DLI  
14:48:07 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy  
14:51:50 Vice Presiding Officer Gayle Lammers

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 29 STUDY: THE MEADOWLARK INITIATIVE**

14:52:55 Tressie White, Program Director, The Meadowlark Initiative, Montana Healthcare Foundation

[EXHIBIT 8](#)

**Public Comment**

15:13:22 None

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

15:13:33 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy  
15:17:17 Rep. Shelly Fyant  
15:17:39 Tressie White, The Meadowlark Initiative, Montana Healthcare Foundation  
15:21:42 Rep. Curtis Schomer  
15:22:11 Tressie White, The Meadowlark Initiative, Montana Healthcare Foundation  
15:26:00 Vice Presiding Officer Gayle Lammers  
15:26:27 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy  
15:26:40 Casey Pallister, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

**UPDATE ON MONTANA MISSING INDIGENOUS PERSONS (MMIP) EDUCATION**

15:27:08 Casey Pallister, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

**Public Comment**

15:30:53 None

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

15:31:07 Sen. Susan Webber  
15:31:32 Casey Pallister, LSD  
15:34:37 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy  
15:38:01 Rep. Shelly Fyant  
15:39:35 Sen. Susan Webber  
15:40:00 Casey Pallister, LSD  
15:40:37 Vice Presiding Officer Gayle Lammers

**MEMBER TOPIC: RACIAL PROFILING & MONTANA STATUTE 44-2-117**

15:41:03 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy

[EXHIBIT 9](#)

**Public Comment**

15:44:19 Lance Four Star, Wolf Point

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

15:47:13 Rep. Shelly Fyant  
15:53:47 Vice Presiding Officer Gayle Lammers  
15:55:05 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy  
15:57:02 Rep. Curtis Schomer

**COMMITTEE WORK SESSION**

**Research & Work Plan**

16:00:48 Casey Pallister, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

16:04:17 Vice Presiding Officer Gayle Lammers  
16:04:27 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy  
16:05:49 Casey Pallister, LSD  
16:08:21 Rep. Curtis Schomer  
16:09:56 Vice Presiding Officer Gayle Lammers  
16:11:13 Casey Pallister, LSD  
16:11:54 Rep. Shelly Fyant  
16:13:17 Vice Presiding Officer Gayle Lammers  
16:14:04 Sen. Susan Webber  
16:14:48 Vice Presiding Officer Gayle Lammers

**Travel Preview**

16:15:38 Casey Pallister, LSD  
16:16:49 Vice Presiding Officer Gayle Lammers  
16:17:48 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy  
16:19:03 Rep. Shelly Fyant

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

16:20:22 Lance Four Star, Wolf Point

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

16:25:36 Vice Presiding Officer Gayle Lammers  
16:26:00 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy

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

16:26:29 Jade Bahr, Montana Budget and Policy Center (MBPC)

16:27:52 Mitchell Couture, Indigenous Programming Liaison, Department of Corrections (DOC)

[EXHIBIT 10](#)

[EXHIBIT 11](#)

16:34:11 Vice Presiding Officer Gayle Lammers

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 16:34:55