

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
AGENCIES II SUBCOMMITTEE

January 26, 1979
8:15 A.M.
Room 613
State Capitol Building

Subject: Work Session;
Fish and Game

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The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rex Manuel with all members present. Also present were Bob Robinson, LFA; Mike Koehnke, OBPP; John Wilson, Montana Council of Trout Unlimited and Charlotte Easter, EIC.

The purpose of the meeting was to take action on budget proposals for the Department of Fish and Game.

Program VS Division (338)

A discussion followed as to whether the department should be allocated on the basis of division or program. The main concern was how much control the legislature wanted to maintain over expenditures within the department. It was explained that if the allocations were made by division, the legislature would have greater control over the department expenditures. If the subcommittee allocated by program, the department would be able to reallocate the budget through the various divisions at their own discretion.

It was explained that both the Executive and the LFA based recommendations on actual expenditures within the department. The department based their requests on appropriations made for the fiscal year 1979. In this way, the department estimates are higher because not all the money allocated was spent by the department.

It was decided that in order to give the department some flexibility and at the same time maintain some control, the subcommittee would appropriate by accounting entity and include language that the legislature suggests the above appropriation be allocated by division. This may be adjusted should emergency situations occur. It was also suggested that the department be required to justify their adjustments to the budget office and the interim finance committee.

Centralized Services (673)

The exact number of FTE per division is difficult to determine. LFA used a figure of 81.29 FTE and recommended \$1,177,900 for 1980 and \$1,189,598 for personal services. This includes some of the costs of the Multi-Discipline Projects. Operating expenses were recommended on the basis of actual expenditures plus an inflation factor.

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Equipment appears to be down because all equipment was previously changed to centralized services, now, some of this equipment is spread through the other divisions

Travel (703)

The Executive recommendation cut all out-of-state travel by 30%. The LFA recommendation took their actual fiscal 1978 expenditure of \$10,000 and kept them at the same level, no inflation increase was applied.

Senator Smith made the motion that out-of-state travel shall not exceed \$30,000. This would be put in the bill as a line item. Representative Manning seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

In House Attorney (749)

The expense of adding another in house attorney is included in the LFA recommendation for centralized services. It was stated that the subcommittee could include a legislative concern that they add another in house attorney but still be able to contract for specialized trial assistance.

Representative Hurwitz made the motion that the subcommittee recommend the additional in house attorney be used by the Fish and Game. Representative Manning seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The legislature should be able to review costs in this area.

Centralized Services (853)

Representative Manning made the motion that the subcommittee accept the LFA budget for centralized services for 1980 and 1981. Representative Hurwitz seconded the motion.

The Executive made no recommendation for this division, the only way to cross compare will be by total figures. It was agreed that both recommendations were very similar. The only major difference was in the LFA recommendations for modified FTE. The Executive would concede to the LFA figures.

It was decided that final action would be delayed here until the bottom line figure is determined.

Ecological Services (908)

The current staff of about 25 FTE. The LFA recommended the addition of 11 FTE for the purpose of conducting impact studies. In addition, the department has requested that a core staff of 6 FTE be authorized to be carried through slack periods in contract work. This staff would be financed by license proceeds should such a gap occur. It was further explained that this would not reflect as an FTE increase because the 6 people are on the staff now.

Six Member Core Staff (930)

Representative Manning made the motion that language be included to say that the department may keep this core staff during down periods. Senator Stimatz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11.25 FTE (1000)

The 11.25 FTE will conduct studies to collect baseline information on certain wildlife species in impacted areas. The LFA recommends that these only be used as long as contracts warrant their use. Without the contracts, there would be no FTE added.

Senator Boylan expressed the concern that the current staff could handle these studies without additional FTE.

These 11.25 FTE would be terminated at the end of fiscal 1981. Therefore, would not be considered ongoing FTE. Senator Stimatz made the motion that the bill include language to this effect. Representative Manning seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Fisheries Division (1024)

The LFA recommendation will continue everything currently going on in the fish division and will add 4 FTE in 1980 and 2.75 FTE in 1981 to conduct special fish studies. Of concern here was \$66,000 paid to the division for fish supplied to the Libby Dam area, and a \$100,000 federal supplement available. It was suggested that the subcommittee would probably rather add this in now, rather than have to deal with a budget amendment later.

The remainder of the LFA recommendation would keep the fisheries division operating at current level with an inflation factor built in. The division should not have to close any fish hatcheries.

Senator Stimatz made the motion that the subcommittee accept the LFA recommendation for the fish division and include language that no fish hatcheries may be closed. Additional money would be included to cover the additional FTE. Representative Manning seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Senator Boylan was excused at this point.

Enforcement (1081)

The LFA recommendation kept this division operating at current level with an inflation factor applied. The Executive recommended an additional FTE in this area for land-owner relations work. It was explained that this division had 90.39 FTE, most of which are in the field. This division is also supported by the 98 people processed through the ex-officio program.

There was no action taken on the unfunded retirement fund.

Wildlife Division (1114)

The LFA recommendation kept this division operating at current level with an inflation factor built in.

Representative Harwitz made the motion that the LFA recommendation be accepted for the Wildlife Division. Representative Manning seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Enforcement Division (1142)

Senator Stinson made the motion that the subcommittee accept the LFA recommendation for the enforcement division. Representative Harwitz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Parks and Recreation Division (1152)

Bob Robinson supplied the members with a listing of FTE modifications recommended by the LFA.

Wild Horse Island - .7 FTE for part time maintenance and supervision on this island. This will cost \$16,850 for each year.

Missoula Region Parks - .25 FTE for maintenance and supervision of Council Grove and other state parks. This was purchased with federal coal tax money.

Salmon and Placid Lake Parks - 1.5 FTE for maintenance. This land was donated by Champion International.

Missoula Headwaters Parks - \$4,100 each year for maintenance and operation.

Heritage Park - .5 FTE for operations and labor to operate and maintain.

Beartooth Park - .5 FTE for maintenance.

Water Board Reservoir Parks - .86 FTE for part maintenance all over the state.

Glasgow Area Parks - .1 FTE will maintain an archeological site.

Miles City Area - 1.25 FTE to maintain and develop newly acquired land. Land was purchased with coal tax money.

Tongue River Reservoir - .25 FTE financed with \$5,000 each year to maintain part on the Tongue River.

In general, all these parks will be maintained by part-time summer help. The \$14,275 per year cost of these additional 5.91 FTE is included in the LFA recommendation.

Representative Harwitz made the motion that the subcommittee accept

the LFA recommendation for 1980 and 1981. Representative Manning seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Conservation Education Division (1300)

Mr. Robinson made a recommendation of language to be inserted in the bill stating that money appropriated to the department for publication of Montana Outdoors shall be used only for the printing of fair, objective and unbiased articles on various fish, wildlife and outdoor recreational items which show both sides of controversial issues. Also, the magazine should be more self-sustaining financially.

Representative Hurwitz made the motion that this language be included in the bill. Senator Stimatz seconded the motion. Motion passed, all in favor.

Representative Manning made the motion that the subcommittee accept the LFA recommendation for the Conservation Education Division. Senator Stimatz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Special Staff (1373)

The LFA recommendation covers 7.94 FTE. The original agreement with the director was that this division would not grow beyond 5 members.

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This division is responsible for dealing with special problems which occur throughout the department.

Senator Stimatz made the motion that the subcommittee accept the LFA recommendations for both the Special Staff and Administration. Representative Manning seconded the motion. Motion passed all in favor.

There was no further business, the meeting was adjourned until January 29, 1979, 8:15 A.M. At that time the subcommittee will be briefed on the recommendations for the Department of Agriculture.



REP. REX MANUEL, Chairman

Secretary
Secretary