Legislative Branch
Computer System Planning Council

59th Montana Legislature

MEMBERSHIP
LOIS MENZIES, CHAIRPERSON
SEN. JOHN BRUEGGEMAN
SEN. BRENT CROMLEY
SEN. RICK MAEDJE

MEMBERSHIP
MARILYN MILLER
SCOTT SEACAT
CLAYTON SCHENCK
DICK CLARK

COMMITTEE STAFF
HENRY C. TRENK
    DIRECTOR OLIT, LSD

MINUTES

April 26, 2006
Room 4B, State Capitol
Helena, Montana

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed. **Exhibits for this meeting are available upon request. Legislative Council policy requires a charge of 15 cents a page for copies of documents.**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative John Brueggeman
Senator Brent Cromley, via teleconference
Representative Rick Maedje, via teleconference
Marilyn Miller, Chief Clerk, House of Representatives
Lois Menzies, Chairperson, Executive Director, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
Clayton Schenck, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)
Scott Seacat, Legislative Auditor, Legislative Audit Division (LAD)
Jeff Brandt, Deputy Chief Information Officer, Information Tech Services Division (ITSD)

STAFF PRESENT

Hank Trenk, Director, Office of Information Technology, LSD
Jeanette Nordahl, Network Manager, Office of Legislative Information Technology, LSD
Karen Berger, Financial Services Manager, LSD

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Lois Menzies called the meeting to order and invited members and staff to introduce themselves. Senator Cromley and Representative Maedje participated via teleconference.

REPORT ON LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL INPUT

Hank Trenk reported on feedback received from Legislative Council (LC) committee members during a discussion of information technology initiatives at the LC's March meeting. Committee members expressed interest in a legislator web page which would enable legislators to access agendas, bill text, fiscal notes, and amendments using links consolidated on a single web page. The web page would facilitate movement toward a paperless chamber and eventually tie to vote systems. In addition, Council members expressed interest in a voucher system, or similar assistance to legislators, for the purchase of laptop computers.

Marilyn Miller commented that there were two representatives who did not receive printed packets of bills during the 2005 session, and who worked strictly from agendas and text available via computer.

Representative Brueggeman suggested considering a technology stipend or voucher system, up to a specified dollar amount, to provide technological support to legislators. The stipend would not be tied to the purchase of a laptop computer, but could be used for software, communication devices, or other technology to increase legislator effectiveness.   Jeff Brandt observed that there may be tax implications related to such a stipend.

Scott Seacat commented that Anderson Zurmuehlen & Co. has an incentive package in place and suggested staff inquire about the details.

Representative Brueggeman stated that a stipend, as opposed to the state purchase of laptops for legislators, would partially address issues related to public disclosure of information stored on the computer. Senator Cromley agreed that a technology incentive for legislators, in some form, would be a good idea. Representative Maedje expressed concern that legislators may not be able to purchase equipment up front, and any incentive or voucher system should include the ability to provide advance assistance rather than reimbursement only.

Lois Menzies stated that staff would develop options and report back to the Planning Council.

IDENTIFICATION OF IT PROJECTS AND BUDGET INITIATIVES FOR THE 2009 BIENNIUM

Review of proposed projects and initiatives
Hank Trenk provided a list of Potential Branch IT Projects/Initiatives (EXHIBIT #1) and discussed items with committee members. Mr. Trenk stated the list, though similar to the previous biennium, includes new items related to implementation of security recommendations, a security officer, and obsolescence of branch systems impacted by the purchase of PeopleSoft by Oracle Corporation. Regarding near-term obsolescence issues, Mr. Trenk commented that the Legislative Council urged staff to move forward with replacement of the House and Senate vote systems prior to the 2009 regular session.

Senator Cromley asked if the staff only suspects that systems using WordPerfect will become obsolete, or if it will happen for sure. Hank Trenk explained that the Legislative Automated Workflow System (LAWS) is written in WordPerfect and will need to be advanced to another software or rewritten at some point. Senator Cromley suggested consideration of open source software.

Representative Maedje asked if were possible to record minutes digitally; Hank Trenk explained that current recordings are digital.

Scott Seacat questioned the status of the support of PeopleSoft software. Jeff Brandt responded that PeopleSoft has been purchased by the Oracle Corporation and, in the short term, Oracle is supporting PeopleSoft products. Long-term plans include merging PeopleSoft and Oracle products. The Department of Administration plans to continue with PeopleSoft while evaluating options and developing proposals. The department is open to all options--nothing is "off the table." The Information Services Technology Division (ITSD) will be looking for professional advice related to anticipated actions by Oracle Corporation. Representative

Maedje inquired if ITSD requires a mandate from the legislature to proceed with an assessment of options for PeopleSoft--Jeff Brandt replied that work has already begun and that a budget proposal will come before the Legislature during the 2007 session to fund a full assessment during the 2009 biennium.

Scott Seacat questioned Hank Trenk about the proposal for a full-time security officer and asked what duties, not being performed currently, would be assigned. Hank explained the security officer would address recommendations brought forward in SunGard's security assessment of the branch. Jeff Brandt commented that ITSD currently employs five full-time security officers. Scott further asked if the Legislative Branch is protected from internet security issues through ITSD. Lois Menzies stated the security officer proposal needs additional development, tasks need to be attached, and costs defined.

Selection of proposals for further analysis and cost estimates

Lois Menzies suggested the Planning Council keep items one and two on the table. Regarding item number three, Scott Seacat suggested "quick ship" options as explained by SunGard could be a cost-effective idea.

With regard to item number four, Marilyn Miller requested that the replacement of vote systems remain on the list. Senator Cromley asked if the vote system replacement was strictly a software issue. Hank Trenk responded that hardware, software, back room, and display were all issues with the House's vote system. Representative Brueggeman suggested that discussions begin soon with legislators regarding system requirements. Lois Menzies indicated that the staff would work with legislators prior to and during the 2007 session to define needs and specifications.

Representative Maedje expressed concern that the history of a bill, as represented in the current LAWS system, defaults to "missed transmittal deadline" for all occurrences where an introduced bill is not transmitted to the second house. He requested that options be added which more accurately reflect the reason the bill missed transmittal (tabled in committee, or withdrawn by the sponsor, etc.).

For item number six, Lois Menzies indicated the list would be narrowed to two items, the voucher/incentive system, and the legislator web page. With the exception of the long-term obsolescence issues, issues one through eight will be further analyzed and cost estimates developed for the next Planning Council meeting.

ADOPTION OF FORMAT FOR LEGISLATIVE BRANCH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PLAN

Hank Trenk reviewed a proposed Table of Contents for the 2009 biennium Legislative Branch Computer System Plan (EXHIBIT #2). Planning Council members had no suggestions or recommendations for revision.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Planning Council was set for May 24, 2006. The agenda will include approval of a preliminary budget which will then be reported to the Legislative Council in early June.

<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>

The Planning Council adjourned at approximately 10:45 a.m.

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