

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK & IRRIGATION  
MONTANA STATE SENATE

April 13, 1979

The thirtieth meeting of the Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Committee was called to order on the above date in Room 415 of the State Capitol by Chairman Galt at 8:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL: All members were present with the exception of Senator Graham.

The witnesses that were present to testify are attached.

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL 524: Senator Chet Blaylock was the sponsor of the bill. This bill deals with the ground water in the state of Montana. There has been much concern because of what has been happening in other states and the potential of what could happen to our water. 90% of the water in Montana is ground water. He stated that most of this bill is existing law the substantial change is on page 3 where it puts a limitation on the appropriation of ground water. By passing this bill we will be assured that no speculator can come in and take our water for resale. This bill puts in a 3000 acre feet appropriation. Municipalities are excluded from this act.

Charlie Bowman, M.S.U., presented a page of figures to the committee on acre feet, attachment #1. He felt 3000 acre feet would not put a burden on any agricultural user. What the bill is trying to protect is someone appropriating water for resale.

Zack Stevens, Montana Farm Bureau, rose in support of the bill.

Terry Murphy, NFO, said ground water is an untapped resource in Montana and they are very much concerned about it. He felt the 5 c.f.s. should be looked at very carefully and possibly removed, as he felt this could put a burden on some users.

Chris Johannson, Montana Farmers Union, also supported the bill, mainly because of what he has seen happen in Colorado.

Steve Dougherty, Northern Plains Resource Council, felt it was a good bill.

Alice Frysle, Montana Cattlemen's Association, strongly supported any bill to preserve our water.

as this to oversee the adjudication process.

Senator Jergeson, district #3, also supported the bill. In the next two years the adjudication and allocation of water should be overseen by a committee.

Gordon McGowan, felt it was important that the Legislature work with the different department in coordinating efforts. The legislators on the committee would be very helpful because they would be able to defend or support the actions that had been taken during the session.

Bill Asher, Agriculture Preservation Association, said they fully support the bill. They felt it was important that some kind of a water committee be active during the interim. In 1981 there should be some interim expertise come back to the legislature.

Zack Stevens, Montana Farm Bureau, rose in support and agreed with the previous speakers.

Bob Biggerstaff, conservation districts, said they were in favor of the bill.

Gene Spilde, Montana Water Development, supported the bill.

Ted Doney, Department of Natural Resources, said they had supported the bill from the beginning. It is important for the legislature to have an oversight committee on any important program in the state and felt the bill should be passed.

During disucssion it was brought out that the funding would come from the Renewable Resource Development Account.

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 745: Senator Graham moved the bill BE CONCURRED IN. Motion carried. It was then decided that since this bill called for an appropriation it would be better handled in Finance and Claims and the Chairman would make a motion on the floor that it be transferred to that committee.

The meeting was then adjourned.

  
SENATOR JACK E. GALT, Chairman

# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

April 17

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MR. President

We, your committee on Agriculture, Livestock & Irrigation

having had under consideration Senate ..... Bill No. 524 .....

Respectfully report as follows: That Senate ..... Bill No. 524,  
third reading bill, be amended as follows:

1. Page 3, line 2.  
Following: "Quantities of"  
Strike: "the"  
Insert: "ground"

2. Page 3, line 12.  
Strike: "either 5 c.f.s. or"

And, as so amended

DO PASS

# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

.....April 17.....1979.....(1)

MR. ....President.....

We, your committee on.....Agriculture, Livestock & Irrigation.....

having had under consideration.....House Joint Resolution..... Bill No. ....67.....

Respectfully report as follows: That.....House Joint Resolution..... Bill No. ....67.....

DO-PASS  
BE CONCURRED IN

Date 4-17

## ROLL CALL

## AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

46th LEGISLATIVE SESSION - 1979

Each Day Attach to Minutes.