

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
LONG RANGE BUILDING SUBCOMMITTEE

April 6, 1979
7:00 p.m.
Room 104
State Capitol Building

Subject: HB 417, HB 902

Tape 2: Side 2, Track 2 (000)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Yardley with all members present. Also present was Judy Rippingale, Fiscal Analyst.

HOUSE BILL 902. Rep. Conroy, District 58, Big Horn County presented HB 902. The bill was referred to Long Range Building from Appropriations. HB 2, passed two years ago, allowed for the transfer of land to be used for cemeteries. Custer Cemetery is full and the veterans would like to have a national cemetery to be buried in. The closest place now is Denver. The purpose of this bill is to get state money on a matching basis with the federal government to build a national cemetery at the Old Fort Custer site, 13 miles from Custer's Last Stand, in Custer County.

The federal money will be available October 1 on a 50% basis, based on the amount from the state, plus the appraised value of the land. The county is donating the land to the state for the cemetery.

Perpetual care will be taken care of by a bill presently being considered in Congress. Administration will be through the Veterans Administration.

Two years ago there were petitions from all over the state requesting a national cemetery in the state.

Rep. Kvaalen asked if (after the initial outlay) they are going to need more money. Rep. Conroy said this would not be necessary if the Congressional Act passes. The \$100,000 is for landscaping, an underground sprinkler system and surveying.

HOUSE BILL 417: DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME. Ron Holliday explained the department's requests for Long Range Building funds. The first project, miscellaneous coal tax park improvements for \$50,000 would be cost shared with Land and Water Conservation fund money. This money can only be spent on projects purchased with the coal tax and is listed as priority number 32. This money will be spent on Rosbud Battleground, Council Groves, Bannack State Park, and an area near Billings which they hope to acquire.

The next request, fishing access improvements is a request for \$250,000: \$125,000 of Fish and Game earmarked revenue to be cost

shared with the Land and Water Conservation (LWC) funds. This is priority number 35 in the Administration's budget.

The next project requests \$12,500 for snowmobile facilities development; priority = 36. This would be from earmarked gasoline taxes and cost shared with LWC funds. This would be authority to spend the money on Department administered lands. Most of the facilities are on Forest Service Lands.

Priority = 38, Makoshika State Park, has been deleted as it was addressed in a separate bill.

The next project, Roche Juane Recreation Area was purchased with coal tax funds. The request is \$7,500 from the coal tax earmarked revenue to be cost shared with LWC funds.

Priority # 31 is Fishing Access Acquisition sites. Funding has been recommended at \$300,000 and the department has requested that this be increased to \$1,200,000 each year.

Rep. South asked for a response from the Budget Office as to why they only recommended \$300,000 when the account has \$2,400,000. He wondered if they proposed to let the rest of the money just sit in the account.

Mike Koehnke, Budget Office, said the biennium's budget has no money for acquisition of parks and a limited amount for fishing access sites. The department has had trouble coming up with enough funds to operate and maintain these sites. They felt there were enough funds appropriated in the last three bienniums for fishing access sites; \$4,600,000. The Budget Office feels they should not acquire any more land if they cannot take care of it. Therefore, the plan was to limit acquisition to 30%, with 50% for operation and maintenance. They were going to introduce a bill to change the law. However, the bill was drawn up too late to be introduced. Therefore, they felt the best thing to do was to let the money sit.

There was a discussion of lands being considered for acquisition. It was pointed out that the department has \$778,000 of last year's appropriation not yet spent. Mr. Koehnke said this was a sound recommendation. The Budget Office projects \$1,100,000 in this account and are allowing about \$90,000 per year for operations.

Rep. Sardanouve did not agree with the Budget Office's recommendation. He felt it was wrong, even though we may not maintain our parks. We should buy the land now because the price will probably continue to raise sharply and the land would be a valuable asset to the state. He asked they would compromise in the 50% maintenance.

Rep. Farley asked if they were authorized \$2,000,000 would they be able to spend it. The department said they have active agri-

relations going on all the time. They thought they would have \$450,000 by the end of the year alone. But, there is no way to know exactly how much land may become available.

A discussion followed concerning how much money will actually be in the account. The Fish and Game maintained there would be \$1,200,000 and the Budget Office said \$1,100,000.

Priority #33 requests \$125,000 earmarked revenue to acquire small game habitat as tracts become available, to assure recreational opportunities. This was part of the big game habitat acquisition program. The department has decided to separate these two acquisition programs. This would be cost shared with federal funds.

Priority #34 is big game habitat acquisition at \$375,000 from hunting license money and would be cost shared with the PR Program.

In addition, the department asked that the Black Sandy Recreation Area be added to the program. This was priority #23 with the department. This is an extremely popular area and is heavily used. This area has been a cooperative effort with Montana Power who owns the area and have leased it to the department for 50 years, free of charge. The land is valued at \$195,000. The department can then cost share the value of that lease with LWC funds. The subcommittee appropriation took this into consideration in the operations appropriation. They have reduced the scope of the project and request it be reinstated in the bill. The \$195,000 is all federal and private revenue.

Rep. South asked if the department had a priority for the headquarters building in Missoula as this comes out of the same funds. Mr. Wambach said he felt they could handle both projects and chose not to make a choice without consulting with his staff. Tom Rippingale pointed out that they have not over spent the department appropriation and felt they were responsible enough to handle this.

Mike Koehnke disagreed and provided a summary of the various appropriation bills pending with Fish and Game earmarked license revenue funds. All bills considered, the amount spent would be \$17,789,021. The LPA estimates there is \$15,893,052 in the 02131 account. This compares with the Executive figure which is \$16,237,688 and the department's figure of \$8,400,000 for 1980 and \$8,800,000 for 1981. He went on to say that SBAS shows a cash balance of \$850,000 available for appropriations.

Rep. Kraalen asked for a better explanation of the small game habitat acquisition. It was explained that this included middle ground between big game habitat and park lands. They would be taking the same money spent under the big game area.

Rep. Bardinoue asked permission to testify on a project. He assured the committee he was not here on behalf of the Fish and

Page 1
April 3, 1979

Time. The project is Lost Creek Park near Butte and Anaconda. He had no firm ideas on where the money would come from. It is a park with a recreational potential but has not been maintained and needs a road into the park. There is one there now, but it is not suitable for trailers. In the Long Range Building Book this is listed as priority #10. The total cost would be \$175,000 and there is about \$87,500 in department money and \$87,500 federal earmarked money. Rep. Bardanouve felt the committee would be spending money very wisely if they put it into this project. It is also possible that Job Corps in the area could make some contribution. He concluded, saying this is a very worthwhile project with no other earmarked money available for this type of project.

Tom Rippingale said he would be available to discuss this project with any legislator or analyst who wanted further information.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS. Ted Mathis, Yellowstone Airport, presented two projects on behalf of this department. The first project is to reconstruct an air carrier parking ramp that is showing signs of failure and install an emergency electrical generator needed because of frequent interruptions of electrical service. This project would be 90% federal money from airport revenue generated at the airport, with \$19,000 from state earmarked revenue.

The other project is to expand and strengthen a general aviation parking ramp and resurface the runway and taxiway at the West Yellowstone Airport. All the paved surfaces at the airport are 15 years old. This would be 80% federal and \$100,000 earmarked revenue.

Last year this airport served about 22,000 people in four months. Their aviation traffic is increasing every year.

Sen. Thiessen suggested a sales tax in the area to fund this. One source of revenue they are now losing is the state flight property tax paid to the county of which they get nothing.

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS. Don Grule, Administrator of Maintenance, presented the department's requests. The first is \$240,000 for upgrading, additions, and major maintenance to 645 buildings. This is to keep in accordance with state and federal codes for numerous highway buildings throughout the state.

Priority #49 is \$513,000 to construct additional equipment garages to insure that equipment will be readily available for winter maintenance operations as well as allowing continuous equipment upkeep. This will include 9 garages which will meet specifications for energy conservation.

Priority #50 is to construct sand houses at various locations

throughout the state to protect sand and thereby ensure timely wintertime road maintenance. There will be 17 in all, 40 feet by 90 feet, at a cost of \$540,680.

Priority #51 is road oil storage tanks at various locations throughout the state to accommodate the increased minimum load size that transporters are now allowed to carry. They will construct 20 at a cost of \$200,000.

Priority #52 requests \$80,000 for security fencing to provide protection while reducing vandalism and inventory problems for facilities such as buildings, tanks, yards, and storage areas.

Priority #53 requests \$132,000 for cold storage sheds to store such things as signs and tools. They are requesting 22 sheds.

Priority #54 is open face storage sheds. They will be 30' x 120' at a cost of \$54,800. They will store equipment not used in the winter.

Priority #55 requests a Helena Headquarters shop complex at \$2,330,000. Federal funds are being sought to construct a solar heating system on this building. This was originally included in the plans for the new Highway Building.

Priority #56 is to construct a weigh station on the Idaho border to allow better surveillance of oversize loads which are causing the rapid deterioration of roads in the area. There have been changes in the federal highway Act since this budget was put together and they now think they can get as much as 90% federal funding for this project. They have requested \$222,900.

Mr. Grule finished saying the shop complex in Helena is their highest priority as the present facility is a fire hazard.

DEPARTMENT OF INSTITUTIONS: Curt Chisholm said that of 71 projects submitted by the various institutions, 24 were submitted to the Governor who recommended 16 in this bill. This includes 4 roof repair projects, 4 boiler or water line maintenance, a paving and drainage project, 2 major and minor renovations, 1 building relocation and 4 major construction efforts.

Mr. Chisholm maintained they could save the state some money because one of the major renovation projects scheduled for Galen at \$490,000 has been taken care of in a supplemental. Also, the Educational Treatment Unit at \$634,000 is no longer under consideration for this biennium.

The four projects requiring new construction are the security tower at Deer Lodge, a new cottage at Pine Hills School, a Religious Activity Center at Montana State Prison, and the

Education Treatment Unit which is no longer being considered. The Religious Center will be constructed with \$450,000 privately donated funds at no impact to the general fund. Mr. Chisholm was asked about the cost of operation and maintenance. Mr. Chisholm said this will be an impact in the long run to the general fund.

Rep. South asked why they needed the towers. When the prison was built they were assured that the towers would not be necessary. Mr. Chisholm explained that they now have 2, 96 man units that will be double bunked. This will be for the protection of the guards and the inmates.

Rep. Bardanouve said they were absolutely assured that they would not need the towers. He asked if the plan wasn't originally for this many people as two wings were dropped from the plan. Mr. Chisholm said the fact that the towers were not included was not opposed because they did not feel it would be that big an issue. There is a very serious morale and union problem. But also, we are expanding the capacity, even if it is within this capacity he felt there was a need for the towers. This included considerable electrical gear.

The cottage at Pine Hills will be an intensive treatment center to include 26 beds. Two buildings will also be demolished with this appropriation. They have been concerned for some time about the structures at the school and are now in the process of getting out of the Lewis and Clark Lodge. They are also attempting to comply with federal standards which could effect federal dollars to the programs at the school. They are now being sued for some of the deficiencies at the school.

This completed Mr. Chisholm's presentation. He had one special project, the Geothermal project at Warm Springs, that he wanted to make sure they had legislative authority to continue. He asked for the committee's consideration if they can iron out some of these problems.

Rep. Bardanouve told the committee he has been working on the problem of the prison facility for the last two weeks. They have a tentative proposal to put \$3 million, general fund, in the program. He did not know how, or what the money would be spent on. The primary agreement is a Stillwater Forest Camp. However, it is agreed that we do not have the money. He thought this committee should take a real hard look at the possibility of rearranging some of the priorities in the Department of Institutions. He thought they should be more concerned about the prison. He could not see that even with \$3 million they would be able to do something that will be a permanent solution to the problem but he agreed that the Stillwater Camp will be a long range solution to a serious problem. He thought the Department of Institutions should work with the committee to rearrange some of their priorities to put money into

Page 7
April 9, 1979

this project, in addition to the \$3 million from the general fund.

This would be the first time since 1968 that the state would put general fund money into Long Range Building. He urged the committee to consider this proposal. He said the first priority right now is a facility to take care of the prison population.

Mr. Chisholm was confused, relative to negotiations, as to alternatives. He apologized for the confusion they may have added to the process. But, he thought the Stillwater Work Forest Camp would meet the long term needs of the prison. He did not feel that a \$3 million appropriation would be sufficient to solve the problem. The department was not sure that they were to ask for Long Range Building Funds for the project at Stillwater. He did agree that the Stillwater Camp would be a legitimate answer to the expanding prison population, because it has long term utility to the state. Also, should they reach a point when the population begins to decline they will be able to stop double bunking at Deer Lodge and still utilize the space at Stillwater.

Mr. Chisholm said they would re-prioritize their projects to accommodate this proposal. He asked for some time to discuss this further with his director.

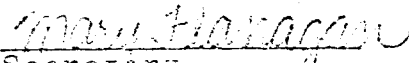
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION. Priority #12 is \$51,300 to replace the women's temporary restrooms with private restrooms for the women legislators. The proposals from the Department of Administration will be discussed further at a later meeting.

There was no further business. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.



REP. DAN YARDLEY, Chairman



Secretary