

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
NATURAL RESOURCES
MONTANA STATE SENATE

January 10, 1979

The first meeting of the Natural Resources Committee was called to order by Senator George Roskie, Chairman, at 1:30 P.M., on the above date in Room 405 of the State Capitol Building.

ROLL CALL: All members were present with the exception of Senator Lockrem and Senator Thiessen. Senator Lockrem was excused, and Senator Thiessen arrived shortly after the meeting began. Chairman Roskie introduced the Committee Secretary and the Committee Attorney.

Chairman Roskie informed the Committee that the purpose of this meeting would be to discuss the procedures the Committee would be following and the possibility of the introduction of committee bills at a later date.

Chairman Roskie then introduced Terrence Carmody, Director of the Environmental Quality Council and William Harbrecht, Ecology Researcher for the Environmental Quality Council. Chairman Roskie explained to the Committee the position Mr. Harbrecht holds with the Environmental Quality Council and the services the Environmental Quality Council could provide to the legislators. He also pointed out to the Committee that a hot line phone to the Environmental Quality Council is set up in Room 414 for the legislators to use, and expressed the opinion that this service should be of particular use to the Natural Resources Committee.

Chairman Roskie then introduced Sue O'Connell, his legislative aide, and Lou Joi Jacobson, Senator Dover's legislative aide. Senator Brown also introduced his legislative aide, Kim Ritter.

Chairman Roskie then discussed the procedures to be followed for committee hearings and pointed out that an excused senator would be allowed to register his vote on committee actions. He also stated that the Committee will always try to give at least three days notice and possibly five days notice for all hearings if time permits.

Chairman Roskie asked for any comments from the Committee, and receiving none, introduced Senator Dover to summarize Senate Bill No. 44 which is now in committee and to explain the action he wishes taken on the bill.

Senator Dover informed the Committee that Senate Bill No. 44 was suggested legislation from the Interim Subcommittee on Sub-

divisions of which he was a member. He stated that the desire of the Subcommittee had been to concentrate on high density housing rather than urban sprawl and Senate Bill No. 44 does not accomplish that purpose. For that reason, Senator Dover moved that Senate Bill No. 44 be set aside for later consideration and a subcommittee of three be appointed to consider modifications that would accomplish the objectives of the Interim Subcommittee on Subdivisions. Senator Manley seconded the motion.

Senator Story asked why the bill was in the Natural Resources Committee rather than in the Local Government Committee, and a discussion followed as to whether the bill should be handled by the Natural Resources Committee or the Local Government Committee.

Senator Brown proposed a substitute motion that the Chairman bring Senate Bill No. 44 to the attention of the President of the Senate for his opinion on which committee should be handling it.

Senator Thiessen stated that since the bill had already been assigned to the Natural Resources Committee, it should be handled by said Committee. The Committee agreed and Senator Brown withdrew his motion.

Senator Jergeson asked if it was going to be a practice of the Committee to discuss a bill before it was posted for hearing, and after some discussion, the Committee agreed with the comment made by Senator Manley that the Committee was not discussing the bill but merely requesting more research.

At this point a vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Roskie then began a discussion on committee bills by expressing the feeling that they were profitable, and that he was particularly concerned about the area of energy. He asked the Committee to consider the possibility of treating energy matters as a committee bill. He also stated that some national legislation will require action and expressed the opinion that if something like this comes along, the Committee should probably consider it. He requested committee members to bring anything that should possibly be handled as a committee bill to the attention of either the Chairman or Vice-Chairman.

At this point Chairman Roskie introduced Pat McKittrick, former Speaker of the House, to the Committee as he arrived late for the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Chairman Roskie

announced that the next meeting of the Natural Resources Committee would probably be held on Monday, January 15, 1979, at 1:30 P.M., and the meeting adjourned at 2:10 P.M.

George F. Roskie
SENATOR GEORGE F. ROSKIE, CHAIRMAN

ROLL CALL

Natural Resources COMMITTEE

46th LEGISLATIVE SESSION - 1979

Each Day Attach to Minutes.

DATE

COMMITTEE ON

VISITORS' REGISTER