

## Cities and Towns RoundTable Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2026

Hosts: SMCs Tawni Aguirre Butte and Kellie Trudgeon Columbia Falls

The meeting was attended by Greg Tryom (City of Belgrade); JoLynn Yerger (City of Billings); Eilis Redmond, and Jamie Norby (City of Bozeman); Angela Swingley (City of Great Falls); Cari Rubin (City of Livingston); Denise Michel and Bre Hanson (City of Kalispell); Mike Brady and Angela Gebhardt (City of Missoula); and Janelle McKay and Sherri Baccaro (City of Whitefish).

### Follow-up Items from October 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting

- **Indemnity Report** – Kristy Wilson is currently developing these reports. Assigned claims examiners will distribute them to their respective city/town contacts once finalized.
- **Legislative Updates** – Ethan Heverly provided updates on current bills. For specific questions, please contact Ethan at [EHeverly@MT.GOV](mailto:EHeverly@MT.GOV).
- **Find Us on The Web** - The Connections Team now has a dedicated webpage! You can find meeting minutes, newsletters, recordings, and safety videos here:
  - URL: [SafeMT.com](https://SafeMT.com) → *Initiatives* → *City and Town Safety Videos*
- **Make Them Whole Statute** – A JotForm will be sent to members to vote on a dedicated meeting date. Once a date is finalized, representatives from MSF Legal and Claims will attend to answer questions

### New Items and Suggestions

- **WorkSafe Champions:** Members interested in starting a WorkSafe Champions group are encouraged to contact their Safety Management Consultant. (Special thanks to Angela Swingley for sharing the City of Great Falls' success with this program!)
- **Resource Center:** Kellie and Tawni are collaborating with internal MSF partners to develop a Cross-City/Town Resource Post Center on the website for members to share materials.

- **Pay Code Discussions:** Brief conversation regarding pay codes used for employees who are off on WC. Let's continue this discussion during the "Make Them Whole Statute" meeting.

### **Presentation: Claims – The Examiners Perspective**

- **Topic:** Workers Compensation and Montana State Funds claims handling process.
- This session covered the Montana State Fund claims handling process from the perspective of an examiner.
  - **Questions?** Contact your assigned claims examiner.
  - **Need Contact Info?** Reach out to Kellie Trudgeon at [Kellie.Trudgeon@mt.gov](mailto:Kellie.Trudgeon@mt.gov) or Tawni Jo Aguirre at [Tawnijo.Aguirre2@mt.gov](mailto:Tawnijo.Aguirre2@mt.gov) .

### **Special Acknowledgements and City Brags**

- **Special Thanks:** James Casada (Claims), Kristy Wilson (Claims), Ethan Heverly (Gov. Relations), and Nick Mazanec (Legal) for their expertise and support during this session.
- **City Brags:** Kudos to the City of Great Falls and the City of Billings for sharing their recent successes!
  - Members are encouraged to **send in their City Brags** for future meetings. City Brags will be published in CATCOLAB Newsletter

**Music Request:** Feel free to send in requests for opening waiting room music!

**Next Meeting Date:** April 7, 2026

**Topic:** Risk Assessment