

Final Minutes

Legislative Commission on Government Efficiency Meeting

8:30 a.m. • Friday, March 21, 2008
Room 426 • State Capitol Building

Members Present:

Kevin Prokop, Chair
James Curran, Co-Chair
Georgi-Ann Bargamian
Mitch Bean
Fern Griesbach
Charles Moore
Gary Olson
Michel Sussman

Members Excused:

None

I. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and asked the clerk to take the roll. A quorum was present.

II. Approval of the February 14, 2008 Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the February 14, 2008 were presented to the members. The Chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes. **Mr. Olson moved, seconded by Mr. Moore, to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2008 Legislative Commission on Government Efficiency meeting as proposed. There was no further discussion and the minutes were unanimously approved.**

III. Remarks from State Senator Valde Garcia

The Chair explained that Senator Valde Garcia requested time on the agenda to address the Commission. Senator Garcia began with a brief history of the formation of the Commission. He urged members to not hesitate to request resources from the legislature should additional funds be needed to assist the Commission in the performance of its work. He noted his strong support of the Commission and offered his assistance whenever it is needed.

IV. Comments from the Chair

The Chair then outlined the framework of today's meeting which is the first of two or three meetings to bring in those within our state who have spent time thinking about how to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of state government. He noted the first part of the meeting would be devoted to taking testimony from representatives of the various departments to tap their ideas on opportunities that seem most promising and actionable. The second part of the meeting would be dedicated to framing the potential size of the problem. He ended by sharing that after these input meetings are held, subsequent meetings would be devoted to identifying and targeting potential opportunities for efficiencies to close what would otherwise be a gap over the next five years.

V. Presentation by Executive Departments

The Chair then called on Mr. Nate Lake, Cabinet Director for Governor Jennifer Granholm, to begin the discussion on what the departments have been working on to address some of the spending pressures and constraints that state government is facing. Mr. Lake proceeded with a brief description of the written material that was submitted to the Commissioners and then provided an overview of the roster of individuals he brought to give testimony at today's meeting including Jim Farrell from the Civil Service Commission and Tom Hall from the Office of the State Employer to discuss some of the human resources issues, Lisa Webb Sharpe for the Department of Management & Budget, Mike Moody from the State Budget Office for fiscal analysis and payroll issues, and Ken Theis from the Department of Information & Technology. For more details of the presentation, please see the attached "Streamlining Michigan State Government" Power Point presentation document which is made a part of these minutes. A question and answer period followed each presentation.

VI. Presentation by Secretary of State

Mr. Brian DeBano, Chief of Staff to Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land, was then called on to make a presentation which included highlights of the efficiencies the Secretary of State has already made and will be making for their customers and employees. After his presentation, Commissioner Sussman commented that he would like to see a clearer chain of command organizational structure and raised a question about who is responsible for managing the various aspects of the budget was raised. The Chair asked if the fiscal agencies could supply this information and Commissioners Olson and Bean indicated they should be able to get the information to the Commission.

VII. Presentation by Citizens Research Council

The Chair called the final presenter, Mr. Tom Clay of the Citizens Research Council, to offer his insight into the opportunities for efficiency savings in state operations. For more details of his presentation, please see the attached Citizens Research Council of Michigan Power Point presentation document which is made a part of these minutes. A brief discussion followed and Mr. Clay noted that the Citizens Research Council in cooperation with the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research will be releasing a report in April entitled "Michigan's Fiscal Future: Long-Term Analysis of Michigan Economy and State Budget." Commissioner Bargamian also inquired if there has been a review of anything that has emerged as other states have engaged in a similar legislative efficiency committee process. Mr. Clay could not pass along any observations, but suggested other organizations such as Rockefeller or Pew may have conducted government efficiency studies. Commissioners Olson and Bean will check with these groups and other organizations and report back their findings to the Commission.

VIII. Estimated FY 2009–10 Spending Pressure

Due to time constraints, the co-chairs asked that discussion on this agenda item be postponed to the next meeting. There was no objection.

IX. Public Comments

The Chair asked for public comment. There was none.

X. Adjournment

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for **Friday, April 25, 2008, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.**

(Approved at the April 25, 2008 LCGE Meeting.)