



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

April 08, 2026

Off - site / Blackfeet Tribal Business Council / No Zoom
Helena, Montana

Minutes logs provide an annotation of the time elapsed between the beginning of a meeting and the time at which a topic is presented or discussed, a motion made, or a vote taken. The time designation may be used to locate the referenced discussion in the video. The minutes log is only a guide to the video of the meeting. The official record of the meeting is the video. Minutes logs can be accessed at <https://committees.legmt.gov> and videos can be accessed at <https://media.legmt.gov>.

For more information, please contact:

The Legislative Services Division at 406-444-3064 for policy committees;
The Legislative Fiscal Division at 406-444-2986 for fiscal committees; or
The Legislative Audit Division at 406-444-3122 for the Legislative Audit Committee.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. Tyson Running Wolf, Presiding Officer (D)
Rep. Lyn Bennett (R)
Rep. Shelly Fyant (D)
Rep. Terry Nelson (R)
Sen. Susan Webber (D)
Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Sen. Josh Kassmier (R)
Sen. Gayle Lammers (R)
Rep. Curtis Schomer (R)
Rep. Jade Sooktis (D)

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

13:07:40 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf called the meeting to order at 1:07 PM.
The committee secretary took roll.

ROLL CALL, PRAYER, & INTRODUCTION

Introduction

13:09:00 Patrick Armstrong Jr., Secretary, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
13:14:27 Rodney "Minnow" Gervais, Chair, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
13:09:19 Cleo BullShoe Main, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
13:09:27 Everett Armstrong, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
13:09:30 Patrick Armstrong Jr., Secretary, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
13:09:33 Shelly Hall, Vice Chair, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
13:09:38 Kristy Salway BullShoe, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council

Prayer

13:09:46 Patrick Armstrong Jr., Blackfeet Tribal Business Council

Introduction - Continued

13:11:23 Rodney "Minnow" Gervais, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
13:11:31 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf
13:15:42 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy
13:17:23 Rodney "Minnow" Gervais, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
13:17:40 Sen. Susan Webber
13:19:07 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf
13:19:49 Rep. Terry Nelson
13:20:27 Rep. Lyn Bennett
13:21:00 Rep. Shelly Fyant
13:22:09 Casey Pallister, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
13:22:16 Maddie Krezowski, Legal Staff, LSD
13:22:22 Maddelyn Pennington, Secretary, LSD
13:22:34 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf

OPEN DISCUSSION

Water Compact / Milk River Project

13:22:45 Rodney "Minnow" Gervais, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
13:23:37 Derek Kline, Attorney, Blackfeet Tribe
13:36:43 Mike Comes At Night, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council

OPEN DISCUSSION – Continued

Water Compact / Milk River Project & Other Tribal Issues

- 13:45:14 Rodney “Minnow” Gervais, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
- 13:45:39 Mike Comes At Night, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
- 13:45:43 Everett Armstrong, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
- 13:51:04 Rodney “Minnow” Gervais, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
- 13:51:34 Cleo BullShoe Main, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
- 13:55:02 Patrick Armstrong Jr., Secretary, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
- 14:00:21 Rodney “Minnow” Gervais, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
- 14:00:33 Shelly Hall, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
- 14:02:52 Rodney “Minnow” Gervais, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
- 14:03:01 Kristy Salway BullShoe, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
- 14:07:05 Rodney “Minnow” Gervais, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
- 14:07:14 Patrick Armstrong Jr., Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
- 14:08:00 Rodney “Minnow” Gervais, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
- 14:08:24 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf
- 14:08:37 Donnie Wetzel Jr., Tribal Liaison, Department of Labor & Industry (DLI)

OPEN DISCUSSION – Continued

Tribal Health Services

- 14:09:05 Rodney “Minnow” Gervais, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
- 14:18:19 Vernon Grant, Black Feet Tribal Health
- 14:19:11 Carla Torosain, Director, Blackfeet Child & Family Services
- [EXHIBIT 1](#)
- 14:24:03 Rodney “Minnow” Gervais, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
- 14:24:07 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf
- 14:24:12 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy
- 14:36:25 Rodney “Minnow” Gervais, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
- 14:38:42 Dir. Carla Torosain, Blackfeet Child & Family Services
- 14:41:17 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy
- 14:42:15 Sen. Susan Webber
- 14:47:00 Patrick Armstrong Jr., Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
- 14:47:33 Sen. Susan Webber
- 14:50:02 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy
- 14:51:29 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf
- 15:02:13 Rodney “Minnow” Gervais, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
- 15:02:57 Lyle Rutherford, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
- 15:04:18 Rodney “Minnow” Gervais, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
- 15:07:41 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf
- 15:07:47 Rodney “Minnow” Gervais, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
- 15:08:11 Carl McClean Sr., Director, Blackfeet Nursing Center

15:15:57 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf
15:16:09 Dir. Carl McClean Sr., Blackfeet Nursing Center
15:16:52 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy

OPEN DISCUSSION – Continued

Public Comment

15:17:41 Diana Bird, Two Powers Land Collective
15:20:50 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf
15:21:11 Rodney “Minnow” Gervais, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
15:22:38 Rep. Thedis Crowe, House District 15
15:26:15 Rodney “Minnow” Gervais, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
15:26:25 Donnie Wetzel Jr., DLI

[EXHIBIT 2](#)

15:31:47 Rodney “Minnow” Gervais, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
15:32:35 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf
15:32:49 Vernon Grant, Black Feet Tribal Health
15:43:45 Sen. Susan Webber
15:44:45 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf
15:44:47 Vernon Grant, Black Feet Tribal Health
15:45:59 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf
15:46:46 Rodney “Minnow” Gervais, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
15:46:57 Mykayla Tatsey, Interim Executive Director, Blackfeet Housing
15:50:47 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf
15:50:54 Mykayla Tatsey, Blackfeet Housing
15:51:46 Margaret St. Goddard, Blackfeet Housing
15:54:18 Rodney “Minnow” Gervais, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
15:54:28 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf

15:54:36 **Recessed**

16:03:29 **Reconvened**

WORK SESSION

16:03:30 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf
16:03:45 Margaret St. Goddard, Blackfeet Housing
16:04:06 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf

WORK SESSION - Continued

State-Tribal Consultation

16:04:32 Casey Pallister, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

[EXHIBIT 3](#)

[EXHIBIT 4](#)

[EXHIBIT 5](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

16:13:58 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf
16:14:23 Rep. Shelly Fyant
16:14:44 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf
16:15:38 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy
16:16:57 Casey Pallister, LSD
16:17:22 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy
16:19:02 Sen. Susan Webber
16:21:02 Rep. Terry Nelson
16:22:18 Casey Pallister, LSD
16:22:43 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf
16:24:42 Rep. Shelly Fyant
16:25:10 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf

Motion

16:26:42 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy moved for committee staff to draft two bills on State-Tribal consultation.

Vote

16:26:35 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

WORK SESSION - Continued

Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) Education

16:27:13 Casey Pallister, LSD
(See Exhibit 5)

Committee Questions / Discussion

16:30:53 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf
16:31:04 Casey Pallister, LSD
16:31:18 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy
16:33:34 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf
16:34:00 Rep. Lyn Bennett
16:34:38 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf
16:34:47 Sen. Susan Webber
16:36:43 Casey Pallister, LSD
16:38:59 Rep. Shelly Fyant
16:41:54 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf
16:44:40 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy

Motion

16:47:40 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy moved for committee staff to draft a MMIP Grant Program bill.

Vote

16:47:48 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

WORK SESSION – Continued

Senate Joint Resolution 29

16:47:53 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf

16:49:02 Casey Pallister, LSD
(See Exhibit 4)

16:49:42 Presiding Officer Tyson Running Wolf

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MATTER WITHIN THE STATE TRIBAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE’S (STRC) JURISDICTION

16:50:27 None

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:50:42