

**Anaconda-Deer Lodge County
Study Commission Meeting & Public Hearing
6:00 p.m. Thursday, August 13, 2015
Courthouse Courtroom**

Present: Heather Edwards, Terry Galle, Dan Tocher, Adam Vauthier, and Kevin Hart

Others Present: Julie Hoffman, Secretary

Members of the Public: Milo Manning, Gary Wenger, Rose Nyman, Jason Mavrincac

I. Call to Order

Heather Edwards called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Approval of Minutes from the Special Study Commission Meeting of June 25, 2015; the Study Commission Meeting of July 9, 2015 and the Special Study Commission of July 23, 2015.

Adam Vauthier moved to approve the minutes from the Special Study Commission Meeting of June 25, 2015; the Study Commission Meeting of July 9, 2015 and the Special Study Commission of July 23, 2015; seconded by Dan Tocher.

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Financial Report

Heather Edwards stated the only expense for July was postage in the amount of \$5.58 to mail out packets and miscellaneous information to Study Commission members.

VI. Old Business

A. Adoption of the Tentative Report

Heather Edwards informed the group and the public the copies available for tonight's meeting are in DRAFT form only until a final motion is made to accept the Tentative Report.

The group reviewed the Tentative Report and suggested some changes to the language in the report.

Terry Galle suggested the introductory letter and the Tentative Report state the Study Commission "proposes" rather than "recommends" changes to the Charter and placing items on the ballot. He feels "recommend" is too strong of a word and it may seem the Study Commission is telling the voters what to do. He stated he does not want the voters to get the impression the Study Commission is favoring one option over another.

Heather Edwards stated it is the Study Commission's responsibility to get the information in the Tentative Report out to the public. Depending on the input received from the public, the Final Report may change.

The group was in agreement to change the language in the introductory letter and Tentative Report to state "propose" rather than "recommend."

However, Kevin Hart pointed out that MCA states the Final Report must state "recommendations."

The group went on to discuss minor language changes made to the introductory letter and various pages of the report. The group agreed to all of the changes.

The group discussed the impact of its Tentative Report as it relates to citizens feeling their right to vote is going to be taken away. Kevin Hart stated the Tentative Report is based on less than 200 comments that were received from the surveys. He stated based on the comments he has received, most people do not want an appointed CEO or Chief of Law Enforcement. Therefore, by the time the Final Report is published the only recommendation may be for Commissioners to be voted for at-large.

Dan Tocher pointed out the survey results showed 89/129 want an appointed CEO and 84/134 want an appointed Chief of Law Enforcement.

Heather Edwards pointed out that although the survey stated a preference for an elected CEO, some comments stated a preference for an appointed CEO with qualifications.

Julie Hoffman, 616 Elm: Ms. Hoffman pointed out she does not feel her right to vote is being taken away as she will be able to vote on the Study Commission's final recommendations, whatever they may be.

Gary Wenger, 814 Rickards: Mr. Wenger clarified that the Tentative Report is based on the survey and public comment and based on comments from the Tentative Report the Final Report could be different. Kevin Hart informed Mr. Wenger he was correct.

Mr. Wenger stated the general consensus of the people is the Study Commission is a governing body. He stated the consensus is no matter what comes out of this, it will not take effect. Mr. Wenger is not sure how to educate the public that the Tentative Report is not "gospel."

Heather Edwards suggested if Mr. Wenger is having discussions with community members about the Study Commission to inform them the Study Commission is a working committee that is trying to figure out if there should be any changes to the existing Charter.

Dan Tocher asked for input with regard to getting the information out to the public, specifically getting people to come to the meetings and sit in the audience and participate.

Gary Wenger suggested getting some radio time on KANA. Heather Edwards stated that was a good suggestion and will follow-up with Blake Hempstead.

Kevin Hart suggested making it clear in the introductory letter the Study Commission is proposing the issues to the voters and does not make any of the decisions. He stated it seems like there is some confusion between the Study Commission and the County Commission.

Rose Nyman, 121 E. 3rd: Ms. Nyman stated she believes comments need to be made publicly at meetings and not anonymously. She stated the newspaper only does an overview of the meetings. She also believes people do not understand government. However, the bottom line is the voters will decide what they want.

Milo Manning, 518 Hickory: Mr. Manning asked how long the Tentative Report will be available to the public.

Heather Edwards stated the Tentative Report will be available immediately once approved. A public hearing on the Tentative Report will be held on October 8th. The Final Report is due February 11, 2016.

Ms. Nyman suggested adding a glossary to explain the various terms in the report.

The group then went through the recommended changes to the Tentative Report page by page.

Adam Vauthier moved to approve the Tentative Report with changes; seconded by Dan Tocher.

Motion carried unanimously.

VII. New Business

A. Distribution of Tentative Report

Adam Vauthier suggested placing the Tentative Report on the website, distributing a few around town, advertising its release in the Leader, and on the radio. He asked where the surveys were distributed.

Heather Edwards informed the group the surveys were available at the Courthouse, the Library and the Water Department. She stated her intent is to bind the Tentative Report and have them available at the Courthouse, the Library and the Senior Citizen's Center. She stated it will also be available on the website. In addition, people may contact Julie Hoffman for a copy of the report.

Kevin Hart suggested doing a mailing of pages 3, 4 & 5 to all registered voters. Heather Edwards stated the cost of copying and postage is not in the budget.

Rose Nyman, 121 E. 3rd: Ms. Nyman suggested doing an insert of those pages in the Leader. She estimated the cost would be approximately \$200.

The group agreed an insert in the Leader may be the ideal way to reach a larger audience. Heather Edwards will contact the Leader for pricing.

B. Survey Monkey for Tentative Report

Heather Edwards asked for the group's input with regard to doing a survey on Survey Monkey to get input on the Tentative Report.

The consensus was to hold off on this for now and focus efforts on local distribution, comments from the website and the public hearing.

C. Revision of Timetable for Advertisement

Heather Edwards provided each member of the group with a 2016 calendar and the current timetable. She advised everyone the timetable needs to be updated as it was originally created with a deadline of the general election. The group discussed holding a second public hearing in January. In addition, Heather Edwards suggested approving the education materials and holding a public forum for the same on March 10, 2016. The primary election is June 7, 2016. The group must develop a transition advisory plan which needs to be adopted by July 14, 2016. Lastly, all Study Commission documents must be deposited with the Clerk and Recorder by the last day of 2016. All group members were in agreement with these updates to the timeline.

Adam Vauthier moved to approve the changes to the timeline; seconded by Dan Tocher.

Motion approved unanimously.

VIII. Miscellaneous

Kevin Hart announced that Linda Sather resigned from the Study Commission for medical reasons. He stated the Board of County Commission is responsible for appointing a new member. At its Work Session they considered Milo Manning as he was the next highest vote recipient. They will vote on the appointment at the August 18th Commission Meeting.

IX. Public Comment

No public comment.

X. Adjournment

Adam Vauthier moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.



Julie Hoffman
Secretary



Heather Edwards
Study Commission Chair