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LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE

69th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Mary Ann Dunwell
Forrest Mandeville
Jeremy Trebas
Daniel Zolnikov

HOUSE MEMBERS

Pete Elverum
Alanah Griffith
Shane Klakken
Greg Oblander
Courtenay Sprunger

COMMITTEE STAFF

Maxwell Parson - Lead Staff
Maddie Krezowski - Legal Staff
Jolanda Songer - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

May 28, 2026
Room 154
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:

Sen. Forrest Mandeville, Presiding Officer (R)
Rep. Alanah Griffith, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell (D)
Rep. Pete Elverum (D)
Rep. Shane Klakken (R)
Rep. Greg Oblander (R)
Sen. Jeremy Trebas (R)
Sen. Daniel Zolnikov (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Maxwell Parson, Lead Staff
Emily McKay, Legal Staff
Jolanda Songer, Secretary

MONTANA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH MANAGEMENT: JERRY HOWE, LEGISLATIVE SERVICES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR • ANGUS MACIVER, LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR • AMY CARLSON, LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST • TODD EVERTS, LEGAL SERVICES DIRECTOR • DALE GOW, CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER • RACHEL WEISS, RESEARCH DIRECTOR • ANGIE CARTER, FINANCIAL OFFICE DIRECTOR • KELLY DASILVA HR DIRECTOR

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

VISITORS' LIST ([Attachment 2](#))

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

09:02:08 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

PANEL ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTANA LAND USE PLANNING (MLUPA)

Billings

09:03:35 Wyeth Friday, Planning and Community Services Director

09:04:07 Anna Vickers, Planning Division Manager

[EXHIBIT 1](#)

Bozeman

09:15:26 Chris Saunders, Community Development Manager

[EXHIBIT 2](#)

Great Falls

09:24:09 Brock Cherry, Planning and Community Development Director

Helena

09:31:12 Christopher Brink, Community Development Director

Missoula

09:43:03 Eran Pehan, Community Planning, Development and Innovation Director

[EXHIBIT 3](#)

Public Comment

09:55:02 Adrienne Cotton, Montana Building Industry Association

09:56:08 Jerry Grebenc

Committee Questions / Discussion

09:56:42 Rep. Greg Oblander

09:57:47 Wyeth Friday, Billings

09:59:20 Chris Saunders, Bozeman

10:10:45 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell

10:12:08 Brock Cherry, Great Falls

10:13:39 Wyeth Friday, Billings

10:15:05 Rep. Shane Klakken

10:16:31 Wyeth Friday, Billings

10:17:30 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville

10:17:43 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
 10:18:24 Anna Vickers, Billings
 10:20:05 Chris Saunders, Bozeman
 10:21:50 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
 10:22:34 Eran Pehan, Missoula
 10:24:24 Chris Saunders, Bozeman
 10:25:09 Wyeth Friday, Billings
 10:25:59 Anna Vickers, Billings
 10:26:34 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov
 10:27:37 Brock Cherry, Great Falls
 10:32:04 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
 10:32:46 Christopher Brink, Helena
 10:34:23 Anna Vickers, Billings
 10:35:33 Chris Saunders, Bozeman

10:37:16 **Recessed**

10:46:51 **Reconvened**

**PANEL ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTANA LAND USE PLANNING - Continued
 Belgrade**

10:47:46 Katharine King, Community & Economic Development Director
[EXHIBIT 4](#)

Columbia Falls

10:52:55 Eric Hanks, City Manager

Kalispell

10:58:20 PJ Sorensen, Director of Development Services

Laurel

11:05:29 Kurt Markegard, Chief Administrative Officer

Whitefish

11:12:44 David Taylor, Planning and Building Director
[EXHIBIT 5](#)

Public Comment

11:18:26 Jerry Grebenc, Director, Land Use Services, Montana League of Cities and
 Towns (MLCT)
[EXHIBIT 6](#)

11:20:33 Keegan Siebenaler, Executive Director, Shelter Whitefish

11:23:19 Nathan Dugan, Executive Director, Livable Flathead

Committee Questions / Discussion

11:26:09 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
11:26:47 Keegan Siebenaler, Shelter Whitefish
11:29:07 Kurt Markegard, Laurel
11:32:51 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
11:33:48 PJ Sorensen, Kalispell
11:34:59 David Taylor, Whitefish
11:37:42 Anna Vickers, Billings
11:39:11 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
11:40:33 David Taylor, Whitefish
11:42:10 PJ Sorensen, Kalispell
11:43:11 Katharina King, Belgrade
11:44:02 Rep. Shane Klakken
11:44:35 Jerry Grebenc, MLCT
11:45:50 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
11:46:06 Rep. Greg Oblander
11:46:33 Wyeth Friday, Billings
11:47:05 PJ Sorensen, Kalispell
11:47:43 Kurt Markegard, Laurel
11:47:53 Jennifer Olson, Interim Executive Director, MLCT

11:53:12 **Recessed**

13:06:35 **Reconvened**

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 28: PRESENTATION(S) ON GRANTS SYSTEMS FROM THE UTAH GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING AND BUDGET (UGOPB) & THE WYOMING GRANTS MANAGEMENT OFFICE (WGMO)**Presentation by UGOPB**

13:07:32 Kim Rodela, Fiscal Grants Manager, UGOPB
13:07:45 Laura Hanson, State Planning Coordinator and Managing Director of Planning Coordination, UGOPB

[EXHIBIT 7](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

13:16:08 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
13:16:57 Kim Rodela, UGOPB
13:17:59 Laura Hanson, UGOPB
13:19:18 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
13:19:44 Laura Hanson, UGOPB

Presentation by WGMO

13:22:31 Kevin Hibbard, Director, State Budget Department, Wyoming Grants Management Office, WGMO
13:23:21 Christine Emminger, Senior Budget Analyst, State Budget Department & Administrator, Wyoming Grants Management Office, WGMO
[EXHIBIT 8](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

13:38:00 Rep. Greg Oblander
13:38:49 Kevin Hibbard, WGMO
13:39:32 Christine Emminger, WGMO
13:39:44 Kim Rodela, UGOPB
13:40:41 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
13:41:10 Kevin Hibbard, WGMO

Public Comment

13:42:32 None

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 47 & 57: PRESENTATION ON ALTERNATIVE FUNDING STRUCTURES FOR THE STATEWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

13:43:46 Maxwell Parson, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 9](#)

Public Comment

13:53:05 Kali Wicks, Inseparable

Committee Questions / Discussion

13:54:09 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov
13:55:52 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
13:57:01 Kali Wicks, Inseparable
13:58:10 Sen. Jeremy Trebas
13:58:24 Maxwell Parson, LSD
13:58:52 Rep. Greg Oblander
13:59:11 Maxwell Parson, LSD
13:59:59 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
14:00:18 Rep. Shane Klakken
14:03:11 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov
14:04:16 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
14:04:30 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
14:05:30 Rep. Shane Klakken

INTERIM REVIEW

14:06:35 Maxwell Parson, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

[EXHIBIT 10](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

14:15:33 None

Public Comment

14:15:38 None

14:16:40 **Recessed**

14:44:35 **Reconvened**

UPDATE ON THE WATER POLICY INTERIM COMMITTEE'S EXEMPT WELL STUDY

14:44:48 Toni Henneman, Lead Staff, Water Policy Interim Committee (WPIC) & Deputy Research Director, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

[EXHIBIT 11](#)

Public Comment

14:51:48 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited (MTU)

14:55:29 Adrienne Cotton, Montana Building Industry Association (MBIA)

Committee Questions / Discussion

14:57:01 Rep. Shane Klakken

14:57:25 Toni Henneman, WPIC

14:57:50 Rep. Greg Oblander

14:58:38 Toni Henneman, WPIC

14:59:36 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell

15:01:02 Adrienne Cotton, MBIA

15:02:15 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith

15:02:33 Clayton Elliott, MTU

15:04:00 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville

15:04:40 Clayton Elliott, MTU

15:12:24 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith

15:12:48 Toni Hennemna, WPIC

15:13:14 Sen. Mary Ann Duvewll

15:14:20 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith

15:15:31 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville

15:16:18 Adrienne Cotton, MBIA

COMMITTEE WORK SESSION

15:19:09 Maxwell Parson, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

Fire District Matrix

15:21:09 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
[EXHIBIT 12](#)

Grant Systems Policy Matrix

15:22:31 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
[EXHIBIT 13](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

15:23:45 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
15:25:13 Rep. Greg Oblander
15:26:10 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
15:27:45 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz
15:30:38 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
15:31:18 Rep. Shane Klakken

Public Comment

15:32:08 None

Committee Questions / Discussion

15:32:19 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
15:32:50 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville

House Bill 629 (2025)

15:33:28 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
[EXHIBIT 14](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

15:34:08 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith

Public Comment

15:36:35 None

Committee Questions / Discussion

15:37:57 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith

Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Memo to LGIC 4.29.26

15:38:41 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
[EXHIBIT 15](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

15:39:35 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov
15:39:43 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville

15:40:04 Rep. Shane Klakken
15:40:32 Maxwell Parson, LSD
15:40:55 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville

April 2nd Legislation Discussion Follow-Up

15:41:46 Maxwell Parson, LSD

Statewide Public Safety Communications System (SPSCS)

15:42:23 Maxwell Parson, LSD
15:43:41 Rep. Shane Klakken
15:46:05 Rep. Greg Oblander

Motion

15:46:51 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov moved to authorize staff to draft a bill that would provide a \$4 million annual appropriation to the statewide public safety communications system.

Discussion on the Motion

15:47:19 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
15:47:29 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov
15:47:35 Sen. Shane Klakken

Vote

15:49:22 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

Legislation Discussion and Requests

15:49:37 Maxwell Parson, LSD
15:50:37 Rep. Shane Klakken

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM IN LGIC'S SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION

15:51:24 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited

WRAP UP

Legislative Days

15:53:57 Maxwell Parson, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 15:55:26