

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE LEGISLATIVE SUB-COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR EDUCATION

March 10, 1977
8:00 A. M.
Room 132
State Capitol Building

Subject: Work Session

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carroll South.
The following members of committee were present:

Sen. Larry Fasbender
Rep. Ora Halvorson
Sen. Matt Hims1
Rep. Oscar Kvaalen
Rep. Jack Moore

Also present for the meeting was the Legislative Fiscal Analyst,
Judy Rippingale. John Krutar, Office of Budget and Planning
was present.

Chairman South said that small timber owners are now seeking a
market for timber on their lands. The amount of help required is
quite substantial. The D & R requested four more foresters for
that program. The Executive doesn't recommend it. The Committee
isn't aware of what the program is about. One thing to be con-
sidered by the committee is that the foresters are Grade 13-15
and two FTE could be hired for that program for the same cost
that one extension forester will be.

Sen. Hims1 said that in his opinion the logical place to go for
that type of help would be the county agent's office. However,
Sen. Fasbender said that he felt this position should require
more than assimilation of information which he felt it might be
if under the county extension's office. He felt timber owners
might need technical advise, on-the-site assessment of timber,
advice about cutting, etc., Rep. Halvorson said that she is in
favor of filling the position although she felt technical advise
will be needed rather than research.

Chairman South said that the Committee must make another decision
regarding the organization KEEP. He said that the program spent
1/2 of what was appropriated at the last biennium which was
\$16,000 in 1976. With the guidelines the LFA used, they have over
\$35,000 in there now. Sen. Fasbender said he had received some
information on KEEP. I understand they are trying to get the
program funded with private funds. He said that he had no objection
if that money in the base is used until they can get the private
funds but I do oppose the additional \$180,000 that is being requested
to keep the program going.

A motion was made by Sen. Fasbender that the amount presently in the budget be used but that no expanded program be funded using General Fund money. Rep. Moore gave a breakdown on the funds that KEEP has. The original grant was \$596,373; Supplemental Foundation money was \$218,000; Title I money was \$18,530; State General Fund money was \$32,800 and cash contributions was \$25,665 bringing it to a total of funds - \$891,617. Rep. Jack Moore said that if the motion is as Sen. Fasbender stated, which would be to continue the amount that is presently in the budget, he would second it.

All voted aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Chairman South said that a decision must be made regarding the Range Station in Miles City whether to make it restricted or unrestricted. He said that this would be a similar decision as the one that was made on the Extension Multilith Department under the Extension Service.

South said that according to John La Favor, it is really not restricted in any technical sense because there is no outside force that restricts it. It was requested to be restricted two years ago and that is when we adopted the budget. Rep. Moore asked Judy Rippingale what her recommendation would be and she said that she showed it as being restricted. She said that the real question is whether the committee wants to support the Range Station with general funds or whether it is going to be self-supporting. Chairman South said that under FY 77 at the end of this biennium the amount would be \$231,782 and shows this being carried over into FY 78. Judy Rippingale did not verify this figure which was presented in November. She said that the Board of Regents gave the Ag Experimental Station the amount of \$100,000 in unrestricted funds--not the Range Station.

Mr. Joe Asselson from the Ag Experiment Station asked the Chairman to define restricted and unrestricted. He wanted to know if they were referring to funds or the program. Chairman South explained that the committee was referring to a fund. Asselson asked if other funds could be put into this program. South said that he would assume that no other general funds could be appropriated into it.

Mr. Asselson then gave the history of the experiment station. He said that in 1971 they asked to have the freedom to shift the appropriation money to where it was needed the most. Two years ago Miles City Range Station was separated. The State of Montana owns all of the livestock. If the federal government owned the livestock, the money from sales would go to the federal government, not the state, he said. He said that this is a co-op program between the USDA and the State of Montana. He said that if being restricted means a restricted program, that would mean we couldn't have any other money in it. Chairman South said that the LFA considers it as being a restricted budget on the basis that it should be self-supporting.

Chairman South asked Mr. Aaselson if he thought it would be alright if a maximum carry-over was established and if everything over that amount would revert. Mr. Aaselson said that they would live with that decision if the committee would also guarantee a minimum amount. Rep. Halvorson asked if what Aaselson was trying to tell the committee is that he would like to keep all the farms together like a diversified farm, transferring funds from one program to another, as needed. Mr. Aaselson said that is how they have been operating. The Range Station at Miles City is the only one we don't do this with because of our relationship with the FDA.

Chairman South then asked Aaselson if he would have strong objection to a ceiling being placed on a carry-over and what amount would he think was a reasonable amount. Aaselson said that he felt that \$200,000 would be a reasonable amount and that he felt his staff could work with that amount of money.

Rep. Halvorson asked him just exactly what it is that he wants. Mr. Aaselson said that they have alot of freedom--more than the other stations. He said, "I want to keep this freedom and want to continue to operate as a unit. If the Range Station at Miles City is restricted, then it will make our operation much more restricted, too." He was told that he already has a revolving fund and most of them are self-supporting. South told him that he had put a restriction on the funds himself in saying the income from sales will go back. If the committee provides general fund money to you when you are short in funds and put on a ceiling when you don't need it, it seems that would work. If you are augmented with general funds in lean years and if the legislature makes a commitment that we will give the money you need, would you need this large a carry-over? South said that they would have to anticipate the personal cost increases and have to budget accordingly.

Sen. Fasbender asked if they keep track individually of the expense of each station and Aaselson said that they have records of all of the stations quite complete.

Chairman South said that his suggestion would be that we go from actual 1976 expenditures and determine what is needed in 1978-79 using revenue expenditure projection. If the station is short, general fund money will be appropriated to the Ag Experiment Station. If the revenue goes above, you would not use the general funds.

Sen. Hims1 asked if this operation is an enterprise or an experiment station. He said that they are entirely different. South said that obviously the station is not self-supporting. Hims1 said that it shouldn't be. If we do this, he said, we will be forcing them to be an enterprise instead of experimental.

Mr. Aaselson talked about how they had spent the excess money in the past such as purchase of land, equipment, etc., that was not appropriated. He explained about the Hanson property that they are now in the process of purchasing.

Sen. Fasbender asked if they are planning any other expenditures in the near future. Aaselson said that they are planning to purchase an electronic microscope. It will cost \$100,000. There was some discussion regarding purchasing v. s. leasing, etc., of this type of equipment.

Mr. Aaselson discussed the need for the full-time Weed Control Specialist and Entomology Researcher. He said that they need a senior man or woman in Entomology that could provide leadership to the whole entomology program. Chairman South asked if the weed control person would be stationed in Bozeman and Aaselson said that he would have the whole western part of the state. He said that the two positions are tied quite closely together. One would probably be stationed in Bozeman and one in Missoula.

A motion was made by Rep. Moore that the committee approve the position of Entomology Researcher, Priority #2 of the Ag Experimental Station requests.

All voted aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

There was discussion regarding the need for a plant pathologist. Aaeslon made a strong plea for a weed control position. He said this is their strongest pressure from the public. Sen. Fasbender asked if Aaeslon knew about the federal funds available for weed control. Aaeslon said that these were to be used in the area of research but they needed someone in the area of control.

A motion was made by Rep. Halvorson that the Committee approve the position of Weed Control FTE which is Priority #1 of the Agricultural Experiment Station requests. The amount would be \$74,300 over the biennium.

Aaselson said that their original request was for \$98,500 but the Board of Regents cut the request. He said that they could borrow the difference from some other program.

Rep. Halvorson said that the bill which Rep. Driscoll has introduced includes Entomology but she feels that this program of weed control is more important. She asked that she be able to ammend her motion to \$90,000.

The voting was as follows:

Sen. Himsl	- aye
Sen. Fasbender	- aye
Rep. Halvorson	- aye
Rep. Kvaalen	- aye
Rep. Moore	- no
Rep. South	- no

Motion passed.

Rep. Halvorson said that she didn't think the committee should "hamstring Aaselson to the point that he feels threatened that each department will be segregated."

A motion was made by Rep. Halvorson that the Range Station at Miles City not be put in a restricted fund.


Chairman South pointed out that they already have the revolving fund.

All voted aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

There was discussion regarding the request for capital equipment. Chairman Fasbender said that the people working on this came back with a projected replacement cost of \$500,000 over what was recommended by the Board of Regents. Mr. Aaselson said that he felt this decision was made too hurriedly and that he didn't think it accurately reflected what is going on. He said that they simply had a roundtable discussion about the capital which includes equipment and cattle. There was discussion regarding the budget of the Hanson property which they anticipate buying before the next biennium and also the Roberts property.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 A. M.

These minutes were taken by Nina Kosmos in the absence of Betsy Clark, Secretary.



CARROLL V. SOUTH CHAIRMAN

Betsy Clark, Secretary