

MINUTES

**MONTANA SENATE
54th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE ON FISH & GAME

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN KEN MESAROS**, on January 5, 1995, at
1:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Kenneth "Ken" Mesaros, Chairman (R)
Sen. Al Bishop, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Bruce D. Crippen (R)
Sen. John R. Hertel (R)
Sen. Ken Miller (R)
Sen. Mike Sprague (R)
Sen. Gary Forrester (D)
Sen. Terry Klampe (D)
Sen. Bob Pipinich (D)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: Senators Crismore and Jacobson

Staff Present: Andrea Merrill, Legislative Council
Serena Andrew, Committee Secretary

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

Committee Business Summary:

This was an organizational meeting.
Executive Action: None

Tape 1, Side A

CHAIRMAN KEN MESAROS, SD #25, welcomed the committee and asked members to introduce themselves. He said he is a farmer/rancher and represents the area from the Helena airport to Great Falls, Lincoln and Augusta. He was on the Senate Fish and Game Committee in the last session and is looking forward to chairing the committee.

VICE CHAIRMAN AL BISHOP represents SD #9 in the heart of Billings. He has been on this committee before and was a Fish and Game Commissioner from 1977-81. **SENATOR BISHOP** said he will enjoy being a member of this committee.

SENATOR KEN MILLER, SD #11, represents Laurel and southwestern Billings. He is in the construction and wood manufacturing business, making trophies, plaques, etc.

SENATOR JOHN HERTEL, SD #47, represents the heart of Montana in Fergus, Judith Basin, Petroleum and a portion of Cascade counties. He is a farmer/rancher.

SENATOR TERRY KLAMPE, SD #31, is from the Bitterroot Valley. He was on this committee in the last session; it considers serious matters of the utmost concern to most Montanans.

SENATOR BOB PIPINICH, SD #29, of Missoula was chairman of this committee in the last session. He believes it should be a major committee, meeting three times a week because of the important issues it considers. Montanans are very concerned about its business.

SENATOR MIKE SPRAGUE, SD #6, represents Billings Heights. He is a third generation Montana and hunting and fishing are very important to him. He believes Montana youth should be educated about the value of nature.

SENATOR GARY FORRESTER, SD #8, is also from Billings Heights. He is a drywall contractor.

ANDREA MERRILL, Legislative Council staff member, has been the Senate Fish and Game Committee staff person since 1981; it is one of the problem-solving groups. She is originally from Anaconda.

SERENA ANDREW, committee secretary, said she was with the Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks for nearly 24 years, the last 10 as secretary to the director. She is looking forward to working with this committee.

CHAIRMAN MESAROS said he appreciated the comments about Montana's hunting heritage - "If you hunt with your child you will never have to hunt for your child." There is a great deal of emotion and sentiment about fishing and hunting issues.

He listed some rules for the committee:

- All discussion will go through the chair.
- Meetings will start promptly at 1:00 p.m.
- Some bills are quite controversial and it may be necessary to limit discussion time.

Only one bill has been received. It is scheduled for hearing next Thursday. Next Tuesday the committee will meet at the Fish, Wildlife & Parks commission meeting room to get acquainted with the department staff.

SENATOR FORRESTER asked how many bills the chairman expects to see. **CHAIRMAN MESAROS** responded "Twenty-eight and they will

be scheduled promptly."

SENATOR PIPINICH requested a weekly list showing bills received and current status of those bills. (This list will be provided to all committee members.)

CHAIRMAN MESAROS said there will be bills on buffalo, game farms, and the Private Land/Public Wildlife Advisory Council's (PL/PWAC) recommendations.

SENATOR HERTEL said the PL/PWAC recommendations to the Governor are scheduled to be heard in the House January 26 or 27. It will be a big bill. There will also be some outfitter bills, but he was not sure whether or not they would move with the PL/PWAC bill.

CHAIRMAN MESAROS welcomed **SENATOR CRIPPEN** who had arranged to arrive late because of a previous commitment. **SENATOR CRIPPEN** said he represents SD 10.

CHAIRMAN MESAROS told the committee he has gathered some information on funding for the Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, both federal and state, and asked the committee to review this information before the next meeting.

Concerning absence on a vote, he said he prefers to hold the vote open until the next meeting rather than accepting a proxy, and asked **SENATOR CRIPPEN'S** opinion. **SENATOR CRIPPEN** responded that either way is acceptable. **SENATOR MESAROS** stated that if there were no objections, he preferred to start by holding the vote open.

He continued with the rules by stating that there are no silly questions, and all questions will be answered. All committee members should feel free to discuss anything. When a sponsor presents a bill, the hearing will be opened with his remarks, the proponents and opponents will present their discussions, questions from the committee will follow, and the sponsor will be asked to close. Once the meeting has been adjourned, the committee will not go back and accept further comments. A subsequent hearing will be scheduled for an item of major importance.

In the last session, three-ring binders were used. The committee will try the folders furnished by the Word Processing Unit for a while. Bills to be presented will be on top of the folders.

The committee coffee fund will require a \$5 donation from each member and the fund will be administered by **SENATOR BISHOP**.

SENATOR SPRAGUE asked if meetings will be held on Saturdays, as he would like to go home on weekends if weather permits. **CHAIRMAN MESAROS** responded that he didn't anticipate utilizing

Saturdays unless absolutely necessary.

CHAIRMAN MESAROS stated that when the committee is in executive session, ample discussion time will be allowed before a motion to table a bill is accepted. This is only fair way to address a bill.

SENATOR SPRAGUE requested a copy of the rules mentioned by the chairman.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

(This session is recorded on one 60-minute tape.)



SENATOR KEN MESAROS, Chair



SERENA ANDREW, Secretary

KM/sa

MONTANA SENATE
1995 LEGISLATURE
FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE

ROLL CALL

DATE 11/05/95

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
BRUCE CRIPPEN	X		
WILLIAM CRISMORE		X	
JOHN HERTEL	X		
KEN MILLER	X		
MIKE SPRAGUE	X		
GARY FORRESTER	X		
JUDY JACOBSON		X	
TERRY KLAMPE	X		
BOB PIPINICH	X		
AL BISHOP, VICE CHAIRMAN	X		
KEN MESAROS, CHAIRMAN	X		

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