

APPROPRIATIONS - FINANCE & CLAIMS

SUB-COMMITTEE: HUMAN SERVICES

JANUARY 25, 1979 - CAPITOL ANNEX

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 a.m. by Vice-Chairman Pete Story with the following members present:

Senator Gary Aklestad
Representative Bill Hand
Representative Robert Marks
Senator Pat Regan
Senator Pete Story
Chairman Steve Waldron - excused

Others present were: Steve L. Pilcher, Water Quality Bureau; Don Willems, Chief of the Water Quality Bureau; Edward Casne, Chief of the Subdivision Review Bureau; William Andes, Subdivision Review Bureau; Ben Wake, Administrator of the Environmental Sciences Division; Bob Redpath, Management Services Bureau; Dr. Arthur C. Knight, Director of DHES; Curt Nichols, Fiscal Analyst; Ron Weiss and Landa Gambill, Executive Budget Office.

SUBDIVISION BUREAU

This bureau is part of the Environmental Science Department. They handle all reviews of subdivisions throughout the state. A few small local level subdivisions are done by the local governments. FY 79 will be the last biennium where there will be general funds. They will run the bureau from the fees they collect for their reviews. The Executive Budget Officer, Ron Weiss explained it would be an "earmarked" account.

Edward Casne, Chief of the Subdivision Bureau, spoke on behalf of the program. They are mandated under several acts including the Subdivision and Platting Act and the Sanitation Act. They are responsible for studying the water quality and quantity, sewage systems and garbage situations on all subdivision lots. Mr. Casne pointed out that the work load has doubled in the past years for this bureau and the FTEs have remained constant. At present they have eight FTEs but have been authorized to add two more. The added FTEs will let the bureau increase its duties including training counties to help with the reviews and making follow-up inspections. Without the county help, the bureau would not be able to meet timetables.

Another duty the bureau handles is review of occasional sales and family gifts. They must determine if the ground has th

LW

potential to support a home. They do not duplicate the Water Quality Bureau as they review completely different things.

Some concern was expressed by Senator Regan about the earmarked funds.

Mr. Casne was questioned on the amount of time to do a review. The subcommittee felt perhaps they could be done faster. Mr. Casne explained they had to be very thorough so they did not make mistakes. They try to use every source available to make their decisions.

WATER QUALITY BUREAU

This bureau administers the Safe Drinking Water Act where they review water supplies, the Water Pollution Control Act where they review discharge and Section 208, the Water Quality Planning Fund.

Two modifications have been proposed for the next biennium. One would be to receive \$510,000 additional funds for water planning. This is not included in the LFA recommendation, it is in the Executive Budget. The second modification was to spend approximately five hundred to six hundred thousand dollars for sewer treatment. The federal government has a grant to local communities. The state would take 2% of these funds and take over the federal activities in relation to review, monitoring and evaluation of the projects. By doing this the communities would lose 2% of the grants; however the department felt they should monitor the program or the communities would lose more federal money by letting funds lapse.

The Executive Branch let the department speak on the bureau.

Dan Willems, Chief of the Water Quality Bureau, spoke on behalf of the program. He pointed out to the subcommittee that this bureau handles issuance of discharge permits, reviews of the program, the Dregge and Fill Program, data monitors, compliance schedule reviews and regulations among other things. They are also in the process of redoing the Water Quality Standards.

There are two proposed budget modifications. One is the Construction Grant Program. The federal government will grant 75-80% on sewage construction projects. They will fund 85% of the construction if the project is using an innovative idea. The Executive Budget has approved the \$300,000 and the addition of six FTEs for the program. If the money

Handwritten signature or initials, possibly 'DW', in dark ink.

is not spent by September of 1979 it will be lost to other states. A concern was expressed by the subcommittee that when federal moneys ran out the state will get stuck with the bill.

The second modification was with regards to Section 208, Water Quality Planning. Steve Pilcher gave a hand-out on the program and reviewed it with the subcommittee. They did not feel they were duplicating the Extension Service Program. The mandate of the 208 project is to have fishable and swimmable waters by 1989 and zero pollution in 1985.

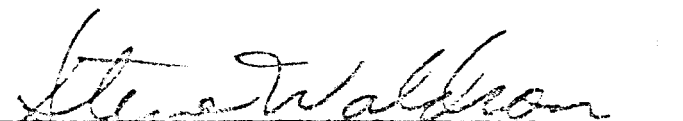
WATER AND WASTE WATER OPERATIONS

This program does the licensing of all operators of public water systems. There is no general fund money, they are funded by the fees they charge for testing and licensing. If there is any water system, they are required to have a licensed operator. The fees have not changed in twelve years. They have requested an additional \$1,500 this year to revise their examination and to develop better training materials. .5 FTEs administrate this program and it is under the Water Quality Bureau.

The Water Quality Bureau handed out three modifications which were late and not included in the budget. They gave hand-outs on all three modifications. The first was a \$100,000 grant from EPA to do a lake sediment program. The funds would be passed through and contracted out. The second, a study on the pits, pots and ponds, is a grant of \$50,000. No state funds are required. It will also be contracted out. The third is a study of the Tongue River Drainage. This is to get some idea of the quality of water now before any construction begins. No general funds are in this modification.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:


Steve Waldron, Chairman
Approved

HSP:bes