

Inside the Legislative Process Committee Meeting Minutes

2019 ASLCS Professional Development Seminar
Seattle, Washington
Thursday, Sept. 26, 2019

Call to Order

The meeting of the Inside the Legislative Process Committee was called to order at 1:52 p.m. by Buddy Johnson (Ark.), chair.

Attendance

The following members of the committee were present: Buddy Johnson (Ark.), chair; Tim Sekerak (Ore.), vice chair; Ali Sagraves (Ohio); Joyce Wright (Ala.); Lindsey Vroegindewey (Mont.); Brian Takeshita (Hawaii); William MaGill (Vt.); Brad Hendrickson (Wash.).

Others present were: Lisa Ortiz McCutcheon (N.M.); Warren Umetaro (Palau); Liz Clark (Alaska); Keira Alkema (Alaska); Xris Hess (W.Va.); Michelle Fontenot (La.); Carolyn Tschida (Mont.); Brian McKinley (Ore.); Lori Roland (Alaska); Nate Sanko (Pa.); Blair Hill (Ala.); Jamie Oswald (Ala.); Jon Bellamy (Fla.).

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting in Nashville, Tennessee held on August 5, 2019 were distributed and approved.

Old Business

There was no old business on the agenda.

New Business

The chair opened the discussion by asking for a recap of the past work of the committee. Lindsey Vroegindewey (Mont.) gave a recap of the value of the historical information found in Inside the Legislative Process and the lament that it has become difficult to continue with business as usual. Tim Sekerak (Ore.), vice chair, recapped a discussion with NCSL staff that led to the impression that NCSL was having difficulty justifying the labor involved with collection and analysis of this material when so many states failed to respond to at least three attempts to contact them in person and via mail. NCSL is also anticipating staff transitions at some point in the future which leaves the question of who can and will do this work without a firm answer, which is a situation that will likely remain for the foreseeable future. Bill MaGill pointed out the structural obstacles they have confronted in making the historical data and information more accessible than the hardcopy book form it used to be delivered in and the website location which seems to be perpetually difficult to locate. The general consensus was that the information is still valuable, and that the manner of collecting it and making it accessible needs to be modernized. The committee envisioned an online portal where each state could update the data related to its operations, and the viewer could see all the information from every state which would be searchable using whatever parameters were sought.

Brad Henrickson (Wash.) suggested a couple of approaches to the task ahead: Seek a partnership with the NCSL's NALIT staff section to have IT experts on the staff of various state legislatures offer up options for transitioning ILP to an online relational database. Alternatively, the committee could ask for an allocation of money from the ASLCS Executive Board to hire a contract developer to develop an application for us to use. A brief discussion with ASLCS President-Elect Paul Smith (N.H.) ensued where it was decided that the appropriate course of action would be for the committee to seek the concurrence of the Executive Board before reaching out to another staff section.

A motion was made by Brad Hendrickson (Wash.) that the committee request to the ASLCS Executive Board that we be permitted seek to partner within the NALIT staff section to devise a technical solution to the task of modernizing the Inside the Legislative Process product. The motion was seconded by Liz Clark (Alaska) and passed via voice vote. A subcommittee of Brad Henrickson (Wash.); Brian McKinley (Ore.); Lindsey Vroegindewey (Mont.); and William Magill (Vt.) was appointed by the chair to carry out this idea.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:18 p.m. on motion of Buddy Johnson, chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Buddy Johnson (Ark), chair