

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LONG RANGE BUILDING  
March 30, 1981

The meeting was called to order by JACK K. MOORE, Chairman, in Room 108. All Committee members were present except SEN. ETCHART and SEN. THOMAS. Also in attendance was BOB ROBINSON, Fiscal Analyst.

Testimony was given by BOB DURKEE, Representative of VFW and American Legion; DON ANONIETTI, State Director of Veteran's Employment; JAMES SHANNON, Representative of Disabled American Veterans; PHIL HAUCK, Director of A & E; RAY HOFFMAN, Legislative Fiscal Analyst; RON HOLLIDAY, Administrator of Parks Division.

THE CHAIRMAN stated they would discuss HB 831, HB 829, and HB 847 in that order.

HB 831

THE CHAIRMAN asked if the Committee would object to using Renewable Resource Development money in lieu of general fund money for HB 831.

REP. HURWITZ moved that in HB 831, \$85,000 be taken as requested for the Agricultural Experiment Station in Sidney from the Renewable Resource Development fund instead of the general fund.  
THE MOTION PASSED.

HB 829

REP. MOORE, Sponsor of HB 829, explained this bill pertains to the construction of a 50 bed nursing home domiciliary at the Montana Veteran's Home. During the hearing on the Subcommittee for Institutions, the Committee visited this facility. He stated at this time there are 40 nursing care beds available, 61 beds are in the new domiciliary, and 14 beds are being used in the old two-story domiciliary. In May 1980, the annex had to be closed. There were 147 people there and they had to be reduced to 115. To adequately remodel the annex and the old domiciliary would require sprinkling systems, new fire escapes and overall renovation. The two buildings would cost around \$665,000 to just remodel.

He stated this bill would allow for 50 additional beds for 150 total veterans. The VA at this time reimburses the Home \$12.50 a day per person for nursing beds. It would be advantageous to the people and the state to forget about trying to remodel the old facilities, and try for the new facility. He stated the time is coming when many of the WWII veterans will have need for this facility.

MR. HAUCK stated the question is whether this unit should be nursing units or domiciliary units. The nursing units cost more to construct and operate. When he spoke to the VA they urged to consider only nursing units, since there predictions indicate

this will be the most necessary type of units. He explained the \$1,500,000 listed in the bill was between the costs of either unit, with the nursing facility being at a higher cost than what is indicated. He stated they could build the facility with a mix of nursing and domiciliary beds.

BOB DURKEE, Representative of the VFW and American Legion, stated they endorse this bill. Under the VA criteria of allowable beds in the state of Montana they are entitled to two and one half beds per thousand veterans or approximately 225 beds to be eligible for all the VA participation. He noted they are short, and are not getting better. They are also concerned regarding the WWII veteran, since their average age is 60. The federal law that participates with states, is quite popular at this time.

DAN ANTONIETTI, State Director of Veteran's Employment, stated that he agrees with Mr. Durkee's testimony and gives this bill complete support.

SEN. HIMSL, stated he is the Senator in the area that this facility exists. He feels the emphasis on the nursing home portion, rather than the domiciliary would be the way to go. It would have two functions then, it could always be used for a domiciliary, but the members already in the domiciliary would eventually need the nursing beds. He agrees there is a demand for this service, and there might be additional funding for reimbursements available.

JAMES SHANNORN, Representative of the Disabled American Veterans, stated support for HB 829.

REP. BARDANOUVE asked why the Veteran's Home facility was so much below the facility for the Deaf and Blind.

MR. HAUCK stated there is a large difference between the facilities, due to the type of apartments in it, and also the extensive footing work that needs to be done because of the soil conditions in Great Falls. He noted they are estimating full furnishings for this unit. He stated the criteria does call for day rooms, and they are contained in this estimate, plus an enlargement to the kitchen facilities.

SEN. HAFHEY asked how many nursing home facilities were available for veterans in the state.

MR. HAUCK stated at the Veteran's Home there are 40 nursing home beds and 60 domiciliary beds.

SEN. HAFHEY asked how many veterans in the state would use the nursing and domiciliary beds if they were available, and what the cost is to these veterans.

MR. HOFFMAN stated currently the veteran at the facility pays around 50% of his care. Each individual has an ability to pay put on them and there is no Medicaid or Medicare funds currently at the home. The costs are currently being paid by general fund or by private funds.

SEN. HAFNEY asked where are the other veterans from, on the waiting list.

MR. DURKEE stated these people are all over the state. The waiting list has had an excess of 40 ever since it was opened.

REP. BARDANOUVE asked if the state had 200 beds up there, would there still be a waiting list.

MR. DURKEE stated it is possible there would always be a waiting list. He noted they have been on a waiting list for the expansion of the home for several years. He stated last year there were 45 veterans who died.

REP. HURWITZ asked how many vacant beds in nursing homes are there throughout the state, that the state is paying for.

MR. HAUCK stated he could not answer the question regarding the vacant nursing home beds, but he would look into that. The cost of the 50 bed nursing addition would be \$1,800,000 for 15,744 square feet, which calculates out at \$70 a square foot, and \$36 a bed. Domiciliary costs would be estimated at \$1,350,000 at \$27 a bed and would be a smaller unit at 14,200 square feet. The \$70 a square foot does not include furnishings, or architect fees, or expanding the kitchen and dining room. The whole package is \$1.8 million.

REP. MOORE stated the VA reimbursement for \$12.50 a day when all beds are filled would be \$450,125.

REP. BARDANOUVE asked how much does it cost to operate this new facility.

MR. HOFFMAN stated under current VA regulations, a nursing bed requires two hours per day per person at a minimum. There would be a need for \$320,000 in just direct care, the other auxiliary services would have to be priced out.

REP. HURWITZ stated the fiscal analyst says there are quite a number of empty nursing beds in the state. When they are filled there is 65% federal participation, and this would be more reimbursement than the veteran.

REP. MOORE stated the Department aims to get the nursing beds

certified for Medicaid. He feels this program would be well worth the expenditure and would like to get this moving as soon as possible, otherwise there will be 15 veterans who will have to be removed from the old domiciliary because it is not up to health and safety standards.

HB 847

REP. RYAN, Sponsor of HB 847, stated the Hell Creek State recreation area is having problems with their boat ramp and they need some help. This is a very popular boating area. The residents are more than willing to provide the labor to construct the ramp, and they need \$4,745 in materials. He stated Hell Creek is located 26 miles north of Jordan. He stated they already have a boat ramp, but the water has dropped off so much that the water is no longer at the level where that ramp can be used.

MR. HOLLIDAY, read EXHIBIT A to the Committee regarding this recreation area. He stated according to the Corp projections, the lake will not raise much this entire year, and will probably go down further next year. He stated they would like to have the capability to put this in immediately, but they may wait until next fall. He stated the Department does support this bill, however, the funding source does need clarification.

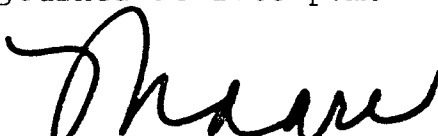
REP. RYAN stated they did have an alternative proposal regarding building a new ramp at a new place for \$11,120.

REP. BARDANOUVE asked if the other proposal was in a better location.

MR. HOLLIDAY stated this is in a better location, but starting a boat ramp in this particular location would just be the tip of the iceberg. There would then be the need for proper parking, and new road work which would add another \$30,000-\$40,000. They feel it is the best expenditure to go with the proposal as presented in HB 847. He stated they would construct this ramp near the original ramp with a better grade. He stated the nearest boat ramp is on the east side, and at least 50 miles away.

MR. HAUCK stated he would like to respond to the question that arose yesterday regarding the rate of inflation. Since 1970 to 1980, the inflation rate has jumped 157%.

There being no further discussion or comments, the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.



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JACK K. MOORE, Chairman

TESTIMONY OF RON HOLLIDAY  
ADMINISTRATOR, PARKS DIVISION  
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS  
BEFORE THE LONG-RANGE BUILDING COMMITTEE  
March 30, 1981

Mr. Chairman:

My name is Ron Holliday, Administrator of the Parks Division, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. I am speaking today in support of House Bill 847.

Hell Creek State Recreation Area is located 24 miles north of Jordan on the Hell Creek arm of Fort Peck Reservoir. This popular area has been in the state park system since the 1950's.

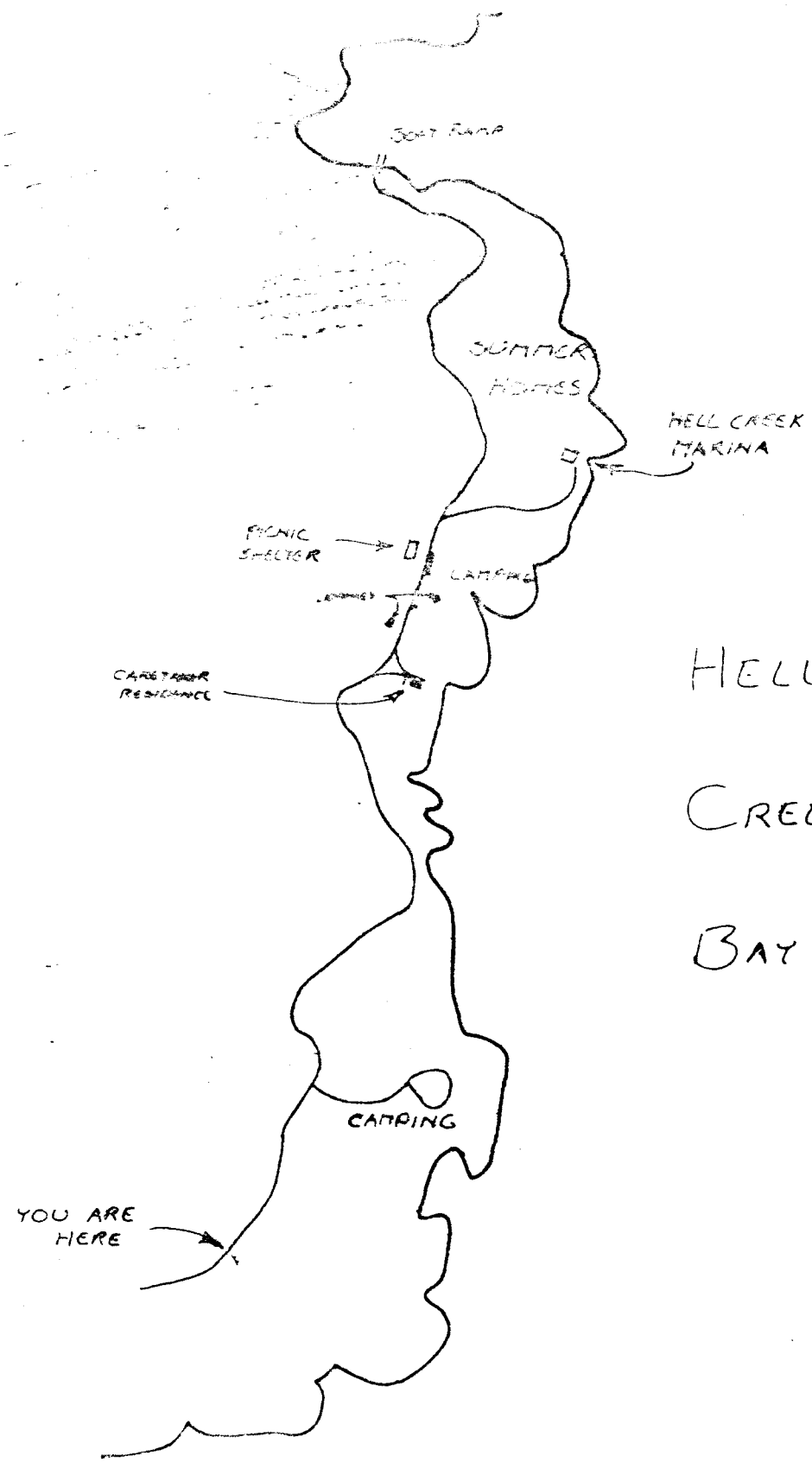
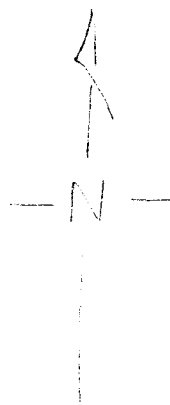
The U.S. Corps of Engineers manages the water levels at Fort Peck. This year the water level will apparently not reach the height of the existing boat ramp. The Corps' projection for next year indicates a continuous low water level for the reservoir. Without a boat extension, people will simply not be able to launch their boats at Hell Creek without the use of a four-wheel drive vehicle which most people do not own.

We have received commitments from Jordan and Miles City residents for donation of labor and some materials for the ramp extension. The funds authorized by House Bill 847 will be used to purchase materials.

The bill will be effective on passage. This will give us the opportunity to pour the ramp at low water this spring. This is contingent on securing necessary federal permits prior to high water. We have discussed this with the Corps of Engineers and we hope the permits can be issued in a timely fashion.

Our department supports House Bill 847, however, the funding source needs clarification.

Exhibit A



HELL  
CREEK  
BAY

HOUSE BILL NO. 831

INTRODUCED BY *T. J. Toit*  
*Edward G. ...* *George ...*

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE \$89,000 TO THE AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION IN SIENNA FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SAMPLE PROCESSING, STORAGE, AND REPAIR SHOP BUILDING."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN: Section 14. Appropriation. There is appropriated \$89,000 from the General Fund to the Agricultural Experiment Station in Sienna for the erection, during June 30, 1933, for the purpose of constructing a building for the processing and storage of samples, the repair of farm and research equipment, and the storage of machinery and equipment.

-End-

HOUSE BILL NO. 847

1 INTRODUCED BY *Alger*

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3  
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO  
5 THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS TO REPAIR THE  
6 BOAT RAMP AT HELL CREEK STATE RECREATION AREA; AND PROVIDING  
7 AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

8  
9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

10 Section 1. Appropriation. There is appropriated \$4,745  
11 from the earmarked revenue fund to the department of fish,  
12 wildlife, and parks for the fiscal year ending June 30,  
13 1981, to fund repairs on the boat ramp at Hell Creek state  
14 recreation area.

15 Section 2. Effective date. This act is effective on  
16 passage and approval.

-End-

INTRODUCED BILL  
HB 847



HOUSE BILL NO. 829

INTRODUCED BY *Thorne*

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF INSTITUTIONS TO CONSTRUCT A NURSING HOME-DOMICILIARY AT THE MONTANA VETERANS' HOME."

SECTION 1. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the bond proceeds and insurance clearance fund to the department of institutions \$1,500,000 for the biennium ending June 30, 1983, for the construction of a 50-bed nursing home-domiciliary at the Montana veterans' home at Columbia Falls.

-End-

