

MINUTES

FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE

MONTANA STATE SENATE

February 11, 1977

The meeting of the Fish and Game Committee was called to order by Chairman Frank Dunkle, at 8:00 A.M., in Room 405 of the State Capitol Building.

ROLL CALL: All members were present.

CONSIDERATION OF S.B. 123 (An act to facilitate placement of wildlife on the Montana endangered species and species in need of management lists.) This is a committee sponsored bill and Senator Dunkle asked that Mr. Woodgerd, representing the Fish & Game Commission, speak on the bill. Senator Manley asked whether or not wolverines are allowed to be trapped. Mr. Woodgerd stated that it is all right except in the area where the study is being conducted. Senator Galt said that he is reluctant to take away the responsibilities from the legislature and give it to the Fish and Game Department.

There being no further discussion from proponents of the bill, the opponents represented by Bill Asher, Agricultural Preservation Assn., introduced one of his representatives, Gordon Darburton, who read his statements of opposition to the bill (did not leave his statement with me). Peter Jackson, Chairman of Public Lands, said to look carefully to your vote.

CONSIDERATION OF S. B. 320. (An act restricting noise levels for motorboats.) sponsored by Senator Bill Thomas discussed the bill. Don Malmberg stated the amendments they desired. Jane Murphy, a citizen who is irritated by noise of boats stated her opinion.

Opponents to the bill discussed noise levels and expense involved regarding muffling devices. Senator Dunkle asked whether this would have any effect on his own fishing boat and it won't.

CONSIDERATION OF S. B. 342. (An act to provide for a non-resident coyote-fox trapper's license. Oponents to the bill, Ralph Holman, guides and outfitters representative, said that in speaking to people around the state there is not an oversupply of animals to trap now, not enough fur-bearing animals for those who are trapping and much theft of traps is going on. Senator Dunkle stated that further discussion should be made at another time so that the sponsor of the bill could be available. Senator Lowe recommended a do pass and seconded by Senator Manley. After more discussion Senator Lowe withdrew his motion.

of Fish and Game to utilize part of those portions of fishing license fees earmarked for purchase of fishing accesses for development, operation and maintenance.) Senator Lowe moved a do pass and seconded by Senator Smith as amended. The vote was unanimous.

CONSIDERATION OF S. B. 151. (An act to revise fish and game statutes relating to hunting and fishing licenses by clarification of existing statutes, etc.) Senator Warden recommended do not pass. Seconded by Senator Lensink. Senator Galt asked that he be shown as in opposition. Senator Smith asked to be brought up to date on this. Senator Warden recommended as amended do pass. Seconded by Senator Smith. Senator Bergren moved to not pass. Seconded by Senator Manley. Questions were asked of Mr. Woodgerd. He said that it really cleans up the language of licensing laws. Senator Bergren recommended do not pass, and seconded by Senator Manley. Senator Lowe recommended the amendments be reconsidered. Senator Bergren withdrew his motions.

Senator Dunkle asked Debbie Schmidt to draw up a clean copy of S.B. 151 so some kind of action can be taken on it.

Senator Dunkle, looking at S.B. 177 fiscal note found it perplexing and discussion followed regarding the portion of the decal situation, regarding snowmobile machines.

CONSIDERATION OF SJR 3. (An act requesting the committee on priorities to assign an interim committee to consider problems concerning the use of public and privately owned lands for hunting and fishing and for access to other hunting and fishing areas, all for the purpose of developing better understanding and relationships between landowners and sportsmen for their mutual benefit.) Senator Lowe moved it do pass and seconded by Senator Lensink. A Roll Call vote resulted in a 5-3 vote passed as amended.

DISPOSITION OF S. B. 123. Senator Manley moved do not pass and seconded by Senator Galt. On roll call vote it was a unanimous do not pass recommendation.

DISPOSITION OF S. B. 320. Senator Smith moved to do not pass, seconded by Senator Lowe. Discussion followed. Roll call vote resulted in 7-1 do not pass.

Senator Dunkle moved for adjournment about 9:35 A.M. To be considered Monday are SJR 25, SB 242 and SB 203.


FRANK DUNKLE, CHAIRMAN

ROLL CALL

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45th LEGISLATIVE SESSION - - 1977

Date 10-11