



## Montana-Ireland Trade Commission

The official meeting minutes may be accessed on the recording.

**Commissioners Present Virtually:** Senator Mike Cuffe (Chair), Senator Ellie Boldman (Vice Chair) Tony Brockman (Representative Parry’s Proxy), Representative Josh Seckinger, Mackenzie Espeland (Director Jillien Streit’s Proxy), Galen Hollenbaugh (Commissioner Clayton Christian’s Proxy), Jim McCormick and Paddy Fleming

**Montana Department of Commerce Present Virtually:** Mandy Rambo

**Montana Department of Commerce Staff Present:** Syerra Stroud (meeting minutes)

**Guests Present Virtually:** Dave Kuntz

### Call to Order, Roll Call, Notice of Recorded Meeting

**00:00** Chair Cuffe called the meeting to order. Syerra called role for Commission members. Tony Brockman gave notice of the meeting being recorded. Mackenzie Espeland notified the board that use of any AI notetaking, transcription, or summarization tool is not permitted at today’s meeting per State policy.

### Review of Meeting Minutes from 3.12.26 – vote to accept minutes

**03:36** Mr. McCormick motions to approve minutes, Chair Cuffe took a roll call vote, motion passes by all commissioners who are present.

### Financial Report, Mandy Rambo

**07:12** Deputy Director Mandy Rambo presented the Montana-Ireland Trade Commission fund activity detail as of March 31, 2026. There has been no changes made to the report since the last meeting on 3.12.26. Ms. Rambo went over the details for the expense of Commerce staff time, which is currently just above \$9,000.00.

**Montana Department of Commerce** | [commerce.mt.gov](https://commerce.mt.gov) | [montanarelay.mt.gov](https://montanarelay.mt.gov) (711)

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## Potential comments from Mark Daly, Irish Senate President

**15:20** Senator Daly was unable to attend the meeting; Chair Cuffe went over the conversation he had with Senator Daly.

**16:30** Chair Cuffe asked for public comment, there was no public comment.

## Chairman Cuffe Report

**16:36** Chair Cuffe went over the budget committee meetings, and the LFC meeting that he had attended.

**18:22** Vice Chair Boldman stated that she will be emailing the committee members the additional language she has been working on for the new non-profit model.

## Discussion on U of M Irish Studies program – Jim McCormick and OCHE or U of M Staff

**21:04** Mr. McCormick went over the topic of attaching Irish Studies to the work of the commission.

**33:18** Dave Kuntz presented a campus report over the academic portfolio review program.

**46:00** Galen Hollenbaugh further explains the University of Montana's programmatic review for the Irish Studies program.

**50:20** Chair Cuffe asked for public comment, there was no public comment.

## Discussion on moving Commission to a non-profit model – vote to make this decision

**51:46** Senator Boldman went over the additional language she had recently emailed to the commissioners to incorporate in the bylaws.

**59:10** Mr. Brockman recommended for the commission to make the vote today, and commit to working on the language in the future meeting. Chair Cuffe doesn't want to make a vote on a document that isn't clear and finished, Mr. McCormick agrees to be able to see everything before deciding.

**01:01:00** Vice Chair Boldman made a motion to table today's discussion and vote by acclamation to put this item on the agenda for the next meeting. Representative Seckinger seconded the motion, motion passed. In the next day, Senator Boldman will forward the commission a proposed draft for everyone to provide feedback, edits and amendments; this document will be what the commission votes on at the next meeting.

## Reports from other Commissioners

**01:02:36** Representative Seckinger stated that the tariff is still influencing the fishing worlds interaction with the European Union, and seem unwilling to engage at this time.

## Next Meeting Date (to be set, if needed), Chair Cuffe

**01:04:52** Commerce will send out a survey to decide on the next meeting date.

**01:07:38** Chair Cuffe asked for public comment, there was no public comment.

## Meeting Closure, Chair Cuffe

**01:07:58** Meeting adjourned by Chair Cuffe at 10:12 a.m.