



## State-Tribal Relations Committee

---

### 64th Montana Legislature

#### SENATE MEMBERS

JONATHAN WINDY BOY--Chair  
JILL COHENOUR  
JENNIFER FIELDER  
KRISTIN HANSEN

#### HOUSE MEMBERS

ALAN DOANE--Vice Chair  
EDWARD GREEF  
GEORGE KIPP III  
ZAC PERRY

#### COMMITTEE STAFF

HOPE STOCKWELL, Lead Staff  
LAURA SANKEY, Staff Attorney  
LAURA SHERLEY, Secretary

# MINUTES LOG

March 23, 2016

Bingo Room, Northern Winz Casino  
Rocky Boy's Reservation, Montana

Please note: This document is a Minutes Log and provides a notation 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 record 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 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 <http://leg.mt.gov>. On the left-side menu of the home page, select Committees, then Interim. Once on the page for Interim Committees, scroll down to the appropriate committee. The written Minutes Log, along with 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.

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

SEN. JONATHAN WINDY BOY, Chair  
REP. ALAN DOANE, Vice Chair

SEN. JILL COHENOUR  
SEN. JENNIFER FIELDER  
SEN. KRISTIN HANSEN

REP. EDWARD GREEF  
REP. GEORGE KIPP III  
REP. ZAC PERRY

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED**

### **STAFF PRESENT**

HOPE STOCKWELL, Lead Staff  
LAURA SANKEY, Staff Attorney  
LAURA SHERLEY, Secretary

**VISITORS' LIST** ([Attachment 1](#))

**AGENDA** ([Attachment 2](#))

**COMMITTEE ACTIONS**

**CALL TO ORDER**

00:00:01 Sen. Windy Boy called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. and conducted a moment of silence and prayer for former legislator Carolyn Squires.

**WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER**

00:01:45 Chippewa Cree Business Committee Vice Chairman Ted Whitford gave the opening prayer.

**Committee Discussion**

00:02:26 Sen. Cohenhour commented on the ICWA information given yesterday, March 22, 2016.

00:05:01 Rep. Greff responded to Sen. Cohenhour's comments.

00:06:01 Rep. Kipp commented on the information given yesterday regarding native children in foster care.

00:08:40 Sen. Windy Boy recommended including the ICWA issues on the July agenda of the STRC.

**Chippewa Cree Leadership Introductions**

00:10:00 Ted Whitford, Vice Chairman, Chippewa Cree Business Committee  
Richard Sangrey, Chief of Staff, Chippewa Cree Business Committee  
Ted Russette, Chippewa Cree Business Committee

**INDIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM UPDATE (SB 272)**

**Mandy Smoker-Broaddus, Indian Education Director, OPI  
Browning Public Schools Immersion Program**

**Billie Jo Juneau, Native American Studies Director**

**Tonia Tatsey, Primary Grades Assistant Principal**

**Carolynn Zubach, Immersion Teacher**

00:10:22 Ms. Smoker-Broaddus

00:14:47 Dustin Whitford, Chippewa Cree Business Committee

00:15:10 Sen. Windy Boy

00:17:38 Ms. Juneau ([Exhibit 1](#))([Exhibit 2](#))

00:19:23 Ms. Tatsey

00:19:41 Ms. Zubach

00:24:13 Ms. Juneau

00:34:11 Sen. Windy Boy asked if they test the students in language assessment before and after studying in the language immersion program

00:34:54 Ms. Juneau continued her presentation.  
00:37:07 Sen. Hansen asked if the parents of the children continue to stay engaged with the program.  
00:37:45 Ms. Juneau, Ms. Zubach, and Ms. Tatsey continued their presentation.  
00:43:05 Sen. Windy Boy asked if there will be success tracking in the program for the potential growth of other language immersion programs in the state.  
00:45:10 Ms. Zubach, Ms. Tatsey, and Ms. Juneau continued their presentation.  
00:56:35 Sen. Hansen asked who owns the full immersion program and how many students are in the program.  
00:57:32 Sen. Hansen asked if they have any connection with the White Clay Immersion project in Harlem, Montana.  
00:58:45 Sen. Windy Boy asked if there is an immersion program in Canada and where the program is based.  
00:59:29 Sen. Windy Boy asked if the panel could get information to the committee about the immersion program in Canada.  
01:00:09 Ms. Zubach continued the presentation.  
01:00:56 Sen. Windy Boy commented on SB 272 regarding continued schooling in the colleges.  
01:04:18 Sen. Hanson asked the panel to clarify the cons of being accredited.  
01:05:25 Sen. Hanson suggested that the panel talk with her about teaching accreditation for its program.  
01:05:53 Ms. Juneau and Ms. Zubach continued the presentation.  
01:12:50 Rep. Kipp asked about the percentage of returned homework from the immersion program.  
01:14:22 Ms. Zubach and Ms. Juneau continued the presentation.

#### **Questions/Discussion -- STRC**

01:25:45 Sen. Windy Boy commented on the upcoming education agenda items at the next State-Tribal Relation Committee meeting in July.  
01:26:21 Rep. Kipp thanked the panel and commented on the importance of the education program.  
01:29:48 Ms. Juneau thanked the committee for its work on SB 272.  
01:30:38 Sen. Windy Boy asked if the panels' language preservation efforts are coordinated with the Montana historical society.  
01:32:37 Sen. Windy Boy asked Ms. Juneau why she defined the Language Immersion project differently from the Indian Education for All program.  
01:34:18 Sen. Windy Boy commented that the programs should work together as they will contain the same teaching materials.  
01:37:37 Sen. Hansen commented on the program's funding and asked what changes are reasonable to help cut costs.  
01:40:11 Sen. Windy Boy commented on the funding.

#### **MILP CONTINUED: CHIPPEWA CREE TRIBE LANGUAGE PRESERVATION PROGRAM**

**Nathaniel St. Pierre, President, Stone Child College**

**Mary Big Bow, Program Coordinator**

01:41:18 Mr. St. Pierre and Ms. Big Bow ([Exhibit 3](#))

#### **Questions/Discussion -- STRC**

02:14:38 Rep. Kipp commented on the importance of pronunciation.  
02:16:10 Rep. Kipp asked the panel about teaching techniques for the future of the program.  
02:17:15 Mr. Whitford commented on the importance of pronunciation.  
02:21:34 Sen. Windy Boy asked if the program considered getting its Class 7 certification and teaching in the colleges.  
02:22:34 Sen. Windy Boy recommended having online language preservation resources available for individual learning.  
02:26:22 Rep. Kipp asked what certifications the tribal colleges have for language educators.  
02:30:33 Sen. Windy Boy asked if the program has a consortium and suggested that the panel consider being a part of the agenda on education at the next State-Tribal Relations committee meeting.

### **ST. MARY'S CANAL / DIVERSION UPDATE**

#### **Steve Davies, Bureau of Reclamation**

02:32:22 Mr. Davies ([Exhibit 4](#))  
02:41:58 Rep. Kipp asked what is the cost associated with the proposed new dam project.  
02:42:21 Sen. Hansen clarified the size of the project.  
02:42:26 Mr. Davies continued his presentation.

### **Questions/Discussion -- STRC**

02:43:20 Rep. Doane asked what is the average life span of a bull trout.  
02:43:58 Rep. Doane asked when the original project was submitted.  
02:44:23 Rep. Doane asked for clarification of the \$40 million budget.  
02:44:58 Rep. Doane asked how many bull trout are in the canal currently.  
02:46:31 Rep. Kipp asked if there is a timeline for when the project will be completed.  
02:48:19 Rep. Kipp asked if any of the cost is included in the Blackfeet water settlement.  
02:49:08 Sen. Cohenhour asked if the CFS is set by an agreement with irrigators.  
02:50:37 Sen. Hansen asked what the cost difference would be if the dam was reconstructed.  
02:52:34 Rep. Greef asked if one of the outcomes of the bull trout study shows that the species is maintaining well.  
02:54:34 Sen. Fielder asked how the bull trout population is affected by the dam in comparison with other bull trout populations on the other side of the dam and in other areas.  
02:55:20 Sen. Fielder asked about the relation of bull trout on the west and east sides of the Continental Divide.  
02:55:44 Sen. Hansen asked if how the bull trout will be affected by the changes in the dam was considered.  
02:56:39 Rep. Doane asked if there are any numbers regarding operating and maintenance costs.  
02:58:09 Rep. Doane asked if the increased cost will be paid by irrigators.  
02:59:03 Sen. Fielder asked if federal funding is being used in the project.  
03:01:04 Sen. Windy Boy asked if there is coordination with the Blackfoot water settlement along with the other reservations.  
03:02:42 Rep. Kipp asked if the Canadian reservation has water input into the canal.  
03:03:31 Sen. Fielder asked for clarification of the cost for maintaining and operating the

03:04:04 proposed dam and what percent the irrigators will pay.  
03:04:04 Sen. Fielder asked who pays the other 20% of the maintenance and operation costs that the irrigators do not pay.  
03:04:38 Rep. Kipp asked if this project is associated with or working with the Pondera Canal Company in Conrad, MT.  
03:05:43 Rep. Kipp asked why the dam project was not added to the Blackfoot water settlement.  
03:06:31 Sen. Fielder asked if reconstruction of the dam would be considered in the operations and maintenance program.  
03:06:58 Sen. Fielder asked what other funding scenarios are considered if the operations and maintenance program ratio is not changed.  
03:08:22 Sen. Fielder asked for clarification of the numbers presented for the funding allocations and percentages.  
03:08:53 Sen. Fielder asked if there is a strong possibility that the dam project will move forward.  
03:09:16 Sen. Hansen asked for clarification of the proposed \$40 million costs and what they pertain to.  
03:10:07 Rep. Kipp asked if the rehabilitation is associated with the Blackfeet Reservation.  
03:10:38 Rep. Kipp asked if the program needs clearance and authority from the Blackfeet water settlement.  
03:11:17 Rep. Kipp asked what contribution the State of Montana makes to the maintenance of the St. Mary's Canal.  
03:12:19 Sen. Fielder asked who the users are of the St. Mary's Canal.  
03:13:51 Sen. Fielder asked if the districts using the canal are serving tribal land.  
03:14:22 Sen. Hansen asked for photos showing the current condition of the St. Mary's piping system and why the update is needed.  
03:17:44 Sen. Fielder asked if the project could pay for itself with power generation.  
03:18:44 Rep. Greef asked what happens if the bull trout are no longer considered threatened under the Endangered Species Act.  
03:20:25 Mr. Whitford asked if the design could be improved instead of just updating the current design of the dam.  
03:21:04 Mr. Whitford asked if the current project could be flipped and the fish trap placed at the opposite end.

### **Public Comment**

None

**BREAK** (Reconvened at 4:40 p.m.)

### **AMERICAN INDIAN YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION**

**Funding update, Lesa Evers, Tribal Relations Manager, DPHHS**

03:32:58 Ms. Evers

### **Questions/Discussion**

03:40:44 Sen. Cohenour asked how the tribal consultation is going.  
03:42:44 Sen. Fielder asked what allocations have been spent at this time.  
03:43:25 Sen. Fielder asked if the program will consider faith-based solutions and programs for suicide prevention.

- 03:45:31 Sen. Fielder recommended that DPHHS look into the Mighty Oaks Warrior Programs for further ideas with faith-based programs.
- 03:46:41 Sen. Windy Boy commented about considering the Chippewa Cree Sweet Grass Program and Medicine Wheel Project and being cautious about the time frame left to use the funding.
- 03:48:04 Rep. Kipp asked about the Native American youth suicide rate.
- 03:48:54 Rep. Kipp commented about the money being utilized better in the tribal communities with culture-based prevention rather than using it for data collection that is redundant.
- 03:57:55 Rep. Kipp asked whether federal regulation required DPHHS to spend its funds on data collection.
- 03:59:21 Sen. Hansen asked the committee to consider objecting to DPHHS' planned use of the funding.

### **Motion**

- 04:02:50 Sen. Hansen made a motion to draft a letter to DPHHS asking it to use the funding for direct grants to suicide prevention programs instead of hiring a contractor.

### **Discussion on the Motion**

- 04:03:12 The committee discussed the motion.

### **Motion Withdrawn**

- 04:34:38 Sen. Hansen withdrew her motion until tomorrow when the committee can review a draft by staff.
- 04:36:06 Rep. Doane requested that a copy of the letter be sent to the Governor's Office.

### **Public Comment**

- 04:36:23 Mr. Sangrey

### **SWEETGRASS WORKSHOP**

#### **Chippewa Cree Suicide Prevention Task Force**

- 04:38:58 Mike Geboe ([Exhibit 5](#))

### **Questions/Discussion -- STRC**

- 04:53:33 Rep. Doane said he appreciated the presentation.
- 04:53:50 Sen. Hansen asked if the tribes work with the churches.
- 04:55:40 Sen. Hansen asked if one of the reservation churches came up with a suicide prevention plan would the tribe work with the churches.
- 04:56:34 Rep. Kipp commented on the work between churches and the tribes.
- 04:58:35 Sen. Hansen clarified her question and comments regarding the work between churches and suicide prevention programs.

### **Public Comment**

None

### **RECESS**

- 05:00:31 Reconvened March 24, 2016 at 8:00 a.m.