



Legislative Branch  
Computer System Planning Council

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**59th Montana Legislature**

**MEMBERSHIP**  
LOIS MENZIES, CHAIRPERSON  
SEN. JOHN BRUEGGEMAN  
SEN. BRENT CROMLEY  
SEN. RICK MAEDJE

**MEMBERSHIP**  
MARILYN MILLER  
SCOTT SEACAT  
CLAYTON SCHENCK  
DICK CLARK

**COMMITTEE STAFF**  
HENRY C. TRENK  
DIRECTOR OLIT, LSD

May 24, 2006

## MINUTES

Room 102, State Capitol  
Helena, Montana

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed. Committee tapes are on file in the offices of the Legislative Services Division. **Exhibits for this meeting are available upon request. Legislative Council policy requires a charge of 15 cents a page for copies of documents.**

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Senator John Brueggeman  
Senator Brent Cromley  
Marilyn Miller, Chief Clerk, House of Representatives  
Lois Menzies, Chairperson, Executive Director, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
Clayton Schenck, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)  
Tori Hunthausen, Deputy Legislative Auditor for IS Audits and Operations, Legislative Audit Division (LAD), designee for Scott Seacat,  
Steve Bender, Deputy Information Officer, Information Technology Services Division (ITSD), designee for Dick Clark

### **MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Representative Rick Maedje  
Scott Seacat, Legislative Auditor, LAD  
Dick Clark, Chief Information Officer, ITSD

### **STAFF PRESENT**

Hank Trenk, Director, Office of Information Technology, LSD  
Steve Eller, Computer Systems Manager, Office of Legislative Information Technology, LSD  
Terry Johnson, Principal Fiscal Analyst, LFD  
Jeanette Nordahl, Network Manager, Office of Legislative Information Technology, LSD

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

Lois Menzies called the meeting to order and invited members and staff to introduce themselves. Senator Cromley participated via teleconference.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 26, 2006, MEETING.**

The minutes were approved without revision.

### **PROPOSED 2009 BIENNIUM CENTRAL IT BUDGET**

Hank Trenk reviewed the proposed 2009 biennium budget, including the amount needed to maintain the current computer environment and three new proposals: a technology reimbursement program for legislators, a security and disaster recovery position, and a network technician position. ([EXHIBIT #1](#))

There was considerable discussion regarding the technology reimbursement program. Members agreed to structure the program as follows:

The purpose of this program is to financially assist legislators in purchasing approved hardware or software for conducting legislative business.

- To fund this program, \$135,000 in general fund money would be appropriated for the 2009 biennium. This would be a restricted appropriation; unused funds would revert to the general fund.
- During the 2009 biennium, each legislator would be eligible to be reimbursed up to \$900 for the purchase of approved hardware or software. To obtain reimbursement, a legislator must submit a receipt to the Legislative Services Division (LSD).
- Approved hardware and software would include a laptop computer, printer, Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), and virus protection software.

Members also approved the two new positions. More information will be provided about the security and disaster recovery officer position after the Legislative Branch's disaster recovery plan is completed.

In addition, the Planning Council agreed that the first project to be funded from the Legislative Branch's IT reserve account will be the replacement of the House and Senate vote and agenda systems. If the Legislative Council approves the expenditure of reserve funds for this project, the systems will be replaced during the 2007 - 2008 interim. The Planning Council will serve as a steering committee to get as much work done as possible this summer on identifying the requirements for the systems. Senate and House leadership will be asked to assign this project to the Legislative Administration Committees during the 2007 session. The goal will be to issue a request for proposals (RFP) shortly after the 2007 session.

### **NEXT STEPS**

The proposed IT budget will be presented to the Legislative Council on June 5, 2006, for comment and preliminary approval. Final approval from the Legislative Council will be requested at its September 2006 meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Planning Council adjourned at approximately 11 a.m.