

Final Minutes

Legislative Commission on Government Efficiency Teleconference Call Meeting

10:00 a.m. • Thursday, April 2, 2009
Legislative Council Conference Room • 3rd Floor • Boji Tower
124 W. Allegan • Lansing, Michigan

Members Present:

James Curran, Chair
Georgi-Ann Bargamian
Fern Griesbach

David Leonard
Charles Moore
Michel Sussman

Members Excused:

Kevin Prokop, Co-Chair
Mitch Bean
Gary Olson

I. Call to Order

Due to the absence of Co-Chair Prokop from today's meeting, Co-Chair Curran called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked the Clerk to take the roll. A quorum was present. Absent members were excused.

II. Approval of the March 2, 2009 Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the March 2, 2009 meeting were presented to the members. The Chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes. **Commissioner Moore moved, seconded by Commissioner Griesbach, to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2009 Legislative Commission on Government Efficiency meeting. There was no further discussion and the minutes were unanimously approved.**

III. Structure and Format of Report

The Chair asked for input on the format and structure of the draft he and Co-Chair Prokop put together on Corrections. Commissioner Leonard commented that he was very pleased with the draft format and circulated a few proposed tweaks such as titling each section by department, emphasizing "efficiency" rather than just cost, and including only recommendations and projected cost savings in the blue box found at the beginning of the report. His suggestions were then discussed and Commissioner Sussman suggested getting some insight from the stakeholders in the legislature on what their thought process is for the formatting.

IV. Next Steps and Commission Conclusions

The Chair opened a discussion of the next steps for the Commission. He shared that they are in the process of looking for a drafter to help write the report and hoped to have someone chosen within the next week. Once the drafter is on board, the Chair noted that the drafter will begin working with each of the work groups in a manner determined by each work group leader. The idea of conducting public hearings in May and where they might be held and how they might be organized was then discussed. A consensus was reached that the first round of hearings would be held in Lansing to give stakeholders an opportunity to respond by task force area, followed by a series of public hearings in locations such as Lansing, Grand Rapids, Detroit, Oakland County, Marquette, and Grayling which would be in lieu of a full Commission meeting in May. Specific dates of the hearings will be determined when a writer is secured and a summary draft is available for the public to review. State office buildings will be used as the site of the hearings whenever possible and a schedule will be sent out as soon as the dates and locations for the hearings are determined.

V. Other Business

In response to the Chair's question asking if there was any other Commission business, Commissioner Sussman pointed to a March 31, 2009 letter from Mr. Jack Minore of the Michigan State AFL-CIO expressing concern with the general direction the Commission has been taking. Commissioner Bargamian explained that the concerns addressed in Mr. Minore's letter are similar to the questions she has raised over the scope of the Commission's statutory mandate. The Chair would like the opportunity to talk to Co-Chair Prokop about the letter before responding and assured members that a response will be sent to Mr. Minore. He added that a draft of the response will be emailed to the members before it is sent out. Commissioner Leonard asked the Co-Chairs to also discuss and provide guidance as to whether the final report would include the data necessary to be responsive to items B-J in the Commission's statute. Commissioner Bargamian shared that, in terms of addressing the issue, her work group received quite detailed information for the IT department from the House Fiscal Agency and recommended the Commission follow the statutory mandate and use whatever resources are available.

VI. Public Comment

The Chair asked if there was any public comment. Mr. Jack Minore from Michigan State AFL-CIO commented that his letter was drafted as a consensus of about a dozen labor organizations not just the Michigan State AFL-CIO. Mr. Nick Ciarmitaro from Michigan AFSCME also added his concerns that too often decisions being made are based on a philosophy or ideology and not based on facts.

VII. Next Meeting Date

The next Commission meeting will be announced at a later date.

VIII. Adjournment

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

(Approved at the June 1, 2009 Legislative Commission on Government Efficiency meeting.)