



**Montana Legislative Services Division**  
**Office of Research and Policy Analysis**

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TO: EQC Members  
FROM: Leanne Kurtz, Research Analyst  
DATE: August 26, 2013  
RE: Materials for SJR 4 Study of Virginia City, Nevada City, Reeder's Alley

The enclosed materials are intended to provide you with background information in anticipation of your SJR 4 agenda items on September 11 and 12. I have worked with Sen. Keane, the sponsor of SJR 4 and Chairman Brendan's designee as the Council's primary contact for this study, in the development of the proposed study plan document and in identification of materials to send to you in advance.

Included documents are listed below.

1. A background brief and study plan document that provides a timeline for state acquisition of the Bovey properties in Virginia City and Nevada City, as well as the Reeder's Alley property and the Pioneer Cabin and Caretaker's House in Reeder's Alley.

This paper also summarizes the Montana Heritage Preservation and Development Commission's (MHC's) governing statutes and statutes that provide funding sources for the MHC, along with a proposed breakout of study topics and a general description of how the study will be accomplished over the next 12 months.

2. An article published in the Helena Independent Record that provides a history of Reeder's Alley. The article was written by Ellen Baumler, an interpretive historian with the Montana Historical Society, who will be guiding your tour of the Reeder's Alley property on Sept. 11.
3. The full text of the statutes that govern the Montana Heritage Commission, as well as the text of the statutes that provide accommodations tax and motor vehicle registration funding and those that require inventory and stewardship of state-owned heritage properties.
4. The Warranty Deed for the Reeder's Alley property and the Pioneer Cabin and Caretaker's Cabin in Reeder's Alley.
5. Rules adopted by the MHC that govern the acquisition procedure and the sale procedure for MHC-administered properties, as well as the Accession Policy and Deaccession Policy adopted by the MHC.
6. Minutes of MHC meetings, held in December 2012, March 2013, and June 2013. Please note that the June 2013 minutes are in draft form; they have not yet been approved by the MHC.

7. A couple articles from the Helena Independent Record regarding maintenance problems in Reeder's Alley.
8. A report that was prepared for the Montana Board of Land Commissioners when state acquisition of Reeder's Alley was proposed in November 2001. This provides additional insight into the property's history, as well as into the reasons MHC proposed accepting the property and what anticipated maintenance might entail.
9. Finally, revenue and expenditure data for the MHC through the end of Fiscal Year 2013 compiled by Kris Wilkinson with the Legislative Fiscal Division. Additional financial information, as well as updates on visitation, the business plan, and artifact inventory progress, will be provided to you at the meeting by Elijah Allen, MHC's Director of Operations. Elijah suggested that he would be able to provide you with a more complete picture of this year's visitation and revenue after the close of the season at Virginia City and Nevada City on Labor Day weekend.

I hope this gives you enough background material to make the Reeder's Alley visit and SJR 4 agenda items the following day as productive as possible.

Feel free to contact me at 444-3593 or by e-mail at [lekurtz@mt.gov](mailto:lekurtz@mt.gov) with any questions, suggestions, or concerns regarding the SJR 4 study as the EQC meeting date approaches.