

MINUTES

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
55th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: By Subcommittee Chairman Bill Tash, on February 19, 1997, at 7:00 a.m., in Room 420

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Bill Tash, Subcommittee Chairman (R)
Rep. Hal Harper (D)
Rep. Jon Ellingson (D)
Rep. Doug Mood (R)
Rep. Robert R. Story, Jr. (R)

Staff Present: Kathleen Williams, Legislative Services
Stephanie Braun, Committee Secretary

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: HB 546

SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON HB 546

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Rep. Tash opened the meeting at 7:00 a.m.

{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 0.1; Comments: none.}

Rep. Tash decided he did not want to look at the proposed amendments by Vicki Watson, University of Montana Professor of Environmental Studies and Biology and Larry Brown from MT Agricultural Preservation. He felt they were too voluminous at this time and he doesn't recommend taking the time.

{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 2.5; Comments: none.}

Rep. Mood asked Rep. Tash if at this time he is inclined to change the composition of the Advisory Board.

{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 4.7; Comments: none.}

Rep. Tash, Leo Berry is interested in becoming partners in the Advisory Group.

{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 4.9; Comments: none.}

Rep. Story feels that there are concerns on both sides of the issue with regards to the Advisory Board.

{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 5.6; Comments: none.}

Rep. Harper feels that there needs to be individuals to represent tourism and outfitter.

{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 7.0; Comments: none.}

Rep. Tash don't want to send signals that we are trying to overload.

{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 8.5; Comments: none.}

Rep. Harper, we need to keep in mind that the base needs to be inclusive of point source dischargers which I think would cover tourism and a water-based industry.

{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 10.0; Comments: none.}

Rep. Tash good argument but by the same token not trying to weigh one group or another.

{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 12.4; Comments: none.}

Rep. Tash asked without objection that John Bloomquist comment on the Committees proposed Advisory Group. John Bloomquist feels the additional members would be a great source.

{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 13.6; Comments: none.}

Rep. Tash asked John Bloomquist to present his amendments that he suggested at the hearing.

{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 19.9; Comments: none.}

Rep. Harper asked the Department (DEQ) to comment on the proposed amendments. Department was not opposed to the first two amendments felt they went together, but wasn't sure about the third.

{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 28.8; Comments: none.}

John Bloomquist feels that the "TMDL's" will be done how the feds want it to be done. He feels we are ahead of the game and he doesn't want the program to lock us into the Federal program.

{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 32.; Comments: none.}

Rep. Tash reminded that subcommittee of the fiscal note and said that is subject to change due to the fact it has to go to appropriations.

{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 36.0; Comments: none.}

Rep. Harper feels the fiscal note should be brought out on to the floor and should bring Natural Resources and Appropriations Committee eyeball to eyeball for funding from the General Fund. He is concerned about the fact that FTE's have been let go.

{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 37.6; Comments: none.}

Mark Simonich address the FTE says that they will have to look internal rather than asking the Legislature for more money. Possible funding source is the 319 monies.

{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 41.2; Comments: none.}

Rep. Harper says he is uncomfortable with the first two amendments. EPA has the hammer, fails to see in the Bill any recognition of Federal Guidelines.

{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 44.0; Comments: none.}

Rep. Tash can see the purpose of the Bloomquist amendments. Cary Hegreberg of Wood Products Association opposes Rep. Harper and doesn't think MT wants to go along with Federal Guidelines.

{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 45.1; Comments: none.}

Rep. Tash trying to invite collaboration.

{Tape: 1; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 1.4; Comments: none.}

Rep. Tash asked for a vote on John Bloomquist's amendments.

Rep. Tash motion, DO PASS

Motion carries 3-2 (Reps. Harper & Ellingson voted against the amendments)

ADJOURNMENT

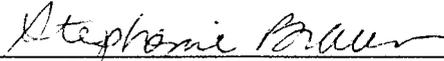
Adjournment: 8:01 a.m.



REP. BILL TASH, Subcommittee Chairman



REP. DICK KNOX, Chairman



STEPHANIE BRAUN, Secretary

DK/SB