

Governor's Commission on Government Reform, Efficiency, and Performance

Minutes of Meeting held on December 3rd, 2015

10:00AM

Moraine Park Technical College, Fond du Lac, WI

Commission Members Present: Co-Chair John Shiely, Co-Chair Scott Neitzel, Mr. Bob Ziegelbauer, Secretary Dave Ross, Mr. Ara Cherchian, Senator Howard Marklein, Senator Janis Ringhand, Representative Adam Jarchow, Secretary Richard Chandler, Mrs. Linda Seemeyer, and Mr. Robin Gates.

Excused: Mr. Michael Heifetz

1. Co-Chair Shiely called the meeting to order at 10:00AM and welcomed all commission members.
2. The November commission meeting minutes were approved.
3. Ken Levine, Director of the Texas Sunset Commission was introduced and gave a presentation on the sunset process in Texas.
 - Co-Chair Neitzel commented that Texas has many more agencies than Wisconsin.
 - Co-Chair Shiely asked who reports to the Governor of Texas if they have no cabinet. Ken said that some do such as the Education Commissioner.
 - Ken talked about how transparent the process is and how agency staff under sunset reviews can speak confidentially to the sunset commission. Stakeholders can as well.
 - Ken talked about working bottom up when they start the reviews.
 - Ken talked about two examples of savings. One was their Workforce Commission taking advantage of a federal treasury offset program to save \$43 million and postponing bond issuances until they are needed saved \$33 million in interest.
 - Ken also talked about saving money on corrections by reducing recidivism which resulted in the first prison closure in Texas history. He also talked about streamlining their human service agencies from 11 to 5.
 - Co-Chair Shiely asked about the cost of the commission and if that included consultants. Ken said it is all in house staff at \$2.2 million annually.
 - Secretary Ross asked about failures in other states to reduce licensure and if the savings total in Texas included lost revenue from license fees. Ken said it did incorporate the loss of license fee revenue.
 - Senator Ringhand asked if agencies could be eliminated without sunset. Ken said that they could.
 - Co-Chair Neitzel asked how agencies are scheduled for sunset review. Ken said they are set in statute.
 - Secretary Chandler asked if legislators blackmail agencies under sunset. Ken said he has not experienced that in 30 plus years on the commission.
 - Linda Seemeyer asked if there was anything Ken would change in Texas. Ken said sometimes legislative rules hinder action.
4. Co-Chair Shiely introduced Gary Vanlandingham from PEW Charitable Trusts to talk about their "Results First Initiative".

- Gary gave his presentation on the “Results First Initiative”.
 - Gary mentioned that they will be rolling out a version for Medicaid and are looking to expand it to workforce programs.
 - Robin Gates asked what state staff is used to do the initiative. Gary said existing state staff such as in a budget office, fiscal office, or agency staff.
 - Secretary Ross asked how success is defined. Gary said there are outcomes that are defined to measure success.
5. The commission broke for lunch.
 6. The commission was reconvened by Co-Chair Shiely. Waylon Hurlburt was introduced and gave a history of mergers and sunset in Wisconsin.
 - After Waylon’s presentation there was a discussion on sunset. Ara Cherchian supported created a working group to detail how this could work in Wisconsin.
 - Co-Chair Shiely asked about the likelihood of passage and Bob Ziegelbauer said it would be tough.
 - Co-Chair Neitzel said we could create a Wisconsin specific approach.
 - Bob Ziegelbauer suggested we could add functions to current legislative service agencies.
 - Linda Seemeyer said there was a performance unit created at the Department of Administration that was eliminated in the past. She did say a sunset commission was a good idea.
 - Secretary Ross talked about how difficult it is to eliminate because of entities that are invested in the status quo.
 - Secretary Chandler mentioned calling a Wisconsin sunset commission maybe “spotlight” instead of sunset.
 - Co-Chair Shiely said this was a big idea and sounds like a good idea. He said information drives belief and belief drives behavior.
 - Co-Chair Shiely, Secretary Ross, Senator Ringhand, and Bob Ziegelbauer expressed being on a working group to put together sunset for Wisconsin.
 - Robin Gates said having a permanent process in place would be positive.
 7. Co-Chair Shiely asked commission members if there were any questions on the November white papers.
 - Senator Ringhand asked about the unemployment insurance white paper. Waylon was going to follow up with the answers after consulting with the agency.
 - Linda Seemeyer asked about the enhanced service white paper at the Department of Financial Institutions. Alex Ignatowski from the agency was on hand to answer questions.
 8. Waylon Hurlburt distributed a white paper on contracting and contract staff to the commission. Waylon also said that he would be distributing an online survey for members to take action on the white papers.
 9. Co-Chair Shiely asked commission members to review the citizen suggestions to the commission and to contact Waylon if any should be brought back to the full commission.
 10. The next commission meeting was set for 10am on January 7th in Milwaukee.
 11. The meeting was adjourned.