

Joint Committee on Veterans' & Military Affairs

July 28, 2011, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Camp Murray, Washington

Room 109

Committee members present:

Senator Becker	Representative Bailey
Senator Conway	Representative Orwall
Senator Hobbs	Representative Finn
Senator Swecker	Representative McCune
Senator Carrell	Representative Hudgins
Senator Roach	

The meeting began at 10:00 am with a briefing by committee staff. Committee staff reviewed legislation passed during the 2011 legislative session. Representative Bailey requested that staff provide the committee with a list of bills passed that had previously received the endorsement of the committee during the December 2010 meeting. Senator Conway requested that committee staff provide information regarding measures that pertain to the committee that may have been included in the budget.

John Lee, Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Dennis Primoli and Jim Sims from the Veterans Legislative Coalition (VLC) presented the next agenda item. Director Lee provided an update on the skilled nursing facility currently under design and slated to be built in Eastern Washington. The facility will house 100 veterans in need of skilled nursing. The project is estimated to cost \$30 million with 2/3 of the money coming from the federal government.

Dennis Primoli outlined the 14 bills that the VLC tracked during the 2011 legislative session but failed to pass. The VLC outlined their support for 5 of the 14 items. Jim Sims of the VLC updated the committee on a \$17,000 donation given to aid homeless veterans.

From 10:45 to 10:55 the meeting was at recess for the purposes of caucus.

At 10:55, Chair Hobbs called the meeting to order. The committee adopted the minutes from December 2010. Election of new executive committee members followed with Representative Bailey (R); Representative Orwall (D); Senator Roach (R); and Senator Conway (D) elected for the term 2011-2013. A decision about co-chairs will be addressed by the executive committee during a conference call to be scheduled by committee staff.

Lt. Col. Horn, Col. Dravis, and Lt. Col. Borchers presented information about cyber security, cyber space, the preparedness of the United States in the event of a cyber-terror attack and the role of the Airmen of the 262 in Afghanistan. This presentation was followed by Bill Graham discussing the Funeral Honors Program.

Follow Up:

Staff will schedule a conference call for the new executive committee members.

Staff will send the list of the 14 bills the VLC continue to track to the committee members.

Staff will provide the members with the list of December endorsements.