

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE
55th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON FISH & GAME

Call to Order: By CHAIRMAN AL BISHOP, on February 6, 1997, at
3:10 p.m., in Room 402

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Al Bishop, Chairman (R)
Sen. Loren Jenkins, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Vivian Brooke (D)
Sen. William S. Crismore (R)
Sen. Steve Doherty (D)
Sen. Bea McCarthy (D)
Sen. Ken Miller (R)

Members Excused: SENATOR KEN MESAROS, SENATOR MIKE TAYLOR

Members Absent: SENATOR DARYL TOEWS

Staff Present: Leanne Kurtz, Legislative Services Division
Serena Andrew, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: HB 92, Posted 2/3/97
Executive Action: HB 92

HEARING ON HB 92

Sponsor: REPRESENTATIVE BILL TASH, HD #34, Dillon

Proponents: Arnold Olsen, Administrator, Parks Division,
Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
SENATOR CHARLES SWYSGOOD, SD #17, Dillon

Opponents: None

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 3:10 p.m.}

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REPRESENTATIVE BILL TASH, HD #34, Dillon, told the committee HB
92 would allow the state to bypass the competitive bidding
process for the restoration of Bannack. It applies only to
Bannack and was intended to take advantage of volunteer

assistance from people with special expertise. Bannack is the site of the First Territorial Legislature. The whole townsite was acquired by the State of Montana in the 1960's. Commercial development is precluded.

Organized labor did not object to the use of volunteers for preservation of the historic buildings in Bannack.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 3:15}

Proponents' Testimony:

Arnie Olsen, Administrator, Parks Division, Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (DFWP) said there are over 100 historic buildings in Bannack where DFWP administers a program of "arrested decay." EXHIBIT #1

Opponents' Testimony: None

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

SENATOR WILLIAM CRISMORE asked how much DFWP was able to spend annually on Bannack and how much they hoped to be able to spend. **Mr. Olsen** said it depends on the Long Range Building Committee. In 1991 they received \$480,000 to stabilize 10 buildings in Bannack. It would probably been possible to stabilize 12 or 13 if this bill had been in effect. In 1995, \$300,000 was earmarked for stabilization of five or six buildings. There is a smaller amount in the current budget.

SENATOR CRISMORE asked if more would come from the "Today and Tomorrow" program. **Mr. Olsen** said he thought so, if money should be left after dealing with Virginia City.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 3:20}

SENATOR BEA McCARTHY asked if there were other places where similar programs could be used. **Mr. Olsen** said there were a few others - for example, two buildings at Plenty Coups near Pryor. However, the problem at Bannack is much greater.

SENATOR McCARTHY commented that she was thinking of Garnet and Granite.

SENATOR CRISMORE asked how much volunteer labor was available. **REPRESENTATIVE TASH** said quite a bit; even the Boy Scouts have helped. The Bannack Association contributes a great volunteer effort digging out foundations, chinking logs, etc. Passage of this bill would encourage more volunteers.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 3:23}

Closing by Sponsor:

REPRESENTATIVE TASH thanked the committee for a good hearing and urged support for his bill. He introduced SENATOR CHARLES SWYSGOOD, SD #17, Dillon who asked to be named as a proponent of HB 92 and offered to carry it in the Senate if approved by the committee.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 92

Motion/Vote: SENATOR STEVE DOHERTY moved HB 92 BE CONCURRED IN. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

{This meeting was recorded on a Lanier recorder}



Sen. Al Bishop, Chairman



Serena Andrew, Secretary