

Regional Government Efficiency Working Group

Approved Meeting Minutes

September 17th, 2019

A meeting of the Regional Government Efficiency Working Group was held on this date in the council chambers, 1123 Lake Street, Sandpoint, ID 83864. Chair McGeachin called the meeting to order at 9:55 AM.

Members present:

Janice McGeachin, Alex Adams, Bobbi-Jo Meuleman, Andy Emerson, Brad Huerta, Keith Reynolds, Senator Mark Harris, Representative Judy Boyle, Jon Goode, Ron Carlson

Others Present:

Jordan Watters, Alex Olson, Senator Jim Woodward, Representative Heather Scott, Representative Sage Dixon, Mayor Shelby Rognstad, Commissioner Jeff Connolly, Christopher Davis

Members Absent and Excused:

Representative Steve Miller, Skip Brandt, Eve Knudtsen, Skip Smyser

Business:

The Working Group met in the lobby of the Best Western Edgewater Resort at 7:45 am and began their tours of Department of Health and Welfare in Ponderay, ID and Department of Labor in Sandpoint, ID from 8:00 am to 9:30 am. Upon arrival to the Sandpoint city council chambers, Chair McGeachin called the meeting to order at 9:55 am and asked for a motion to appoint Alex Olson to preside as secretary. The motion was made, seconded, and approved by the committee.

Lacking the previous minutes, Chair McGeachin decreed that the August 21st minutes would be voted upon at the next meeting. Chair McGeachin began the meeting with an explanation of the Regional Government Efficiency Working Group to the public and introduced the committee members. At 10:04 am, the elected official panel began, with each elected official introducing themselves. The panel consisted of five elected officials who offered their input on government efficiency and answered several questions presented by the Working Group. The panel offered a variety of insights such as consolidation of government service buildings as a “one-stop shopping” model and the possibility of the state adopting a point-of-sales and revenue sharing system. The panel concluded at 10:46 am.

At 10:50 am, Christopher Davis began his presentation on subscriptions and memberships as well as using Transparent Idaho as a tool. Christopher Davis explained the role of the Idaho State Controller’s office and went on to clarify the need for transparency within government finances. He showcased the Transparent Idaho website and how it can impact the average citizen and increase their trust of the state government. Chair McGeachin called for a break at 11:25 am.

Chair McGeachin called the meeting back to order at 11:31 am, and discussed Executive Order NO. 96-16 and how it related to the Working Group’s examination of subscriptions and memberships. Chair McGeachin turned to Alex Adams at 11:42 am for his discussion of employee feedback. He reviewed the article “The Secret to Cutting Government Waste: Savings by a Thousand Cuts” and the relevance of the Working Group’s task of cutting government inefficiencies. Alex Adams also noted the importance of engaging state employees on finding these inefficiencies. He also suggested a language change for the

employee feedback code because the current language makes only classified employees eligible for compensation.

Chair McGeachin opened the floor for discussion on employee feedback at 11:45 am. Various group members offered valuable input such as Jon Goode's noting of the usefulness of Zero-Based Budgeting in Idaho and Alex Adams' top-down reward program for employee suggestions.

At 11:53 am, Chair McGeachin opened the floor to the public. The first to address the group was a Mr. Kevin L. Moore. Kevin L. Moore addressed his concerns about water adjudication and county self-insurance; specifically, an issue related to a culvert on his land. The next to address the group was a Mr. Scott Herndon, who voiced his concerns about investigation of child neglect cases and the negative impact it provides.

Chair McGeachin moved onto the action item concerning draft language and statute change at 12:17 pm. Chair McGeachin offered a suggested change to the draft language and or a vote to adopt the current version. Alex Adams motioned for the adoption of the current version of the draft language which was seconded by Brad Huerta at 12:19 pm. A vote was taken on the motion and the motion was approved.

Chair McGeachin adjourned the meeting for lunch at 12:23 pm. During the lunch period, the group traveled to Chilco Mill in Athol, ID. The group toured the mill, garnering valuable insight on the mill's operation and how it affected the local economy. No new business was presented during the wrap-up.

Adjournment

Chair McGeachin motioned for adjournment, Alex Adams seconded the motion. Motion passed at 3:52 pm.

Next Meeting Schedule

TBD with possible dates ranging in the latter part of October.