

# NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Minutes of the

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, June 25, 2002  
Roughrider Room, State Capitol  
Bismarck, North Dakota

Representative Wesley R. Belter, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**Members present:** Representatives Wesley R. Belter, LeRoy G. Bernstein, Merle Boucher, Lois Delmore, Jeff Delzer, John Mahoney, Amy Warnke; Senators John M. Andrist, Dwight Cook, Aaron Krauter, Judy Lee, Dave Nething, Bob Stenehjem

**Members present by conference call:** Representatives Duane DeKrey, Scot Kelsh; Senators Tim Mathern, Larry J. Robinson

**Others present:** Ken Svedjan, State Representative, Grand Forks

Mike Timm, State Representative, Minot  
Randel Christmann, State Senator, Hazen  
Dale Wetzel, Associated Press, Bismarck

**It was moved by Senator Stenehjem, seconded by Representative Delzer, and carried on a voice vote to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2001, meeting of the Council.**

Chairman Belter said this meeting was called to consider a recommendation from the interim Legislative Management Committee that the organizational session of the Legislative Assembly convene on Monday, December 2, 2002.

Chairman Belter called on the director of the Legislative Council to review the recommendation from the Legislative Management Committee. The director said a motion passed at the March 11, 2002, meeting of the Legislative Management Committee that the committee recommend to the Legislative Council that the organizational session convene on Monday, December 2, 2002. He said the minutes of that meeting indicate that the discussion was to the effect that if the organizational session began earlier in the week, there would be more time for computers to be updated for new legislators and there would be a two and one-half day block of time available for training for new legislators who have received their computers. Training was attempted following the organizational session in 2000, but very few legislators wanted to have training on the weekend. The director said the organizational session has also conflicted with the annual meeting of the Council of State Governments and North Dakota always has at least two legislators on the Executive Committee of that organization.

Representative Delzer said he believes there is a meeting of the American Legislative Exchange Council about that time also.

Senator Lee noted Thanksgiving is the prior Thursday, and she said by moving the beginning date of the organizational session up to Monday, it may create some hardships for legislators who have traveled to be with family on Thursday and who have to be in Bismarck by Monday.

**It was moved by Senator Nething, seconded by Senator Stenehjem, and carried on a roll call vote that the Legislative Council select Monday, December 2, 2002, as the date of convening of the organizational session.** Representatives Belter, Bernstein, Boucher, DeKrey, Delmore, Delzer, Kelsh, Mahoney, and Warnke and Senators Andrist, Cook, Krauter, Lee, Mathern, Nething, Robinson, and Stenehjem voted "aye." There were no negative votes.

Chairman Belter said he would also like to discuss the dates of the Legislative Council meeting in November. He called on the director of the Legislative Council to review the history of the dates for this meeting. The director said the Legislative Council traditionally meets between election day, which is November 5, 2002, and Thanksgiving, which is November 28, 2002. He said in the last eight bienniums, the Legislative Council meeting in November has been on a Tuesday and Wednesday four times, a Thursday and Friday three times, and a Wednesday and Thursday once. He said the Legislative Council meeting has not convened on a Monday, probably because the Legislative Management Committee and sometimes other committees have met the day before the biennial meeting of the Legislative Council.

Chairman Belter asked whether any members of the Council had conflicts on days on either the week beginning Monday, November 11, or the week beginning Monday, November 18. Senator Nething said there is a conflict with a meeting of the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education Monday and Tuesday, November 11-12. Senator Lee said she prefers the week of November 18. Senator Mathern said he has a conflict of the evening of November 19, but he believes he can make other arrangements on that day.

**It was moved by Representative Mahoney, seconded by Representative Delzer, and carried on a roll call vote that the Legislative Council meet on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 19-20, 2002.** Voting in favor of the motion were Representatives Belter, Bernstein, Boucher, DeKrey, Delmore, Delzer, Kelsh, Mahoney, and Warnke and Senators Andrist, Cook, Krauter, Lee, Mathern, Nething, Robinson, and Stenehjem. There were no negative votes.

In answer to a question from Representative Boucher, the director said all legislators are invited to the Legislative Council meeting and in recent years the Legislative Management Committee has approved a motion that newly elected legislators, who will not yet have taken office after the November election, also be invited.

Senator Andrist suggested that when the Legislative Management Committee prepares the agenda for the organizational session, every consideration be given to provide optional orientation courses for Monday morning so as many veteran legislators as possible can commute to Bismarck Monday morning.

**It was moved by Senator Stenehjem, seconded by Representative Delmore, and carried on a voice vote that the meeting be adjourned.** The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

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John D. Olsrud  
Director