

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

The meeting was called to order by CHAIRMAN STOBIE at 8:00 a.m. in Room 431 of the State Capitol Building.

Roll call was taken and all committee members were present except SENATOR STIMATZ.

The meeting was called into EXECUTIVE SESSION.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL made a MOTION to adopt the subcommittee's figures as follows for fiscal 1983:

Contracted Services.....	\$53,416
Supplies and Materials.....	27,511
Communications.....	87,120
Travel.....	46,396
Rent.....	55,408
Utilities.....	5,395
Repair and Maintenance.....	9,071
Other Expenses.....	4,627
Equipment.....	10,700

The motion was voted on and PASSED.

MOTION was made by REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL to accept the Natural Gas Safety E.R.A. for 1982 and 1983, in the amount of \$19,310 and the remaining funding to be made up out of the general fund account.

A SUBSTITUTE MOTION was made by SENATOR SMITH that we revert any money left from the \$200,000 1979 appropriation for auditing the Montana Power Company at the end of the 1981 biennium and that another \$50,000 be appropriated for the 1982 and 1983 biennium to complete the Montana Power rate base audit and litigation. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

The meeting closed on the Public Service Commission and opened on the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.

REPRESENTATIVE STOBIE suggested an idea to present to the Department that they might consider putting the Wildlife, Fisheries, and Enforcement Divisions into one division. All of these people would act as officers and work in the field as wardens at certain times. It was also suggested that it be only fair to offer this as a suggestion and give the new director a chance to prove his administration.

Law Enforcement Division

The division would like additional law enforcement staff in Forsyth, Billings, Lewistown, Cascade and Harlowton.

REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL MOVED the equivalent of 1 FTE be spent by Helena based pilots as enforcement staff. MOTION PASSED.

The 92.99 FTEs include 62 wardens, 5 sergeants and 7 captains, with 6 warden positions vacant, but they spoke to needing 5 more FTEs.

SENATOR SMITH stated that the Fish and Game Committee passed a bill that anyone over 62 years of age can buy their elk and deer hunting licenses at half price which will lower the income from fees.

MOTION was made by REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL to fund 89 FTEs in 1982 and 1983 for wardens.

DISCUSSION was called for. It was said that this will give the 5 more people for field work. It was remarked that they were given appropriations for more wardens last session and they did not use it but took the money for gasoline and travel. This time they will be given a sufficient gas appropriation.

SENATOR BOYLAN made a SUBSTITUTE MOTION to reduce the FTEs to 88 FTEs. A roll call vote was taken.

Representative Stobie	YES	Senator Smith	NO
Representative Hemstad	EXCUSED	Senator Boylan	YES
Representative Manuel	NO	Senator Stimatz	EXCUSED
Representative Cozzens	NO		

The MOTION FAILED.

Vote was called for on the original motion of Representative Manuel's. MOTION PASSED with SENATOR BOYLAN voting NO.

JIM WILLIAMS stated that the OBPP goes along with the Governor's travel restraints. The LFA judged their budget in travel on the fact that they want to offer more in travel.

Reference was made to game damage money. It was recommended by the fiscal analyst to line item this if you wish it to be used strictly for this purpose.

The Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks did recommend the OBPP budget recommendation.

Discussion was held on the travel and operating expenses. A suggestion was made to add \$62,000 to the LFA budget.

Under OPERATING EXPENSES there is about \$20,000 difference between the LFA and OBPP budgets. It was also noted by SENATOR STIMATZ that a division can transfer money from one line item to another.

MOTION was made by SENATOR SMITH to accept the OBPP recommendation of \$734,104 and also line item \$65,000 for game damage in 1982. MOTION PASSED.

MOTION was made by SENATOR SMITH to accept \$748,200 and line item an additional \$65,000 for game damage for 1983. MOTION PASSED.

Discussion was held regarding the purchase of the plane. The Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks have \$11,000 worth of equipment and livestock. Both budgets are the same.

MOTION was made by REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL to accept the LFA recommendation for Equipment for 1982 and 1983. MOTION PASSED.

MOTION was made by SENATOR STIMATZ to add \$54,210 to Equipment in Centralized Services Division in 1982 for the repurchase of the Cessna 180 from the aeronautics pool. MOTION PASSED.

JIM WILLIAMS stated that there is no provision for ex-officio positions. This is where others are pulled out and given a duty as wardens. There is no additional salaries but some money must be added to per diem. Mr. Kent had stated when he was here that this is the direction they were going.

\$20,000 is the suggested amount by F, W, & P and the subcommittee suggests \$25,000 for training.

REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL made a MOTION that an appropriation of \$25,000 for 1982 and \$25,000 for 1983 for conservation officer training programs be accepted and that the committee will draw up a statement of intent. MOTION PASSED.

Wildlife Division

The Executive budget originally showed 87.41 FTEs. 4.44 FTEs are vacant and 1.50 FTEs was funded but unfilled. There are 71 FTEs fulltime and 10.47 FTEs that are part-time.

The LFA moved .50 FTE in and took 1 FTE from the game farm.

It was stated that the game range personnel live on these properties and operate them. About 15.20 people were not hired for summer time work because of lack of funds and also that CETA was helping this program and this funding will not be available again.

BOB ROBINSON said if the OBPP is recommended that the .50 FTE research biologist be added to 1982 and 1983.

SENATOR SMITH suggested that the farmers get involved by leaving some of their land for the birds to feed on instead of drawing them only to the game properties.

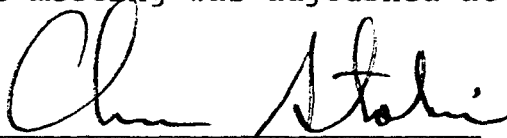
MOTION was made by REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL that the 1982 and 1983 FTE level be set at 82.08. MOTION PASSED.

It was MOVED to accept the LFA budget for 1982 and 1983 for the OPERATING EXPENSES (line item 2100 through 2800) by REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL. MOTION PASSED.

The explanation was made on 6100 STATE SOURCES and 6200 FEDERAL SOURCES, by saying that it is pass-through money that goes to graduate students at the universities for study of particular projects.

MOTION was made by REPRESENTATIVE COZZENS to accept the LFA budget for EQUIPMENT of \$35,000 in 1982 and \$40,000 in 1983 and also accept the pass-through money in #6100, State Sources and #6200, Federal Sources, in the LFA budget. MOTION PASSED. REPRESENTATIVE STOBIE voted NO.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.



CHRIS STOBIE, CHAIRMAN

lmw