

SPENDING AND GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY (SAGE) COMMISSION

Thursday, July 23, 2009; 10:00 a.m.
Building A, Room 104, Neil J. Redfield Campus, UNR
18600 Wedge Parkway, Reno, Nevada

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Bruce James, Don Ahern, Barbara Campbell, Robert Feldman, Robert Forbuss, Howard Putnam, Jerome Snyder, Jim Thornton, Carole Vilardo
Absent: Randy Garcia, David Goldwater, Stephen Greathouse, Steven Hill, Jan Jones,
Also present: Frank Partlow (Executive Director), Perry Comeaux (Deputy Director), Suzanne Kilgore (General Manager), Craig Engle and Anthony Williams of Arent Fox.

I. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM.

Chairman James called the Meeting to order at 10:10 am and roll call confirmed a quorum of Commissioners was present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 25, 2009 COMMISSION MEETING.

Carole Vilardo moved to approve the Minutes of the June 25, 2009 Commission Meeting as presented. Jerry Snyder seconded the Motion. Motion carried unanimously.

III. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON DRAFT PROPOSALS A-H AS POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION TO INCLUDE IN THE SEPTEMBER 30, 2009 REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR.

a) DRAFT PROPOSAL A – INTERMEDIATE SANCTION FACILITIES.

Commission discussion resulted in requests for more details and clarification regarding the nature of confinement and whether Medicaid dollars could be leveraged for some treatment.

b) DRAFT PROPOSAL B – ENERGY CONSERVATION

Commissioner Thornton moved that Proposal B be adopted as presented. Commissioner Feldman seconded the Motion. Motion carried unanimously and will be submitted to the Governor as Recommendation #27.

c) DRAFT PROPOSAL C – INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

It was noted this proposal would be held for the August meeting so the IT Task Force can refine it, if necessary.

d) DRAFT PROPOSAL D – IFC OVERSIGHT THRESHOLD

The current thresholds were set in 1997 and have not been reviewed since. Commission discussion was supportive and suggested reworking some language in the proposal. It will be reviewed again in August.

e) DRAFT PROPOSAL E – INTERIM BUDGET SESSION

Commission consensus was not to pursue further consideration of this proposal.

f) DRAFT PROPOSAL F – PUBLIC WORKS PROCESS STUDY

It was agreed that the words “non-conflicted legislators” would be deleted.

Commissioner Thornton moved to adopt Proposal F as amended as a Recommendation to the Governor. Commissioner Campbell seconded the Motion. The Motion carried unanimously and will be sent to the Governor as Recommendation #28.

g) DRAFT PROPOSAL G – NDOT DESIGN/BUILD

Commissioner Vilardo moved to adopt Proposal G as a Recommendation to the Governor. Commissioner Thornton seconded the Motion. Motion carried unanimously and will be sent to the Governor as Recommendation #29.

At Noon, Chairman James called a 15 minute break for lunch. At 12:15 pm he called the meeting back to order and introduced Craig Engle and former DC Mayor Anthony Williams, both of the law firm Arent Fox in Washington, DC. Mr. Engle and Mr. Williams discussed a number of federal funding opportunities available to the state through regular federal channels as well as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Chairman James asked that they submit some key suggestions in writing.

Discussion of Agenda Item III then continued.

h) DRAFT PROPOSAL H – CROSS TRAINING OF PERSONNEL

Deputy Director Partlow advised that Commissioner Jones indicated she would like the Personnel Task Force to review this proposal at a meeting, possibly in October. It was agreed that Task Force Chairman Jones would be encouraged to schedule her meeting to allow the proposal to be considered at the August meeting.

i) DRAFT PROPOSAL I – DEFINITIONS OF COSTS AND FEES

Commissioner Thornton moved that the Proposal I be adopted. Commission Putnam seconded the Motion. Motion carried unanimously and will be submitted to the Governor as Recommendation #30.

IV. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND COMMISSION DISCUSSION REGARDING UPCOMING WORK PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SAGE COMMISSION.

Executive Director Partlow advised the Commission that proposals now being developed include a central grants office for the state; pharmaceutical costs; IT project manager mandates for large projects; conversion to Voice Over Internet Protocols (VOIP); budget process; and health care cost containment, managed care versus care management. Commissioner Feldman reported the DMV Task Force will be meeting with DMV officials on a proposal to implement bar coding for insurance cards. Commissioner Thornton reported the NDOT Task Force is gathering information from other western states regarding maintenance versus construction and maintenance station management. Commissioner Ahern asked if the Commission could meet with representatives from the offices of Senators Reid and Ensign. Chairman James agreed to pursue this opportunity. Commissioner Forbuss suggested contacting large charities and non-profits in the state to inquire if they are seeking stimulus grants. Commissioner Ahern requested a Commission discussion on ways to identify wasteful situations. Chairman James noted it would be a good luncheon discussion as well as whether the number of Boards and Commissions and their respective budgets could be reduced.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT AND DISCUSSION. Time limit, three minutes per person. No action may be taken on a matter raised under this agenda item until the matter itself has been specifically included on an Agenda as an item on which action will be taken.

Ray Bacon, representing the Nevada Manufacturers Association, commented regarding Proposal F that if Nevada can streamline its Public Works process it has a great opportunity to become the major distribution point for the west coast.

VI. ADJOURNMENT.

At 2:35 pm **Commissioner Ahern moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Thornton seconded the Motion. The Motion carried unanimously.**