



Conrad Study Commission

COMMISSION MEMBERS

James M. Bjelland, Chairman
Douglas Barnes
Norma McAdam

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Vote on November 2

To the citizens of Conrad:

This is a summary of the proposed report of the Conrad City Study Commission appointed by the City Council on November 5, 1974. The members of the Study Commission have served without any monetary compensation.

The responsibility of the Study Commission, as defined by state law, is "to study the form and power of government and existing procedures for delivery of local government services and compare them with other forms available under the laws of the State of Montana." After completing these two phases of the study it is the responsibility of the Study Commission to submit an alternative form of government to the qualified electors.

In every phase of this study the commission sought advice and information from as many people in the city as possible. Opinions and recommendations were solicited from local government officials and citizens. All meetings were open to the public and a public hearing was held and a newspaper survey was made. Our recommendations reflect

at-large.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY COMMISSION

After an intensive study of almost two years, it is the decision of the study commission to submit the Commission-Chairman form of government to comply with requirements of the law. No problem areas were identified during the course of the study by research, discussion, public hearings, testimony of public officials, and citizen surveys indicated that in exercising its traditional functions, city government has the authority it needs.

The study commission unanimously agreed that the present form of government meets the basic needs and services at the present time; however, under state law we must offer to the voters of Conrad an alternative form of government.

The alternative form offered is the Commission-Chairman, composed of seven (7) members elected at-large. The commission is elected and makes local policy. The commissioners choose one of themselves to be chairman and it is the chairman

offered by the Montana Legislature is an optional form with which the state has no experience. In fact, this form of government is virtually unknown and untried in the nation as a whole. It is a hybrid of the commission and strong executive forms.

This form features an at-large elected commission of seven on a non-partisan basis and a commission chairman who is elected by all the commissioners from among their own number. All seven are elected for four terms concurrently. These commissioners possess only policy-making powers. The chairman is designated the "chief executive officer" and the "head of the local government unit." The chairman, moreover, is the presiding officer of the commission and, since he is elected by the citizens as a commissioner, has the same voting power as any other commission member.

Probably the most interesting feature of this form is that the chairman has complete legislative and executive powers, but serves only at the pleasure of the commission. The chairman, therefore, can be removed at

(d) carry out policies established by the commission;

(e) recommend measures to the commission;

(f) report to the commission on the affairs and financial condition of the local government;

(g) execute bonds, notes, contracts, and written obligations of the commission, subject to the approval of the commission;

(h) report to the commission as the commission may require;

(i) attend commission meetings and may take part in discussions;

(j) execute the budget adopted by the commission;

(k) appoint, with the consent of the commission, all members of boards; except, the executive may appoint without the consent of the commission temporary advisory committees established by the executive.

(3) The plan of government shall further define the structural characteristics of the form by including the items listed below:

(a) The executive may appoint one or more administrative assistants to assist in the

In testimony whereof, we set our hands.

Done at Conrad, Montana this third day of May, 1976.

Local Government
Study Commissioner

/s/ James M. Bjelland
/s/ Douglas Barnes
/s/ Norma L. McAdam

CERTIFICATE ESTABLISHING THE PROPOSED PLAN OF GOVERNMENT FOR THE CITY OF CONRAD

If adopted by the voters, the government of the City of Conrad shall be organized under the following provisions of Section 47A-3-206: Revised Codes of Montana, 1947. Commission-Chairman form.

- (1)
- (2)
- (3) (a) (i)
- (3) (b) (i)
- (3) (c) (i) (i)
- (3) (d) (i)
- (3) (e) (i) (i)

and remove all other employees; (c) prepare the budget and present it to the commission for adoption;

(p) exercise control and supervision over the administration of departments and boards.

(3) The plan of government shall further define the structural characteristics of the form by including the items listed below:

(a) The commission shall be: (i) elected at large

(b) Local government elections shall be conducted on a:

(i) non-partisan basis as provided in this title.

(3) The commission chairman:

(ii) May appoint one or more administrative assistants to assist him in the supervision and operation of the local government. Such administrative assistants shall be answerable solely to the chairman.

(d) Commission members shall be elected for:

(i) concurrent terms of office.

(e) The size of the commission shall be seven members and:

(ii) Community councils to

advise commissioners may be authorized by ordinance.

(f) The term of office of elected officials shall be 4 years.

(4) The plan of government shall authorize:

(a) general government powers.

We, the Study Commissioners of the City of Conrad do hereby certify that this is the proposed Plan of Government as established by Section 47A-3-206: Revised Codes of Montana, 1947.

In testimony, whereof, we set our hands.

Done at Conrad, Montana this third day of May, 1976.

Local Government
Study Commission

/s/ James M. Bjelland
/s/ Douglas A. Barnes
/s/ Norma L. McAdam

SEAL
ATTEST: E. J. Jury
Municipal Clerk of Conrad