Montana Blockchain and Digital Innovation Task Force
Meeting Minutes

Date: October 6, 2025 at 3:00 pm MST
Location: Virtual Meeting – Recording
Website: https://doa.mt.gov/BDITF

Roll Call & Introductions

Legislators:
- Representative Kelly Kortum
- Senator Gayle Lammers, Cochair
- Senator Brandon Ler
- Senator Shane Morigeau
- Representative Curtis Schomer, Cochair
- Senator Daniel Zolnikov

State Officials and/or Designees:
- State Auditor Jim Brown
    - Trevor Graff (Staff)
    - Kirsten Madsen (Staff)
- Justin Raymond (Sitting in for Andrew Butler, designee for Attorney General Austen Knudsen)

Industry & Public Members:
- Tanner Avery
- Mark Baker
- Bill Bickle
- James Brown
- Loren Brown
- Randy Chesler
- Leigh Drogen
- Julie Fredrickson
- Kevin Gilbertson
- Guillermo Perez
- Daniel Pittman
- Thad Pryor
- Sam Sill

Staff:
- Melanie Hall
- Heather Bernet

Notable Points:
- Each attendee introduced themselves, their background, and interest in blockchain and digital innovation.
- Emphasis on diverse expertise: finance, technology, law, banking, venture capital, government, and blockchain.

Task Force Overview

- Established by Senate Bill 330 to develop knowledge and expertise in blockchain, financial technology, and digital innovation.
- Educational focus, with recommendations for state policy to promote innovation and consumer protection.
- Explore partnerships with financial institutions and regulatory frameworks.
- Advisory role, with potential for legislative proposals.
- Focus on stablecoins, tokenization, and related policy frameworks.
- Emphasis on regulatory clarity and learning sessions for new technology.
- Discussion of financial and non-financial applications (e.g., record keeping, voting).
- Highlight on banking sector impact and competitive interest rates.
- Suggestions for structuring future sessions and separating key topics.
- Scope includes both financial and non-financial applications of blockchain.
- Question as to limitations on considering tax incentives or other policy tools.
- Discussion opened for ideas on financial, record keeping, and fraud-related topics.
- Participants invited to share suggestions or comments.

Federal & State Regulatory Updates

GENIUS Act:
- Passed on July 18, 2025, regulates stablecoin issuers.
- Allows for permitted stablecoin issuers (banks, credit unions, non-banks approved by OCC).
- Montana does not currently regulate money transmitters, unlike most other states.

Clarity Act:
- Market structure bill for non-stablecoin crypto assets; stalled in the Senate.
- Would clarify SEC and CFTC roles and encourage state securities regulators' involvement.

Wyoming Stablecoin:
- Wyoming launched a state-issued stablecoin in August 2025, requiring 102% reserves.
- Montana could consider similar initiatives.

Brainstorming & Discussion

Key Themes:
- Education: Possible need for foundational sessions on blockchain, regulatory clarity, and technology basics.
- Stablecoins: Wyoming's model and exploring state-issued stablecoins.
- Tokenization: Use cases for deeds, titles, and digital proof of ownership.
- Privacy: Importance of privacy protections in blockchain applications.
- Tribal Involvement: Inclusion of Montana tribes and tribal banks in discussions.
- Business Environment: Making Montana attractive for blockchain and crypto companies.
- Voting: Potential for blockchain-based voting systems (noted as a longer-term topic).
- Consumer Protection: Addressing fraud and ensuring privacy and transparency.
- Personal Finance: Impact of blockchain on individual financial lives and future trends.

Stablecoins, Tokenization, and Use Cases
- Stablecoins offer potential innovation opportunities.

- Tokenization enables digital, immutable proof of ownership (e.g., deeds, titles).
- Blockchain and zero-knowledge proofs can enable transparent, private voting.
- Emphasis on transparency, true asset ownership, and open systems.
- Importance of differentiation between privacy, transparency and anonymity.

Suggestions:
- Conduct a 50-state scan of policies/legislation for consideration.
  - Who? CSBS, NCSL?
- Invite experts and panels for educational presentations.
- Set clear agendas for future meetings to avoid overly broad discussions.

Learning Sessions & Regulatory Updates
- Recommend starting with foundational sessions on the technology due to varying familiarity among task force members.
- Suggest reviewing recent federal updates and Montana's law changes from the past few years.
- Propose initial sessions to establish common understanding and avoid overlap or conflict.
- Identify stablecoin and regulatory clarity as potential focus areas for future discussions.

Framework, Ecosystem, and Economic Impact
- Framework separates stablecoins/payments from other blockchain topics.
- Recommends dedicated sessions and presentations for each area.
- Highlights importance of open collaboration between crypto, government, and banking sectors.
- Stablecoin issuers may pay out all yield, increasing pressure on banks to offer competitive interest rates.
- JP Morgan forecasts $95B net interest margin income for next 12 months; Bank of America at $60B; potential shift of profits from banks to stablecoins.

Action Items & Next Steps

Immediate Actions:
- Members to email staff with topics and ideas for future meetings.
- Staff to distill discussion into a game plan and proposed agenda for the next meeting.
- Staff to set meeting with cochairs to organize agenda and topics for next few meetings.
- Consider educational presentations and focus on one or two priority topics per meeting.
- Explore remote participation options for all meetings.

Future Focus:
- Stablecoins and payments.
- Regulatory clarity and consumer protection.
- Tribal engagement and business development.
- Technical presentations and expert panels.

Closing

Next Meeting:
- Tentative dates proposed; adjustments possible based on member availability.
- Remote participation will be available.

Adjournment:

- Meeting adjourned with appreciation for attendees' contributions and encouragement to reach out with further ideas.