

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
February 14, 1981

The meeting was called to order by CHAIRMAN STOBIE on Saturday, February 14, 1981, at 8:00 a.m. in Room 431 of the State Capitol Building.

All members of the committee were present with the exception of SENATORS BOYLAN and STIMATZ.

The meeting was called into EXECUTIVE SESSION.

DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS

Parks and Recreation Division

Discussion was held regarding this program. The Parks Division operates approximately 230 park sites throughout the state of Montana. The sites are classified into four groups. They are:

1. State Parks
2. State Monuments
3. Recreation Access
4. Fishing Access Sites

There is not the problems in this department with funding as there is in the other divisions due to the revenues from the hunting and fishing licenses. General fund is about \$600,000 or covers about 30% of its total operation and there are many earmarked revenues. Because some of these revenues are declining general funds are having to pick up more and more of the burden. The LFA recommendation is to continue at its current level and support with general fund. OBPP (Executive budget) is driven by inflation factors off of its 1980 expenditures.

The LFA keeps current staff and the Executive budget drops about nine-tenths of a FTE, which is part-time help.

JIM WILLIAMS, Executive budget office, said that there is money going into the Parks and Recreation. Coal tax money can only go to those places purchased with coal tax money. On money from a regular fishing license, they get \$1 and on a 5 day non-resident fishing license they get \$2 and on a non-resident season fishing license they get \$5. That is put into an account and they take up to 15% for maintenance. The remainder is used for access purchasing.

A discussion of the number of accesses as to the lack of money for maintaining them was held.

REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL made a MOTION that the subcommittee draft a bill that will change the fishing access funds to allow 50% rather than the present 15% for maintenance. MOTION PASSED.

SENATOR SMITH made a MOTION to take the OBPP recommendation with the same FTEs and in the amount of \$735,135 with the stipulation the increase in wages be added to that figure for 1982 and to accept the 1983 OBPP recommendation with the same stipulation. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

There was some discussion in regard to equipment.

REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL made a MOTION to adopt the figure of \$25,000 for 1982 and 1983 for EQUIPMENT. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

The next item was line item 6200 which was pass-through money. This does not have to be appropriated.

Conservation Education Division

Discussion on the Conservation Education Division was held and it was told by CHAIRMAN STOBIE that he had met with Mr. Jim Flynn and talked over the Conservation Officer concept and that they can do that job they have in the Information and Education area as well as wardens jobs or whatever else they have to do, and get away from specializing. It was also suggested that a uniform dress be introduced.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 a.m.



CHRIS STOBIE, CHAIRMAN

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