THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES January 13, 1981

The meeting was called to order by CHAIRMAN STOBIE at 9:30 a.m. in Room 431 of the Capitol Building in Helena, Montana on January 13, 1981. Roll call was taken and all members were present.

A revised copy of the worksheet of the Executive Budget was passed out (EXHIBIT A) and a spread sheet on FTE and total expenses by the Division that the Department of Livestock put together (EXHIBIT B).

WITNESSES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK were introduced. Les Graham, Jim Glosser and Cecil Greenfield. LES GRAHAM first explained the FTE from 1975 on. MR. GREENFIELD explained the big push for Brucellosis hit in 1978 and tapered down in 1979 and up again in 1980. The big FTE drop in the present biennial budget is due to Vet-Technicians being deleted.

Centralized Services takes care of accounting, budgeting, personnel, purchasing, general services, shipping and receiving. Also included in this budget is the Pork Research and Marketing fund. The primary difference between the Executive and the LFA budget is the price of postage in the communication category and travel. If these two items were restored to the executive amount, it would be a good budget for Centralized Services. The difference being, communication is $\$ 963.00$ less in fiscal year 1982 and $\$ 104.00$ less in fiscal year 1983. It was confirmed that they still have an attorney in the department, but have contracted some legal help. $\$ 26,000.00$ was spent in 1980 for Pork Research and marketing.

In reference to the Audit fees, it was explained that the Legislative Auditor estimated a cost of $\$ 14,000.00$. A staff increase of about $50 \%$ for the Legislative Audit Officer would have to be approved first by the Appropriation Committee.

THE DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY BUREAU was reviewed by DR. JIM GLOSSER, Administrator, giving the purpose of the Bureau and stating that it had grown considerably adding to both the staff and workload. To date there has been a $32 \%$ increase in workload. Comments regarding supplies indicate that the proposed budget would cut laboratory supplies which are increasing in price faster than inflation factors would indicate. Travel is a necessary item in this department because the department is located in Bozeman and they must come to Helena to meet the various industry groups. Another item mentioned was the utilities. Because the Lab shares the cost with the University, they never know what the cost will be until the end of the year.

The funding is $50 \%$ earmarked and $50 \%$ general funds. We feel that Brucellosis is no longer an animal health threat. We have learned how to diagnose and eradicate it and suggest it should be considered a human health problem. Many problems in this area revolve around the Indian reservations because

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of the lack of jurisdiction, therefore the department treats them as a foreign nation. In reference to the milk testing function by federal ordinances and statutes, they are responsible in this state for the milk sanitation inspection and egg inspection function in the field operation. The Diagnostic Lab field people have to collect 8 specimens per producer per year. They test for pasturization, antibiotic residues, and pesticide residues to see that they meet the Federal compliance to meet the Grade A milk standard. Other plants are inspected for manufacturing, cheese, etc. There is a dupliclation as far as a butterfat testing goes, as the Livestock as well as the Milk Control Board both do the same test. Complete responsibility of this test would not increase the budget or staff. There is a bill to do away with the Milk Control Board. The Livestock Department would have to handle their responsibilities all except the price fixing.

SENATOR BOYLAN stated that the farmer is paid on the fat content of their milk and therefore they are very concerned about the accuracy of these tests.

DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAM was explained by Dr. Glosser. It shows the ups and downs of the FTE's from 1970 on due to the scabies, brucellosis and the import/export permit rule.

They have eliminated 6 positions though the FTE's still show in fiscal year 1981. This Department now owns their own vehicles, but are one short. The trouble has been that even though the vehicles have been approved and ordered, it has taken a year in some instances before the vehicles arrive. Travel is very important to this department since it is never known when a disease will hit. The drouth now could also cause a crisis. Another item in this department is the dipping of cattle. Toxaphene is now being restricted. This chemical is being used for spraying vegetable gardens in other areas. The chemical must be dumped in Idaho. Storage cost is 7 cents per pound. There is a dipping station in Victor, Montana.

The division is supported $100 \%$ by earmarked funds. Special mill tax levied to all livestock owners provided the funds have a maximum of 15 mills for the animal health division. $92 \%$ of the revenue is from cattle, other from chickens, bees, sheep, and swine.

THE MILK AND EGG DEPARTMENT was reviewed. This is nearly $100 \%$ General Money. The egg program came to them in 1972. There was a total of 9 FTE in this Bureau in 1975. They felt the milk and egg bureaus could be merged which they did and eliminated two people. The principle job of this bureau is sanitation and inspection. There is $\$ 10,000$ received from Federal funds, USDA, to inspect poultry for school lunch programs. The

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amount under the column Goods PFR, is for training milk and egg inspectors. Since this department does so much traveling, the major part of this budget is for gasoline.

INSPECTION AND CONTROL, presented by LES GRAHAM, is $100 \%$ earmarked funds, again supported with mill levies. The cost per animal would be 4 cents per head to fund on contract services for inspection. They are expecting a drop in FTE in this program in 1983. In the last 6 to 7 years they have cut 8 positions to three and whenever anyone left an administrative position, we demoted the position down to a working position. This did not reduce FTE, but did lower the costs. They have increased the number of field men from 11 to 18 and have cut back the number of miles traveled. This program has two phases. Brand inspectors stationed at the markets and field men that are also peace officers. The sheriff's departments are giving up the authority to the brand inspectors such as felonies relating to livestock. Brand inspectors do not inspect their own cattle. Validating ownership is the Inspectors primary job. The Marketing Act is now in effect that carries a felony penalty. This Department is not on scheduled hours because of the type of work involved. Field men get comp time and marketing staff get overtime. This is all earmarked funds from levies on the livestock. The law allows 10 mills on sheep and 15 mills on other livestock.

PREDATORY ANIMAL CONTROL was the next program discussed. This department has three helicopters used to hunt predatory animals. The cost per hour to have their own helicopter is about $\$ 100.00$ compared to $\$ 150.00$ per hour to hire one. They are stationed in Helena, Forsyth and Lewistown. In 1978 and 1979 they had salvaged helicopters given to them and industry demanded they put it in the air which accounts for the third helicopter. This third helicopter is in the modified budget. Approximately 2,000 coyotes are killed a year. Money for the hides go to the Federal Fish, Parks and Wildife Division. Regarding the budget, Mr. Graham stated again that the third helicopter is in the modified budget as presented to the subcommittee and is not in current level programs. The Fish, Parks and Wildlife Division is not going to allocate $\$ 65,000.00$ as they have in the past. They also feel there is a duplication with the Rodent program and the Department of Livestock that could reduce the FTE's. BOB ROBINSON, Fiscal Analyst, explained that the $\$ 65,000$ and $\$ 69,700$ recommended by the Executive Budget is the cost of the third helicopter. The third helicopter was initiated in June of 1979 which was the beginning of fiscal 1980 and it had to be budget amended so the budget office has not authorized it as part of their current budget. Some of the base in the executive budget for

1982 and 1983 includes some of the costs related to the third helicopter.

Of the total request for RODENT CONTROL, $\$ 22,000$ in 1982 and $\$ 18,000$ in 1983 was for Rabies work. Biologists have been put on since 1975 when the Legislature put Rodent Control in Department of Livestock and appropriated $\$ 46,000.00$. The Department is considering contracting with the Department of Agriculture to conduct the rodent control program. The Livestock Department committee was dismissed.

The meeting adjourned at 11: a.m.


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## nmendation $\underline{1983}$




MILK \& EGG PROGRAM



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Contract Services
Supplies
Communications
Travel
Rent
Repairs
Other
Goods PFR
Equip \& Livestock
Operating Costs
TOTAL EXPENSES

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