

NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Minutes of the

CORRECTIONAL FACILITY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 8, 2008
Harvest Room, State Capitol
Bismarck, North Dakota

Representative Chet Pollert, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members present: Representatives Chet Pollert, Ralph Metcalf, Alon Wieland; Senators Tony Grindberg, David O'Connell, Bob Stenehjem

Others present: Ralph Kilzer, State Senator, Bismarck

Joe Kroeber, State Representative, Jamestown

See attached [appendix](#) for additional persons present.

It was moved by Representative Wieland, seconded by Senator O'Connell, and carried on a voice vote that the minutes of the December 6, 2007, meeting be approved as distributed.

CORRECTIONAL FACILITY REVIEW STUDY

Chairman Pollert called on Mr. George M. Camp and Mr. Jeff Buck, Criminal Justice Institute, Inc., to present information regarding the [status of the correctional facility review study](#). A copy of the information presented is on file in the Legislative Council office. Mr. Camp said the project continues to remain on schedule.

Mr. Camp said a cultural resource assessment was completed for the State Penitentiary and four alternative sites under consideration for the correctional facility review project. He said the goal of the assessment was to determine the potential for the presence of significant cultural resources within each site. He said a site with a high potential would not need to be abandoned but may require further study to determine if significant cultural resources exist on the site. He said the State Penitentiary site, the Missouri River Correctional Center site, and the "airport" site include small areas with high potential for the presence of significant cultural resources. He said the Sunny Farm site includes a large area with high potential.

In response to a question from Representative Pollert, Mr. Camp said whenever a building existed on a site there is a high potential for the site to contain cultural resources.

Mr. Buck said the model design concept and initial site development plan were developed to perform test fits on the State Penitentiary site and four alternative sites. He said the proposed model design includes space requirements generated on the basis of how the proposed replacement facility should function. He

said the design will comply with American Correctional Association standards and focus on safe and secure operations with no more staff than necessary. He said the design will accommodate full education, vocational, and industry program capability for 90 percent of the inmate population. He said 10 percent of the inmate population typically is not in programs due to being uncooperative or on medical or temporary leave. He said the model design will include a zoning concept that will allow areas not in use at different times of the day or night to be closed.

Mr. Buck said the model design includes approximately 614,902 building gross square feet. He said the facility configuration was determined by classification distribution, available site area, environmental factors, and current facility history. He said the design includes a combination of single-cell and double-cell units.

In response to a question from Representative Wieland, Mr. Buck said the three options developed for the correctional facility review study will include infrastructure necessary to allow for future expansion in housing of 30 percent to 50 percent.

Mr. Camp presented information on the [current utility usage versus projected utility demand](#) for 1,000 inmates. A copy of the information presented is on file in the Legislative Council office. He said the projected demand for potable water is 47 percent higher than current usage, the projected demand for sanitary sewer is 40 percent higher than current usage, the projected demand for electricity is 54 percent higher than current usage, and the projected demand for natural gas is 54 percent higher than current usage.

Mr. Camp said upcoming tasks of the project team will include test fitting the model design concept to the sites under consideration and evaluating the results and developing a plan to accomplish the model design concept through reuse/expansion of the existing State Penitentiary.

In response to questions from committee members, the director said the provisions of 2007 House Bill No. 1015 require three concepts to be developed by the committee, including remodeling of the existing facility, and the construction of a new facility at the existing State Penitentiary site and at another site.

Chairman Pollert called on Ms. Leann K. Bertsch, Director, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, to comment on the correctional facility

review project. Ms. Bertsch said the department is satisfied with the consultant's work in reviewing the total prison system. She said it appears the options under consideration would address the department's facility needs.

Chairman Pollert said the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 29, 2008.

There being no further business, Chairman Pollert adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Becky Keller
Fiscal Analyst

Jim W. Smith
Director

ATTACH:1