

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
JANUARY 16, 1981

The House Natural Resources Committee convened in Room 437 of the Capitol Building on Friday, January 16, 1981, at 12:30 p.m. with Chairman Dennis Iverson presiding and fifteen members present (absent was Representative Burnett and excused were Representatives Curtiss and Sheldon).

EXECUTIVE SESSION started with HB 100. Rep. Neuman moved that HB 100 be approved. Rep. Quilici seconded the motion. The discussion was started by Chairman Iverson stating some of the problems incurred with competitive bidding. This system sometimes precludes small landowners if the federal government or a large holder is interested. Another question spoke to water rights and how it is inappropriate for two parties to make decisions for a third party.

Rep. Brown supported the bill by stating sale would be either by bid or appraisal. The Constitution prohibits selling state property for less than market value. He felt it is pretty straightforward as written.

Rep. Roth brought up the subject of abandonment. Rep. Brown had done some research and stated that several projects are wanted by the public and some, nobody, including the Department of Natural Resources, wants. The Department must maintain them however because of the liability involved. Returning the projects to former landowner does transfer the liability.

Rep. Quilici said it was likely that local conservation people would buy this property, but outside interests could come in and buy.

The question was called for and HOUSE BILL 100 received a unanimous DO PASS.

Chairman Iverson then appointed a sub-committee of Rep. Sales, Quilici, and Cozzens with Sales as Chairman to study HOUSE BILL 16. Duties of the sub-committee will be twofold. First to resolve the question of the 50,000 gallon cutoff. Is that too high or too low of a figure or is it even a proper unit of measurement? Second whether or not as has been alleged, is there already current data available? Is there statistical data for the purpose of setting trends available?

Chairman Iverson further stated that this committee may want to write a bill regarding the abandonment of the Milwaukee Railroad before the right-of-way can be broken up, sold and/or lost. There is a land use consideration involved. There is right-of-way from one border of Montana to the other and several different groups are interested.

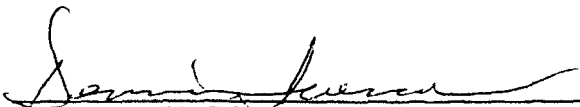
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Rep. Asay said the rights of the adjoining property owners must be considered.

Chairman Iverson will appoint a sub-committee at a later date to study the matter.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dennis Iverson", is written over a horizontal line.

DENNIS IVERSON, CHAIRMAN

Ellen Engstedt, Secretary