

The House Natural Resources Committee convened on February 2, 1979, in room 3, Capital Annex, at 1 p.m., with Chairman Sheldon presiding and 17 members present (Reps. Keedy and Kessler absent). Chairman Sheldon opened the meeting to a hearing on House Bill 377.

HOUSE BILL 377

REP. DENNIS NATHE, House District #1, the chief sponsor, said this bill is to get the state and various state agencies involved in the national ongoing soil survey program which started about 1967-68, and was to be completed in 1990. For various reasons, he said, it doesn't appear that the state will get it done. The bill will have the DNR&C develop the master plan to accelerate and give some advice and guidance to the Soil Conservation Service. They will determine where the concentrated efforts are needed first. He said Sheridan County has their survey done. He said it is a massive job with a lot of map work to be done.

PETER JACKSON, WETA, spoke in support. He said a good soil survey is a very basic thing. He said about 50% of the state is yet to be surveyed so there is a definite need to get the state of Montana involved in the national effort. He said it is basic to know which areas constantly have frost boils and where the prime lands are. Madison County has been on it for five years and this is something that needs to be buoyed up and got on its way.

DENNIS REHBERG, Montana Association of Realtors, spoke next in support. He said they need this information in the development of real property and need it quicker than they are getting it.

DON NETTLETON, Burlington Northern--Timber and Land Department, spoke in support. A copy of his testimony is exhibit 1 and part of the minutes.

GLENN R. SMITH, Montana Chapter Soil Conservation Society of America, spoke in support with a suggested amendment. He presented testimony for Oscar O. Pederson, President, Montana Chapter of the Soil Conservation of America. A copy of this testimony is exhibit 2 and part of the minutes.

DON MACINTYRE, DNRC, spoke in support. He said they had some basic drafting problems with the bill, but they are not substantive and they would be more than happy to work with the sponsor or sub-committee. He said they think there is a need for a master plan before implementation of the plan. He said they would need one FTE and he would be approximately a grade 13 (\$13,947) and then including travel money and per diem the total for the two years is \$34,230. He said they do support the bill and are present to answer any questions they can.

BOB BIGGERSTAFF, Montana Association of Conservation Districts, spoke in support of the bill. He said the state needs this. The Soil Conservation does have a plan and this would get the state involved in that plan. He felt the development of the master plan

should not be a mammoth task. It would represent the different interests of the state in setting the priorities where the soil survey should be done. He said they support the amendment that the Soil Conservation Society has proposed. He handed in ex. 3.

REP. BOB THOFT, spoke in support. He said he hadn't intended to testify because his county has their survey done. He showed the members a soil survey copy and said this is probably one of the most valuable things a rancher can have. It is a great book if you are going to buy a piece of property. I am really in support of this getting done state-wide.

During questions from the committee, O. M. Ueland, Conservation Districts Division, said people seem to know this is valuable information and they are competing with each other to get their corner of the state surveyed. He said this was basically to help agriculture, but other land users are getting into the act. Rep. Metcalf questioned if this would mean the suspension of all soil surveys while the master plan is developed. Answer was no, since funds are now available. Rep. Thoft said interpretation was needed and could that be part of the master plan. Some possible sources of finance were coal tax, Old West Regional Council (who is now funding 7 soil scientists positions here in the state), local government; private landowner (Great Northern has donated). Rep. Harper questioned if the state picks up the ball will there be a lessening of support from the other sources. Mr. Biggerstaff assured him this was an ongoing program. Mr. Ted Doney, DNRC, assured him also that the plans would be complementary. Rep. Nathe said he had one amendment to offer on page 2, line 11, following "program" to add "and the Montana cooperative extension service."

Chairman Sheldon closed the hearing on House Bill 377. He appointed the following subcommittee to study it further: Reps. Johnston, Chairman; McBride and Nathe.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

HOUSE BILL 312 More information had been handed to the committee members by Tom Schnieder (exhibit 4). Rep. Huennekens moved the bill be placed in a subcommittee. He said he felt there was no point in his writing the mechanics into the bill as this would need to come through cooperation between the agencies and companies. Rep. Quilici agreed. Motion carried unanimously with those present. Chairman Sheldon appointed the following subcommittee: Reps. Harper, Huennekens and Iverson.

HOUSE BILL 313 Rep. Quilici moved do pass. Rep. Huennekens moved a substitute motion to amend out all references to leasing. Motion carried unanimously.

After lengthy discussion Rep. Fagg suggested writing the life cycle process into the architect's contract. Since the wording was not available at the moment Chairman Sheldon said they would hold the bill until the next meeting.

Since time was still available Chairman Sheldon recognized Rep. Harper who suggested a committee resolution on recycling solid waste materials and looking into discriminatory rail freight rates.

A copy of this suggested resolution is exhibit 5 and part of the minutes. Rep. Scully moved that we request the Legislative Council to draft this resolution in proper form for the committee to consider. Motion carried unanimously.

HOUSE BILL 313 Chairman Sheldon opened the meeting to a consideration of this bill again as the wording was now available. It is to amend on page 4, line 1, following the word "facilities" insert "Cost of these studies shall become a portion of the services performed by the contract architect for the designated project under the standard fee schedule established by the Department of Administration." Rep. Fagg moved this amendment. Motion carried unanimously with those present. Rep. Scully moved to pass the bill as amended. Motion carried unanimously with this present.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



ARTHUR H. SHELDEN, Chairman

Emelia Satre, Secretary