

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Executive Board January 15, 2025

HANSEN: All right, so, with that, good afternoon and welcome to the Executive Board. My name is Senator Ben Hansen. I represent the 16th Legislative District, and I serve as chair of the Executive Board. For the purpose of noting attendance, I would like members of the committee to introduce themselves, starting on my right with Senator Clements.

CLEMENTS: Rob Clements, District 2.

McKINNEY: Terrell McKinney, District 11.

BALLARD: Beau Ballard, District 21.

IBACH: Teresa Ibach, District 44.

DORN: Myron Dorn, District 30.

FREDRICKSON: John Frederickson District 20.

ARCH: John Arch, District 14.

JACOBSON: Mike Jacobson, District 42.

HANSEN: Also assisting the committee is our committee clerk, Natalie Schunk, and our legal counsel, Benson Wallace. We will now move to the first item on the agenda and begin appointments to special committees, beginning with the Building and Maintenance Committee. Clerk Brandon, if you'd like to come up and-- for any further discussion, and then also please state your name and spell it.

BRANDON METZLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My name is Brandon Metzler, Clerk of the Legislature. B-r-a-n-d-o-n M-e-t-z-l-e-r. Senators, in front of you, typically the way this has been done, you've got those ballots. My understanding, as far as I know from the chair is that we'll continue with the practice in which a motion can be made for members. If there is not-- if there's no vacancies to where the amount of applicants matches the committee, you can just make a motion to approve it. In cases where there are more individuals who apply for those positions than there are spots, you'll need to ballot those out. The ways that those ballots have typically operated, I will come around and collect your ballots; the legal counsel for the Executive Board and I will tally those up. Members that receive a majority of the committee will be put on to that committee, we'll announce who was, who was placed onto the committee. Those that do not receive a majority, we will re-ballot with those names, dropping anybody that

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was the lowest ballot-getter. So if you have a 5-4-4-3, the 5 would be put on the committee, the 3 would be dropped, and you would re-ballot between the two 4 individuals. Mr. Chair, if that's-- that was the prior practice, so that was my understanding is how we'll, we'll operate. So, Mr. Chair, if you just want to go through the committees and, and announce the, the, you know, the openings and, and how many we'd be balloting for.

HANSEN: OK.

DORN: We've got a question before we start.

HANSEN: Senator Dorn. Yes.

DORN: Thank you. The, the, the names that came forward, they were the ones that people submitted to you. Do we have the option of, I call it, adding a name or this is, this is the list? That's-- I guess that's my question.

HANSEN: Yeah. Legal counsel no, but from my understanding, these are the people who requested to be on this committee.

DORN: OK. OK.

HANSEN: Yeah. Yeah, we didn't put anybody on here without their-- without approval.

DORN: Without them saying-- and, and I didn't see any that were short, but if there are some, some committee that's short, then we--

HANSEN: I, I think we're good on every committee. I don't think we're short anything.

DORN: I didn't see any.

HANSEN: So, we try to do our best to make sure, before this, we kind of ask and see who might want to volunteer for certain things. And so, I think we did pretty good, and everyone was gracious enough to at least volunteer some of their time on some of these committees, but there are some that we will have more committee members that we have to decide on, as a board.

DORN: Thank you.

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ARCH: So it appears as though, with this first one, that we have the correct number for, for both categories, right? Two members of the Appropriations, and four at-large members?

HANSEN: Yes.

ARCH: I would move that we accept the nominations. Can we do it for both of them on this one? There's two, two members of the Appropriations, four members otherwise, but-- anyway, I, I would move that we accept the nominations for this, the Building and Maintenance Committee as written.

JACOBSON: Second.

HANSEN: All right. There has been a motion and a second to approve of the nominations for the Building and Maintenance Committee as presented. Any further discussion? I think after this, then we have to make a motion to elect the chair. That's our-- kind of our responsibility is to select the chairperson, which I have some recommendations for. But not the vice chair, just the chair, if I remember right. Yes. OK. So there's been a motion and a second to approve of the slate for nominees for Building and Maintenance. Is there any further discussion? [INAUDIBLE] OK. All those in favor, say aye. Any-- all those opposed, say nay. All right, so now, then, we shall-- I'll entertain a motion to elect the chairperson of the Building and Maintenance Committee. And it has been my understanding that Senator Hughes has requested to be the chair of the Building and Maintenance Fund [SIC] which-- she was on it before, I believe she was vice chair. She has experience with this--

JACOBSON: I'd move to approve Senator Hughes as chair.

DORN: Second.

HANSEN: OK. There's been a motion and a second to approve Senator Hughes as the chairperson of the Building and Maintenance Fund-- Building and Maintenance Committee.

JACOBSON: And once again, they need to-- they can't be a chair of any other committee, standing or select. My understanding.

HANSEN: OK. I don't know-- I don't know about that.

JACOBSON: I believe-- thinking about Performance Audit. When Suzanne got-- Senator Geist was elected to TNT chair, she stepped down as chair of Performance Audit.

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HANSEN: I don't know if it's like a standard rule; I think it's more of a recommendation kind of thing.

ARCH: I don't, I don't think it's a rule. It's not a rule.

BRANDON METZLER: There's nothing explicit. It's just always been practice that if you have one chairmanship, you would give it to another individual that doesn't have a leadership.

ARCH: Spread out the leadership.

JACOBSON: OK.

ARCH: But, not, not required.

HANSEN: OK. There's been a motion and a second to approve Jana Hughes as a chairperson of the Building and Maintenance Committee? Any further discussion? All those in favor, say aye. All those opposed, say nay. All done.

BRANDON METZLER: Mr. Chair, if you could, do you have an extra copy of that? Or alternatively, can you list the names of who was on Building and Maintenance? Because that will go on--

HANSEN: For the record?

BRANDON METZLER: Well, just-- I need it for their letterhead.

HANSEN: Oh, yeah. I'll get it.

BRANDON METZLER: That's perfect. Thank you.

HANSEN: All right. So next up is the Committee on Justice Reinvestment Oversight. Again, it looks like we have the appropriate amount of members. We have the chair, obviously, serving on there, and then four nominees that we will be voting on. All have agreed to be on it. And so--

FREDRICKSON: I would move to-- I'd motion to-- I'm saying it wrong. I'd motion to approve all the nominees.

ARCH: Second.

HANSEN: OK, there's been a motion and a second to approve of the nominees as presented to the Committee on Justice Reinvestment Oversight. Any further discussion? Seeing none, all those in favor, say aye. All those opposed, say nay. Motion carries. All right.

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Education Commission of the States. This is a three-member committee. I didn't know if anybody specifically wants me to discuss what these committees are, but the description we have up there on the top of the page. So if there's any questions, just make sure to ask.

ARCH: I move to accept the nominations.

DORN: Second.

HANSEN: OK, there's been motion and a second to accept the nominations as presented to the Education Commission of the States. Any further discussion? All those in favor say aye. All those opposed, say nay. Motion carries. All right. Now we have some decisions to make on the next one. The next one is the Homeland Security Policy Group. We do have to approve of one member from the Appropriations Committee and one member from the Government Committee. These are the people who have put their names in for these certain positions, and so I think we could probably do-- Brandon, I'm gonna make sure I got this right-- the ballot and-- for both at the same time.

BRANDON METZLER: Yes, sir.

HANSEN: OK. All right. Is there any motions that have to be made for now, or we've just got to go around and hand them out?

BRANDON METZLER: No, sir. It would just be mark the ballots for the two candidates, one from each of the two committees that you want on the-- appointed to that position.

HANSEN: OK. Who wants to do that? Yeah, can we just use our own, then? All right. So write down-- yeah. One member from each one of the committees.

BRANDON METZLER: Members of the board, Senator Strommen has been selected from the Appropriations Committee, and Senator Andersen has been elected from the Government Committee.

HANSEN: So then-- entertain a motion to move them forward, right? Entertain a motion to approve of Senator Paul Strommen and Senator Bob Andersen to the Homeland Security Policy Group.

BALLARD: So moved.

IBACH: Second.

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HANSEN: There's been a motion and a second. Any further discussion?
All right. All those in favor-- wait.

BRANDON METZLER: I'd do-- I'd do a roll call.

HANSEN: Yeah. So, roll call.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Ibach?

IBACH: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Speaker Arch?

ARCH: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Ballard?

BALLARD: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Dorn?

DORN: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Fredrickson?

FREDRICKSON: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Jacobson?

JACOBSON: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator McKinney?

McKINNEY: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Hansen?

HANSEN: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Motion carries.

HANSEN: All right. Next, Interstate Compact for Adult Offender
Supervision Committee, and-- pretty simple. Senators-- Senator Dungan,
I believe, was on there before, so-- I need a motion.

JACOBSON: I'd move to approve Senator Dungan.

FREDRICKSON: Second.

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HANSEN: There's been a motion and a second to approve of Senator Dungan to the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision Committee. Any further discussion? All those in favor, say aye. All those opposed, say nay. Motion carries. All right. Legislative Performance Audit Committee. Another one we're going to have to vote on. And so, the-- obviously, three nominees are already predetermined: Executive Board chair, Appropriations Committee chair, and the Speaker, and then we have four members that we will have to select from, from the list down below out of the seven. And so, we'll go ahead and write down your top four.

ARCH: Could I--

HANSEN: Yes.

ARCH: Could I just make a statement about this particular one? We're going to be hearing, we're going to be hearing a bill that I'm bringing. This is the LR298 oversight; that, that study that we're doing. If, if approved, this, this Performance Audit Committee will morph into the Legislative Oversight Committee sometime during the session, if the bill passes. And so I-- this selection is pretty important, because this is-- they're going to-- they're going to have to transition the committee in the middle of the session. So I just ask you to consider that as you make your-- as you make your votes.

JACOBSON: Might also add that Senator Dorn is the chair of the committee today.

ARCH: Right.

HANSEN: OK. Any further discussion before we vote? Senator Dorn?

DORN: I'll say, also I've been the chair the past two years, and Senator Jacobson's been the vice chair, so. On this committee, so. And this is chairman, vice chairman are elected by the committee, not by this Exec Board.

HANSEN: OK. All right.

BRANDON METZLER: By a majority vote, the four members have been selected. They are Senator Machaela Cavanaugh, Senator Dorn, Senator Jacobson and Senator Riepe, each receiving more than five votes.

FREDRICKSON: And Senator-- what was the last one? I'm sorry.

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BRANDON METZLER: Senator Reipe was the last one. Cavanaugh, Dorn, Jacobson, Riepe.

HANSEN: All right. I'll entertain a motion.

IBACH: So moved.

FREDRICKSON: Second.

HANSEN: There's been a motion to approve of-- should I list off each one, probably?

BRANDON METZLER: Yeah.

HANSEN: OK. There's been a motion to approve Senator Hansen, Senator Clements, Senator Arch, Senator Machaela Cavanaugh, Senator Dorn, Senator Jacobson and Senator Riepe to the Legislative Performance Audit Committee. Any further discussion? Roll call.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Speaker Arch?

ARCH: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Ballard?

BALLARD: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Dorn?

DORN: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Fredrickson?

FREDRICKSON: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Jacobson?

JACOBSON: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator McKinney?

McKINNEY: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Hansen?

HANSEN: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Ibach?

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IBACH: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Motion carries.

HANSEN: All right. Next up, Legislature's Planning Committee. Again, similar to the one we just were on-- we were discussed before. This one will have standing members. Speaker Arch, Chair of the Executive Board, Senator Hansen and Chair of Appropriations, Senator Clements. And now we have to-- out of the-- I think it was eight of them? Out of nine, we have to select six-- select six members to vote on. Is there any discussion before we vote?

ARCH: Just point out Senator DeBoer is current chair of that committee.

DORN: What is the three and the two for?

FREDRICKSON: Years served, or--

HANSEN: See if I had any notes on anything here. This is the-- this is the planning committee? OK. Usually I'll have, I'll have notes down if somebody really was-- wanted to have a discussion with me about being on it versus anything else, but I don't really have any. So if there's no further discussion, we'll pick the top six out of that bottom list there.

BRANDON METZLER: By a majority vote, the board has selected Senators Bostar, DeBoer, Strommen, Holdcroft, Quick and Riepe.

ARCH: Could you say those again, please?

BRANDON METZLER: Yes, sir. Senator Bostar, Senator DeBoer, Senator Strommen, Senator Holdcroft, Senator Quick and Senator Riepe all received a majority vote.

HANSEN: OK. I'll entertain a motion to accept Speaker Arch, Senator Hansen, Senator Clements, Senator Bostar, Senator DeBoer, Senator Strommen, Senator Holdcroft, Senator Quick, and Senator Riepe to the Legislature's Planning Committee.

JACOBSON: So moved.

DORN: Second.

HANSEN: There's been a motion and a second. Any further discussion? Seeing none, roll call, please.

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NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Ballard?

BALLARD: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Dorn?

DORN: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Fredrickson?

FREDRICKSON: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Jacobson?

JACOBSON: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator McKinney?

McKINNEY: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Hansen?

HANSEN: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Ibach?

IBACH: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Speaker Arch?

ARCH: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Motion carries.

HANSEN: OK, yep. Next up is the Midwestern Higher Education Compact Commission. We did have four members put their name in for this position. I believe-- thought that Senator Hughes was on there before. Wasn't she?

FREDRICKSON: No, I think it was Walz, Linehan and Cavanaugh, if I'm remembering correctly.

HANSEN: John Cavanaugh-- Senator John Cavanaugh, Senator Walz. Yep, you're right. Yep. OK. Any discussion before we take this to a vote? OK. All right. Well, pick your top two.

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BRANDON METZLER: By a majority vote, the Executive Board has selected Senator Cavanaugh and Senator Hughes. Senator Hughes and Senator John Cavanaugh.

JACOBSON: Move to approve those.

FREDRICKSON: Second.

HANSEN: All right. There's been a motion to approve Senator Hughes and Senator John Cavanaugh to the Midwestern Higher Education Compact Commission. Any further discussion? Seeing none, roll call.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Dorn?

DORN: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Fredrickson?

FREDRICKSON: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Jacobson?

JACOBSON: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator McKinney?

McKINNEY: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Hansen?

HANSEN: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Ibach?

IBACH: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Speaker Arch?

ARCH: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Ballard?

BALLARD: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Motion carries.

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HANSEN: All right. Next one. Senator Wendy DeBoer has put her name in for the Nebraska Information Technology Commission. We need to select one member, so.

DORN: I make a motion that we approve this as presented with Senator DeBoer.

BALLARD: Second.

HANSEN: There's been a motion and a second to approve Senator DeBoer to Nebraska Information Technology Commission. Any further discussion? All those in favor, say aye. All those opposed, say nay. Motion carries. Next, Rural Broadband Task Force. We need to select two members; one of them is chair of TNT and then another standing member, and Senator Stan Clouse has put his name in for that. So with that, I'll entertain a motion.

FREDRICKSON: So moved.

DORN: Second.

HANSEN: There's been a motion and a second to select Senator Moser and Senator Clouse to the Rural Broadband Task Force. Any further discussion? All those in favor, say aye. All those opposed, say nay. Motion carries. Next up, State Council for Interstate Juvenile Supervision. Senator Dan Quick put his name in for the one-member committee. Any discussion? Anybody have a motion?

DORN: Make a motion to approve Senator Quick as the [INAUDIBLE] nominee.

HANSEN: There's been a motion, is there a second?

BALLARD: Second.

HANSEN: There's been a motion and a second to select Senator Dan Quick to the State Council for Interstate Juvenile Supervision. Any further discussion? Seeing none, all those in favor, say aye. All those opposed, say nay. Motion carries. All right. State-Tribal Relations Committee. This is a seven-member committee. The Executive Board appoints some members. And we-- this is one of the ones we do have to do by today. And also the chairperson and vice chair shall be designated by the Executive Board. So we'll first select the seven members. Then there was eight? That's right. OK. Yep. So we do have to select seven members out of the eight. Is there any discussion before we take this to a vote?

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DORN: Question: were any of these chairman or vice chairman last year?

IBACH: Jen Day, I think, was.

HANSEN: Jen Day, I believe was, yes. And so--

FREDRICKSON: I think DeKay was the vice chair, but I'm not--

HANSEN: Yes, he was.

BALLARD: They do get a priority, don't they? Do they get a priority?

FREDRICKSON: I think they get one priority.

HANSEN: Yes.

IBACH: Supposed to get one.

HANSEN: Right, Speaker?

ARCH: I think it's one.

IBACH: They got two last year.

HANSEN: OK. All right. We'll take it to a vote. Vote for your seven--
top seven out of eight.

BRANDON METZLER: By a majority vote, the Executive Board has selected
Senators Raybould, DeKay, Cavanaugh, Rountree, Spivey, Hunt and
Guereca.

HANSEN: OK. And so now we have to select a chair and a vice chair.

DORN: Do we have to vote on that first?

HANSEN: I know-- was that?

DORN: Do we have to vote on that first?

HANSEN: Oh, yes. Let's vote on that first. Yeah, sorry. So, I'll
entertain a motion.

JACOBSON: I move the slate.

DORN: Second the slate.

HANSEN: There's been a motion and second to select Senator Raybould,
Senator DeKay, Senator Cavanaugh, Senator Rountree, Senator Spivey,

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Senator Hunt, and Senator Guereca-- gotta make sure I pronounce that right-- to the State-Tribal Relations Committee. Any discussion? All right. Roll call vote.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Fredrickson?

FREDRICKSON: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Jacobson?

JACOBSON: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator McKinney?

McKINNEY: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Hansen?

HANSEN: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Ibach?

IBACH: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Speaker Arch?

ARCH: Yeah.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Ballard?

BALLARD: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Dorn?

DORN: Yes.

HANSEN: OK. Now we will-- move-- we'll select the chairperson and the vice chairperson for the State-Tribal Relations Committee. I know personally, Senator Raybould has shown a strong interest in chairing this committee, and I know she's got a strong interest as well on just, you know, the topic of interest. And she's tried to, I think, introduced legislation in the past and been involved with discussions when it comes to state-tribal relations. So, I personally would recommend her. Now, vice chair, I'm unsure.

JACOBSON: I think this is near DeKay's district, so, I think he's got an interest probably, as vice chair.

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HANSEN: Yes, and he was vice chair last year, so.

DORN: What was that name again?

ARCH: DeKay.

DORN: Just-- a conservative.

IBACH: And in the interest that he is chair of a committee already, standing committee. DeKay. We could, we could easily do Raybould and DeKay.

HANSEN: Yes. Yeah, Raybould is a chair. Yeah. Did I make a motion, or? OK. So I'll, I'll entertain a motion to select Senator Raybould as the chair and Senator DeKay as the vice chair.

JACOBSON: I would move that.

HANSEN: There's a second? Second?

ARCH: Second.

HANSEN: There's been a motion and a second to select Senator Raybould as the chairperson and Senator DeKay as the vice chairperson of the State-Tribal Relations Committee. Any further disc--

BRANDON METZLER: I'd do those separate. I'd make two motions, ideally.

HANSEN: Scratch that. I'll make a motion to elect, to elect Senator Raybould as the chairperson of the State-Tribal Relations Committee. Is there a second?

IBACH: Second.

HANSEN: There's been a second. Any further discussion? Roll call.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Jacobson?

JACOBSON: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator McKinney?

McKINNEY: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Hansen?

HANSEN: Yes.

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NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Ibach?

IBACH: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Speaker Arch?

ARCH: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Ballard?

BALLARD: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Dorn?

DORN: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Fredrickson.

FREDRICKSON: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Motion carries.

HANSEN: All right. I'll entertain a motion to select Senator DeKay as the vice chair of the State-Tribal Relations Committee. Is there a second? And a second. Any further discussion? Roll call vote.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator McKinney?

McKINNEY: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Hansen?

HANSEN: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Ibach?

IBACH: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Speaker Arch?

ARCH: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Ballard?

BALLARD: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Dorn?

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DORN: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Fredrickson?

FREDRICKSON: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Jacobson?

JACOBSON: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Motion carries.

HANSEN: Yeah, we'll save STAR WARS for last year. We got one more that might be a little bit easier. The next one is a-- let's just move on to the next one with Streamlined Sales and Use Tax System Committee. We, we have to select two members. Three members have put their name in for this committee. Is there any discussion before we take this 1 to a vote? All right, seeing none, write down your top two.

BRANDON METZLER: By a majority vote, the Executive Board has selected Senators Bostar and Clouse.

HANSEN: All right. Entertain a motion.

ARCH: So moved.

DORN: Second it.

HANSEN: There's been a motion and a second to select Senator Bostar and Senator Clouse to Streamlined Sales and Use Tax System Committee. Any further discussion? Roll call vote.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Hansen?

HANSEN: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Ibach?

IBACH: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Speaker Arch?

ARCH: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Ballard?

BALLARD: Yes.

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NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Dorn?

DORN: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Fredrickson?

FREDRICKSON: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Jacobson?

JACOBSON: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator McKinney?

McKINNEY: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Motion carries.

HANSEN: All right. On to the fun one that obviously, everybody wants.

IBACH: I do not.

HANSEN: OK. Thank you for your sacrifice.

IBACH: You're welcome.

HANSEN: The Statewide Tourism And Recreational Water Access and Resource Sustainability special committee. So I don't know how this was done in the past. All I know is I wanted it the last time, and I didn't get it, but that's just, that's just a thing with me. But anyway, I think that we're-- I know we have to have seven-- we have to have at least more than-- seven or more. I personally would like to not-- you know, I know some people might want to put all 16, 17 people on there; I would like to keep it within a somewhat reasonable amount, but I guess it's up to us to discuss, I think, and decide. I think we first maybe as a committee might want to decide how many we think is appropriate to have on this committee. I was thinking maybe around 10, maybe 12. Yes, Brandon?

BRANDON METZLER: Mr. Chair, if I could. At, at least the vote on the Appropriations Committee member would be in order, because you do need to select one of those two individuals. So, regardless of what your total comes out to be, you will need to select either Senator Strommen or Senator Dover between the two of them to serve as that Appropriations member.

HANSEN: OK. So probably just move, move that one first.

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BRANDON METZLER: Yeah, take a vote on that and then determine your total.

HANSEN: OK. So let's go ahead and do that. So we will--

ARCH: And there would be-- if I, if I could.

HANSEN: Yes. Speaker.

ARCH: And there would, there would be no problem with selecting one if-- whoever doesn't get that, there wouldn't be any problem with selecting them the other one at-large--

BRANDON METZLER: As a at-large member. Correct, but that shakes them out of your bigger equation.

HANSEN: Senator Clements.

CLEMENTS: This shows chair of Natural Resources Senator Moser.

HANSEN: Yes, we have changed that. Yeah, I'm sorry, that was a typo; it was Brandt.

CLEMENTS: OK.

HANSEN: I will list that off there at the end. And if I could say one thing, make sure I get this right. I believe Lake McConaughy-- isn't that in Senator Strommen's district?

JACOBSON: It is.

HANSEN: Yeah.

JACOBSON: It touches my district.

HANSEN: And I-- so I think if we're-- well, I'm sure everyone has their different qualifications of who they think they should be on this committee. But I think one of the main qualifications, I would think, would be who is this going to be impacting the most, and which senators, and Strommen, I think would be one of the biggest ones. Speaker Arch?

ARCH: I-- if I could, I, I'd like-- I chair the committee, and I want to tell you where we're at right now. Game and Parks has got, has got three projects under consideration. There is McConaughy with, with some work out there; there is the marina up at Lewis and Clark; and there is a Niobrara conference center. Those things are beginning to

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narrow down, and certainly it's going to be a-- it's going to be an issue for the budget this year as to what gets funded. In addition to that, of course, there is the eastern Nebraska lake question, that whole, that whole project. So you've got, you, you've got really three, three geographic areas from Game and Parks, and then you've got Sarpy County, Senator Holdcroft's district for the lake question. This is-- this-- you know, right now, we didn't mention who the incumbents are. I have that list, if I can, if I could let you know who they are. It is Ballard, DeKay, Holdcroft, Jacobson, Raybould, Dover, Bostar, and I'm appointed by my position, and I, and I serve as-- and I serve as chair. And apparently, the chair of Natural Resources is also on there. So, yeah. Up to seven. And, and I think we have 11 last year currently serving on there, including me. No, actually, I think it would be 12, including me, because Moser on that would be, would be also on there.

HANSEN: We had 11 last year.

ARCH: 11?

HANSEN: According to this. And Senator Moser was not on it last time.

ARCH: OK.

HANSEN: Yeah, I have Ballard, DeKay, Holdcroft, Jacobson, Raybould, Dover, Bostar.

ARCH: So at this point, for the STAR WARS Committee, we are not initiating new projects. Actually, some of those projects are shutting down and will not be funded because the, the feasibility of some of them-- Niobrara, for instance-- that, that-- the state park and having a conference center there, Game and Parks did the full feasibility and in, in, they're not even recommending that we proceed with it, you know. So, we're narrowing it down. This is going to be-- this will be of interest as it-- when it comes to the budget this year. But some of these things are down the road quite a ways, and, and so. That's what the committee is.

HANSEN: OK. Senator Jacobson?

JACOBSON: I guess I'm really confused with it saying Natural Resource Committee Chair Moser, because Moser wasn't the committee chair last year. It was Bostelman.

HANSEN: That was a typo. That was a typo. Senator Brandt.

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JACOBSON: And Bostelman [INAUDIBLE].

ARCH: Oh, yeah, it was Bostelman.

BRANDON METZLER: Yeah, Senator Brandt would be in that position.

JACOBSON: Yeah, so it'd be Senator Brandt today. Yeah. So we have one that was on last year that's not back, that was not a returning senator.

ARCH: And Bostelman actually had some, some river levees that were restored up by Schuyler. And so he was very interested.

HANSEN: On the Platte?

ARCH: Platte.

IBACH: Why don't we have a set amount of committee members on this already?

ARCH: Say again?

IBACH: Why don't we have a set amount of committee members established already?

BRANDON METZLER: The way it was written in statute, Senator, was there was no ceiling; it was just a floor. At least seven.

HANSEN: So, I-- well, we can have a discussion after we kind of-- so-- OK, so can I also-- so would the Speaker and the Natural Resources chair, will that be a separate vote, do you think, as well? Or would those be included as--

BRANDON METZLER: At the end.

HANSEN: --the whole list. So, right now, we should just do, as a separate vote, the determination of Appropriations Committee. But any further commission-- or, any further discussion, just to make sure, we're going to vote next on who we think out of the Appropriations Committee between Senator Strommen and Senator Dover should be on the committee. I just want to make sure that no other discussion about that. Yes, Senator Clements?

CLEMENTS: I agree. Senator Erdman used to have McConaughy area; Senator Strommen, now it's in his district. I think it's good for a Senator that represents that area to be [INAUDIBLE].

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ARCH: Whether, whether the representative of the Appropriations Committee, or at-large.

CLEMENTS: Yes.

HANSEN: Yeah, and this was his primary pick, out of all the committees.

CLEMENTS: They could be picked for either. Either way.

HANSEN: OK. All right. So with that, we'll go ahead and write down, vote who you think between Senator Strommen and Senator Dover [INAUDIBLE].

BRANDON METZLER: Senator Strommen has been selected by a majority vote of the Executive Board as the representative of the Appropriations Committee on the STAR WARS Committee.

HANSEN: I'd entertain a motion.

JACOBSON: So moved.

DORN: Second.

HANSEN: There's been a motion and a second to select Senator Strommen to the STAR WARS special committee. Roll call.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Ibach?

IBACH: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Speaker Arch?

ARCH: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Ballard?

BALLARD: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Dorn?

DORN: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Fredrickson?

FREDRICKSON: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Jacobson?

JACOBSON: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator McKinney?

McKINNEY: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Hansen?

HANSEN: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Motion carries.

HANSEN: All right, so then, now, obviously, we'll have Speaker Arch again chair it. And then we will have the chair of the Natural Resources Committee, Senator Brandt, as well, on there. So we will include those in our list of nominees to be included. But I think right now, then we have to take a vote. I think the first thing we should probably do as a committee is decide how many members we actually want on this committee. Is there any discussion about that? Senator Jacobson?

JACOBSON: Well, as I look at the list-- and considering what we've been doing-- we've got a member of the Appropriations Committee on; we've got the chair of the Revenue Committee that has interest. I mean, I, I look at the number of incumbents, and if we were to include all the incumbents and include the chair of the Exec Board and the chair of Revenue, along with the others that are up top, we would have a pretty good sized committee with good representation.

ARCH: I don't see Revenue.

JACOBSON: Von Gillern. I'm just saying he's, he's interested. So if we would-- so, he's not incumbent but would be interested in being on the committee. And I understand the Exec Board chair would have an interest. And so, I mean, we seem to be covering Appropriations, Revenue, Exec Board, and then incumbents and people that haven't have touched those areas. And you know we're a couple of years in on this, and-- you know, it's going to take a while to come up to speed and we're going to be eliminating the budget dollars, so I'm not sure we need a huge committee to carry out the intent of the--

ARCH: I would agree. We don't need a huge committee.

HANSEN: So you're thinking of incumbents and then Senator von Gillern and myself, pretty much.

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JACOBSON: Yes.

HANSEN: That would be about 11, again. Or 12.

DORN: I if I counted them, maybe I counted them, maybe I didn't catch everybody right. Because you have Dover on there now.

IBACH: Dover is on now, isn't he?

DORN: Yeah.

HANSEN: Oh, yes, I got him included. So let's see here, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12. That'd be 12 people on the committee.

DORN: Yeah, those three, and then those.

FREDRICKSON: That's a lot of-- I would move that we advance the incumbents with the addition of Senator Ben Hansen and Senator Brad von Gillern.

DORN: I'll second that.

HANSEN: Can we do that, or do we have to take it to a vote?

BRANDON METZLER: No, you can do that.

HANSEN: OK. All right. So. So there's been a motion to select Speaker Arch as chair, since--

ARCH: That's in, that's in statute.

HANSEN: Yeah, I just. I was giving you the title, there.

ARCH: Thank you.

ARCH: Senator Brandt, Senator Strommen, we-- I guess I don't have to make a motion for Senator Strommen since we already elected him. So, Speaker Arch, Senator Brandt, Senator Ballard, Senator DeKay, Senator Holdcroft, Senator Jacobson, Senator Raybould, Senator Dover, Senator Bostar, Senator Hansen, and Senator von Gillern to the Statewide Tourism And Recreational Water Access and Resource Sustainability Special Committee. Any--

JACOBSON: Second.

HANSEN: OK. OK, so there's been a motion and a second. Any further discussion? Roll call.

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NATALIE SCHUNK: Speaker Arch?

ARCH: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Ballard?

BALLARD: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Dorn?

DORN: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Fredrickson?

FREDRICKSON: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Jacobson?

JACOBSON: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator McKinney?

McKINNEY: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Hansen?

HANSEN: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Senator Ibach?

IBACH: Yes.

NATALIE SCHUNK: Motion carries.

HANSEN: Oh. So, for discussion. Can I talk about coffee? I want to talk about coffee. Yes. I want to make sure I'm on the right page and not, like, upsetting too many people here, but, it's the one thing I wanted to do was to-- as much as I enjoy the coffee that we have in there currently, myself and among other senators have, have asked for other options. And so, one of the things we're going to recommend, and we moved through is getting a couple of Keurigs in there-- Keurig machines-- and then, find a way to get K-Cups in there as well that we could provide just for senators use only, and for use of those on the floor from the Clerk's office. And so, we'll maybe describe that a little bit more. I'll make-- or, talk about it. Send an email out to everybody. So just to let you know. But we'll still continue to use the old coffee that we have, so we're not wasting it as well.

JACOBSON: People do drink that coffee.

HANSEN: Yes. Good.

FREDRICKSON: Would this eliminate the current coffee, once we're out of it?

HANSEN: Once we're out of it, that would-- that might be for discussion, because I guess everybody else, the staff and everybody else might want to drink something, so, we'll probably-- it'll probably take a while to use up that current coffee that we have now.

BRANDON METZLER: Yeah, if I could, Mr. Chair, right now you have-- the Legislature has a contract with Host Coffee, so they go around all the machines, or-- the old machine was ripped out; they replaced the new machines. They provide the coffee on a, on a week-to-week basis. We can update that blend, and then we can certainly bring in additional options for coffee if the senators want. Restricting the use of that machine to senators is easy enough when we're in session. There might be an issue, you know, out of session; who, you know, who walks up there and uses it. We can always pull the machine out, probably won't hook it up to the water line. I know Capitol Commission had a struggle with the current machines up to the water line. It'll be standalone units that, that we can go through. Only thing I would ask is-- our concern from a Keurig K-Cup is senators either bringing their own, or if the Legislature does, you know-- just so that I know the variety of K-Cups out there is extensive. So, just so we aren't in a situation where we have a full menu of options and, you know, if, if the Exec Board or somebody could select, you know-- these are through Accounting, the, you know, options provided, senators can pick between that. But I, I just-- I think if you open that up to-- you know, you'd have hot chocolate and tea and all the different things.

HANSEN: Yeah, I was going to limit it to maybe two or three choices. And if people want to bring in their own stuff, they can.

JACOBSON: Will we have a problem with Host in terms of the contract with them, if we brought in more coffee options?

BRANDON METZLER: We could actually continue the contract-- they have-- they offer Keurig machines, they offer Keurig, K-Cups. We could still-- creamers. I mean, anything that you guys are looking for in terms of that, you've got it written in statute that you're allowed to purchase coffee. So there's not a concern there from, you know, state resources sort of a thing.

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HANSEN: Not too many perks we get here.

BRANDON METZLER: You made sure of it back in the '60s that you had coffee provided. So, yes.

IBACH: That is a perk.

FREDRICKSON: So, so, so my one question would be-- Senator Armendariz reminded me of this yesterday, I was talking about free coffee; she said it's taxpayer-funded coffee. So my question-- I would just be curious to sort of see what the-- you know, if you were to add a Keurig, just, like, a price differentiation on that, and-- just to be mindful of that.

BRANDON METZLER: The other thing I would point out if I could-- a couple of years ago, we had styrofoam cups. There was a big fight over the disposable-- the disposability-- the, you know, ec--

IBACH: Is it environmentally friendly?

BRANDON METZLER: Thank you. Yes. And so, we had switched to those paper cups. You may think, or your recommendation to those that provide the coffee may be such that we look at, like, the biodegradable K-Cups, just because you're looking at a lot of plastic waste, if you're going through 49 cups of coffee or more a day. So I know that's out there and I wanted to get ahead of it.

HANSEN: This is why I have a discussion.

BRANDON METZLER: Yeah, I wanted to get ahead of that before we bought a bunch of plastic cups and, you know, so.

JACOBSON: But you indicated there could be a different blend of coffee in the current machine that would actually taste like coffee.

BRANDON METZLER: Well, that-- right now we have just always given the standard black Colombian coffee. They've got breakfast blends. They've got other options. We had just gone with the basics, so. We can do both. I mean, the world is your oyster, Senators, in terms of coffee.

HANSEN: All right. Well, just FYI, it could be a [INAUDIBLE], so.

IBACH: Should we have run a vote card [INAUDIBLE]?

HANSEN: No. All right. I'd entertain a motion to adjourn.

FREDRICKSON: So moved.

HANSEN: Is there a motion and a second to adjourn? All those in favor, say aye. All right. Thank you.