



STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
LEGISLATIVE JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE

Tuesday November 7, 2023
Minutes

Hybrid Meeting: Room 11 and <https://www.youtube.com/@VTJointFiscal/featured>
To review specific testimony, please click the video time links {00:00:00} below.

Members present: Representatives Harrison, Lanpher, Kornheiser, Scheu (remote), and Wood. And Senators Cummings, Kitchel, and Westman.

Other attendees: Joint Fiscal Office and Administration staff, and various viewers in person and through live streaming.

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Senator Kitchel at 9:00 a.m.

Representative Kornheiser moved to accept the September 27, 2023 meeting minutes as written. Senator Cummings seconded the motion. The committee voted 8-0-2 and adopted the minutes. *{00:00:10}*

A. Administrations Fiscal Updates *{00:01:22}*

1. Douglas Farnham, Chief Recovery Officer, presented an update on ARPA.
2. Douglas Farnham, Chief Recovery Officer, gave an update on fiscal issues related to the July 2023 storms.
3. Kelly Launder, Assistant Director of the Department of Public Service, presented an EVT flood recovery funding memo.
4. Lindsay Kurrle, Secretary of the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, gave an update on the Business Emergency Gap Assistance Program.

B. Housing Update *{01:06:47}*

1. Alex Farrell, Commissioner of the Department of Housing & Community Development; Chris Winters, Commissioner of the Department for Children and Families; Lindsay Kurrle, Secretary of the Agency of Commerce and Community Development; and Jenney Samuelson, Secretary of the Agency of Human Services provided and update on the status of initiatives to make additional

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housing units available and to address the inadequate supply of permanent affordable housing and the progress on transitioning from the Pandemic-era GA Emergency Housing Program and expanding emergency shelter.

2. Gus Seelig, Executive Director of Vermont Housing & Conservation Board, gave an update on the status of initiatives to make additional housing units available and expand emergency shelter.
3. Elizabeth Gilman, Executive Director of United Ways of Vermont, gave an update on the Vermont 211 Emergency Housing Experience.

C. Basic Needs Budget Methodology Updates {02:51:26}

Action Postponed to December 1, 2023 Meeting

D. Grants {03:14:54}

1. [JFO #3166](#): Representative Kornheiser moved to accept a grant of \$642,845.00 to the Vermont Department of Public Safety from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to assist disaster-impacted individuals and communities in recovering from the major disasters through the provision of community-based outreach and psycho-educational services. Representative Lanpher seconded the motion. The committee voted 8-0-2 to approve the grant.
2. [JFO #3167](#): Representative Kornheiser moved to accept a grant of \$491,314.00 to the VT Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to complete the 2023 VT Waste Compositions Study and other initiatives to demonstrate progress toward the National Recycling Goal and Food Loss and Waste Reduction Goal. Senator Cummings seconded the motion. The committee voted 8-0-2 to approve the grant.
3. [JFO #3168](#): Senator Cummings moved to accept a grant of \$850,000.00 to the VT Agency of Human Services, Department of Health from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to continue to support the staff and activities of the department's current Diabetes Program to decrease the risk for type 2 diabetes and improve health for those with the diagnosis. Representative Lanpher seconded the motion. The committee voted 8-0-2 to approve the grant.
4. [JFO #3169](#): Senator Westman moved to accept a donation of land to the VT Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation from Roland and Carol Woodard of Glover, VT. The parcel is .5 acres in Sheffield valued at \$15,000.00. The parcel would be used as a parking lot to improve access to the Holbrook State Park. Representative Lanpher seconded the motion. The committee voted 8-0-2 to approve the grant.
5. [JFO #3170](#): Representative Kornheiser moved to accept a grant of \$645,655.00 to the VT Secretary of State from the Defense Human Resource Activity. The Electronic Absentee Systems for Elections grant will be used to receive proposals to support absentee voting by uniformed and overseas citizens. Senator

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Cummings seconded the motion. The committee voted 8-0-2 to approve the grant.

E. Fiscal Officer's Report *{03:29:13}*

Catherine Benham presented the Fiscal Officer's Report and introduced new JFO staff.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Viera, Senior Staff Associate
Joint Fiscal Office

Link to recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xRftIJ6z5c0>