

TO: Members of the State-Tribal Relations Committee of the interim

FROM: Mr. Casey Barrs, Research Analyst
PLEASE REPLY IMMEDIATELY WITH A "GOT IT" SO I CAN BE SURE YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS

DATE: May 21, 2013

RE: Committee organizational meeting (June 26, 2013)

Welcome to the State-Tribal Relations (STR) committee of the 2013 - 2014 interim. I have been assigned to serve as your lead staff this time around and wanted to introduce myself to those of you with whom I have not worked and also provide you with some initial information regarding how the interim is taking shape.

In June, I will have worked with the Legislative Services Division for nine years. In that time, I have been staff to committees covering energy, telecommunications, education, local government, and state-tribal relations. Most recently, I staffed the House Transportation Committee. This will be the third time for me to staff the STR committee. As you may already know, STR has a unique mandate and delves into issues and relationships unlike any other interim committee—and is very rewarding.

Committee leadership and membership

I am working with Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy, STR's senior Senator (with the most combined years), to organize your first meeting. He will act as temporary chair for the initial portion of that meeting until you elect your leadership.

Interim committees have traditionally rotated party and chamber each interim when considering chairs. The recent history of STR's leadership, listed below, indicates that a **House Democrat** would be your next chair in the rotation:

2003-2004	John Bohlinger - Senate Republican, chair
2005-2006	Jonathan Windy Boy - House Democrat, chair
2007-2008	Frank Smith - Senate Democrat, chair
2009-2010	Scott Reichner – House Republican, chair
2011-2012	Carmine Mowbray – Senate Republican, chair

The membership of this year's STR committee is as follows. Note that we are currently one member short with the unfortunate withdrawal of Senator Taylor Brown who served quite capably on this committee the past two interims. I will let you know when the eighth member is appointed:

Representatives

A. Doane (R), (406) 583-7546, alandoane@midrivers.com
F. Boss Calf Ribs (D), (406) 338-2086, frostycbr@hotmail.com

N. Schwaderer (R), (406) 403-7835, nick.schwadererhd14@gmail.com
C. Brockie (D), (406) 673-3236, clarenabrockie@hotmail.com

Senators

J. Windy Boy (D), (406) 945-1805, SenatorJWB@gmail.com
B. Tutvedt (R), (406) 257-9732, BruceTutvedt@gmail.com
S. Augare (D), (406) 450-5686, shannonjaugare@aol.com

Please let me know as soon as possible if there are other phone numbers or e-addresses that you would prefer I and the members use for contacting you. Also please let me know if you are unable to open documents in *Word Perfect*.

First meeting date

There is enough budget remaining from the 2011 - 2012 interim to cover our first meeting as long as we use it before July 1st when the money reverts. We are therefore aiming to schedule our organizational meeting in late June. We are booked for **Wednesday, June 26th** in room 132 of the Capitol Building.

Your “homework” for this first meeting

This organizational meeting will cover the following topics. You are requested to give thought to these topics and **please provide input on items #2-4 to me by the end of this month:**

1. **Leadership:** Who you intend to elect as your chair and vice chair.
2. **Work Plan:** What issues you consider priorities and would like to see incorporated into the STR committee Work Plan.
3. **Presenters:** In keeping with the issues you are most interested in, what subjects and presenters might you like to hear at our first meeting.
4. **Attendance:** Which dates over the next 16 months you are absolutely unavailable to attend an STR committee meeting. Bring your calendar to this first meeting.
5. **Reservations:** Which two reservations should our committee should visit. Again, a tentative rotation traditionally helps guide the decision. That rotation has been:

2001 - 2002: Rocky Boys and Flathead

2003 - 2004: Fort Belknap and Northern Cheyenne Reservations

2005 - 2006: Fort Peck and the Blackfeet Reservations

2007 - 2008: Flathead and Crow Reservations and the Little Shell

2009 - 2010: Rocky Boys, Fort Belknap, and Blackfeet Reservations

2011 - 2012: Northern Cheyenne and Fort Peck

Although each new STR committee proposes its travel destinations, and those proposals are tentative *pending acceptance* by the given tribal government, notwithstanding these and other considerations, the historical rotation would *suggest* visits this interim to the **Flathead** and **Crow** reservations and with the **Little Shell** leadership.

That is enough homework to get you started!! Please do have your thoughts on items #2-4 above to me by the end of this month. In the meantime I will prepare an overview of responsibilities and guidelines for staff and committee members alike for that first organizational meeting.

I look forward to meeting with you in the not-too-distant future. You are welcome to communicate with me at any time.

Staff and contact information

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Dawn Field, secretary

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Phone: 444-3073

Staff attorney: Not yet appointed

Best Regards,

Casey A. Barrs
Legislative Analyst
Legislative Services Division