

Final Minutes

Legislative Commission on Government Efficiency Teleconference Call Meeting

9:00 a.m. • Monday, June 1, 2009
Legislative Council Conference Room • 3rd Floor • Boji Tower
124 W. Allegan • Lansing, Michigan

Members Present:

Kevin Prokop, Chair
James Curran, Co-Chair
Georgi-Ann Bargamian
Mitch Bean

Fern Griesbach
Charles Moore
Gary Olson
Michel Sussman

Members Excused:

David Leonard

I. Call to Order

Co-Chair Curran called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on behalf of today's Chair, Kevin Prokop and asked the Clerk to take the roll. A quorum was present. Commissioner Leonard was excused from today's meeting.

II. Approval of the April 2, 2009 Meeting Minutes

The Co-Chair asked if there were any changes to the proposed minutes of the April 2, 2009 LCGE meeting. There were none. **Commissioner Olson moved, seconded by Commissioner Bargamian, to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2009 Legislative Commission on Government Efficiency meeting. There was no further discussion and the minutes were unanimously approved.**

III. Commission Update

The Chair opened a discussion of some possible overarching themes that will frame the Commission's report and help set the context for the individual work group recommendations. The themes identified and discussed included 1) optimizing across all units of government, 2) addressing the underlying structural issues, 3) short-term and long-term actions and recommendations are needed over a multi-year period to create a "road map" to fiscal health, and 4) using a holistic approach in terms of looking at all areas of government. Co-Chair Curran added that, in terms of structuring at the state level, focusing on the recommendations that there is a need for better demand forecasting and the issue of the purchasing system to determine if we are getting employees what they need at the best possible cost had been discussed as well. Chair Prokop will summarize and circulate the themes identified at today's meeting and asked the Commissioners to reflect on the list, provide additional input, and propose modifications as necessary.

IV. Response to AFL-CIO Correspondence

The Chair called on Co-Chair Curran to summarize the status of the response to the AFL-CIO correspondence. Afterwards, Co-Chair Curran requested feedback from Commissioner Bargamian who opined that from her perspective the premise of the draft response is that the statute is not clear. She disagrees with that premise and has concerns that the Commission has not gathered the information to make an independent assessment of the numbers and evaluation of how state government operates as mandated in section 12(b) of the Commission statute. Co-Chair Curran believes the Commission has complied with the statute by obtaining information through testimony and noted that many of the work groups have gathered very detailed information. After some discussion, the Chair shared that he did not feel the Commission is ready for a vote on this issue as he is waiting for detailed information from DMB that might be helpful in determining how to respond to the AFL-CIO letter. He will distribute the DMB information when it is received and asked Commissioner Bargamian to give some thought in the next few days as to how she would propose addressing the section of the statute that she feels has not been addressed. Including the information required by section 12(b) in an appendix was also discussed. The Chair suggested that, when all the information is in from DMB, the Commissioners would be in a better position to decide if the response to the AFL-CIO should be revised and if the Commission, in general, has satisfied the spirit and letter of what is outlined in the statute.

V. Other Business

The Chair noted that an outline of potential recommendations by work group was circulated a few meetings ago, but no feedback was received. He will recirculate the document and asked Commissioners to submit any changes or modifications as soon as possible.

Commissioner Olson raised the issue of how the Commission plans to resolve what recommendations will be made and asked if more information is needed for Terry Smith to draft the work group summaries. The Chair suggested that the Commission have an overarching principles document as a way to monitor the overall recommendations of the Commission and called on Terry Smith for an update on the progress he is making in drafting the work group summaries. Mr. Smith reported that a drafting schedule has been determined and he should complete the summaries in the near future. After further discussion, the Chair recapped the Commission's action plan which includes circulating a potential overarching principles document for feedback, recirculating the summary of potential recommendations for feedback, and circulating the DMB information when it is received and then determining a proposal for how specifically to address Section 12(b).

Co-Chair Curran mentioned that the Interim Report to the Legislature and the Governor will be from the co-chairs and will be very short describing the number of Commission meetings, the work groups established, and a paragraph stating that Commission hopes to have an interim document in the next 60 days that will allow the Commission to meet the October 1 report due date.

VI. Public Comment

The Chair asked if there was any public comment. Mr. Jack Minore from Michigan State AFL-CIO offered comments in support of state employees. Representative Richard Ball offered comments in support of the Commission's efforts. There were no other public comments.

VII. Next Meeting Date

The next Commission meeting will be on **Friday, June 19, 2009**, at a time and location to be announced.

VIII. Adjournment

Having no further business, **Co-Chair Curran moved, supported by Commissioner Bean, to adjourn. There were no objections.** The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

(Minutes adopted at the June 19, 2009 Legislative Commission on Government Efficiency meeting.)