

January 8, 1979

The House Natural Resources Committee convened with Chairman Shelden presiding in Room 3 of the Capital Annex at 1:30 p.m., Monday, January 8, 1979, for an orientation meeting. Seventeen members were present (absent were Representatives Fagg and Curtiss).

Chairman Shelden had each member introduce himself or herself. He went through a few rules. He said once a member of the committee has spoken he or she shouldn't ask for the floor again until such time as others have spoken who wish to. He said during a hearing on a bill the proponents will be heard and then the opponents. If a committee member has a question during this testimony, he is to jot it down and he will have an ample opportunity following the testimony to question the testifiers. Chairman Shelden said discussion between committee members should be avoided during the hearings as it can be done during executive sessions. Representative Scully suggested that clarification questions might be helpful during the testimony if a member felt the need. Chairman Shelden agreed that this would be all right but no in-depth discussion should be pursued by a committee member during the hearing.

Chairman Shelden said the committee would meet on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 1:30 p.m. The next meeting would be Friday when there would be a hearing on HB 44. Chairman Shelden introduced the research assistant, Debbie Schmidt; the aide, Dick Gilbert; and the secretary, Emelia Satre. Debbie mentioned two books that are available at her office in the Legislative Council, Energy and the 45th Legislature and Montana's Subdivision Laws: Problems and Prospects.

Mention was made that it was unfortunate that all the subdivision bills were not being sent to the same committee, and this committee has handled them in past sessions. Local Government has received a number of them this session. Chairman Shelden said he would contact Chairman Robbins and request that he hold his subdivision bills in a subcommittee until they could be coordinated with the bills in this committee.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


ARTHUR H. SHELDEN, Chairman

Emelia Satre, Secretary