

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
LONG-RANGE PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 4, 1985

The meeting of the Long-Range Planning Subcommittee was called to order by Chairman Robert Thoft on February 4, 1985 at 8:05 a.m. in Room 420 of the State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: All members were present.

DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS, CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

Fish Hatcheries, Miles City, Anaconda and Lewistown: James Flynn (39:A:008), Director, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FW&P) gave a brief overview of Montana's fish hatchery system. He said two years ago the department proposed a two phase program which would update all the fish hatcheries in the state. This proposal, Phase II of the program, will upgrade hatcheries at Miles City, Anaconda and Lewistown. When the federal government closed the hatchery at Miles City the department took it over and a study was made on upgrading it or building a new hatchery at Fort Peck. Montana needs a warm/cool water hatchery to maintain fishing opportunities in the Eastern part of the state. He said the comparison between the Miles City hatchery and the one at Fort Peck was done well. It indicated the Fort Peck hatchery will cost \$750,000 to \$1,000,000 more to build, than to upgrade the Miles City hatchery. He said the Miles City project will cost \$4.4 million. Mr. Flynn said the department will be increasing production at the hatchery and will be putting in an additional water supply from the Yellowstone River. Mr. Flynn said the department has received approval from another subcommittee for an increased operational budget to handle the increase in production and the expansion of the hatchery. The department is proposing a \$1.00 increase in fishing license fees to cover the cost of the Miles City hatchery. The \$1.00 fee will also cover maintenance projects at other hatcheries.

Proponents: Representative Carl Zabrocki (39:A:106), District 26, said he wholeheartly endorses the hatchery because it will build Montana and particularly Eastern Montana. Representative Gerry Devlin (39:A:113), District 25, said support for the Miles City hatchery is widespread in his area. Originally people from Glasgow wanted the hatchery at Fort Peck, but once they realized the Miles City project was less expensive they decided to support it. Senator Ed Smith (39:A:130), District 10, appeared in support of the Miles City hatchery and the maintenance of other Montana hatcheries. He said he feels the \$1.00 increase in the fishing license fee is fair. He has found most people are not opposed to it since it will be used for the upgrading of hatcheries. Representative Jim Abrams (39:A:163), District 24, said the project has alot of local support and he likes the concept of user fees. Senator Pat Goodover (39:A:171), District 20, said he attended a meeting of the Great Falls Chapter of Walleyes and they are very interested in supporting the Miles City hatchery. Senator Les Hirsch (39:A:192), District 13, said both warm water and cold water fishermen are in support of the Miles City hatchery. He said he would like to go on record as a supporter of the increased license fee. Scott Ross (39:A:215), Walleyes Unlimited,

submitted written testimony (EXHIBIT 1). Representative Bob Gilbert (39:A:285), District 22, said the people in the Sidney area heartily endorse this program. Hal Price (39:A:294) represented the Montana Wildlife Federation. He said the federation is supportive of this project and would like to see it linked to the user fee. Representative Marian Hanson (39:A:302), District 100, said the hatchery will add to the recreational benefits of Miles City. Representative Gene Ernst (39:A:310), District 29, said he would like the record to reflect him as a proponent of the Lewistown project. Senator Larry Tveit (39:A:313), District 11, wanted to go on record as a proponent of the Miles City hatchery and other hatchery projects.

Chairman Thoft (39:A:321) asked if the project is contingent upon the \$1.00 increase in the fishing license fee. Mr. Flynn said the funding of the hatchery request is not necessarily dependent on the \$1.00 increase. He said the bonding program for this is based on a five year period. If the fee increase is not forthcoming the bonding program can be extended over a seven year period and the department's operational budget can handle it. He said the department has proposed a program which will pay the debt off faster through the use of a reasonable fee increase.

Representative Ernst (39:A:344) asked what the cost of bonding will be for the three projects. Mr. Flynn said for five years the cost will be \$740,000 a year and for seven years \$530,000.

Senator Tveit (39:A:352) asked if a large amount of funding is coming from the Dingle-Johnson Tax. Mr. Flynn said the total funding will come from two sources the \$1.00 increase and the Dingle-Johnson Tax which is a federal excise tax on fishing equipment and boat motors.

FW&P Regional Headquarters, Great Falls and Bozeman: Mr. Flynn (39:A:370) said in 1983 the department began a program which would replace the seven regional headquarters in the state. He said the present headquarters were constructed in the 1950s and are not energy efficient and do not have adequate space. He said the headquarters at Missoula have been replaced and the one in Glasgow is in the process of being replaced. This session the department is proposing the replacement of the headquarters at Great Falls and Bozeman.

Mr. Flynn said, in addition to the Great Falls headquarters, the Visitor's Center will be replaced. The two will be incorporated in one building at Giant Springs State Park. Mr. Flynn said a proposal for a new interstate off ramp will either go through the present headquarters or very close to it. The cost of the new headquarters and the Visitor's Center is \$1.2 million.

Mr. Flynn said the new headquarters in Bozeman will also include a research lab. Currently the department rents space for the research lab from Montana State University (MSU) for \$20,000 a year. The cost of the new headquarters and research lab is \$1.4 million.

Mr. Flynn said these projects are proposed to be cash projects with license fees being the primary source of revenue. He said if the \$1.00 increase is not available the alternative will be to put these projects in a bonding program which will reduce the payment out of the cash program.

Proponents: Sydne Abernathy (39:A:458) submitted written testimony (EXHIBIT 2). Warren Sawyer (39:A:495) submitted written testimony (EXHIBIT 3). Roger Young (39:A:543), President, Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce submitted written testimony (EXHIBIT 4). Polly Kostad (39:A:580), member, Giant Springs Heritage Park Commission (GSHPC) said Giant Springs is the most heavily used park in the state and the Visitor's Center will enhance it. Jackie Bourret (39:A:590), Vice President, GSHPC said the new headquarters will enhance the park and she thanked the committee for its past support. Joe Forzley (39:A:602) urged the committee to support the Great Falls proposal. Bob Correa (39:A:612), Bozeman Chamber of Commerce said the chamber gets 35,000 requests a year for information about hunting and fishing. He said it is embarrassing to send tourists to the current facility because it is obsolete. Mary Wright (39:A:630), Montana Council of Trout Unlimited, said the council supports the upgrading of the seven regional headquarters and specifically the Great Falls and Bozeman headquarters. They also support the concept of using license fees for this purpose. Bob Bivens (39:A:643), Portage Route Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, said the chapter has seen an increased interest in the Lewis and Clark Expedition. It is supportive of the new Great Falls Headquarters because it will further this interest even more. Richard Martin (39:A:672) said the present Great Falls Headquarters is difficult to find and is not picturesque. He said the new headquarters will be much more accessible to sportsmen at Giant Springs.

Chairman Thoft (39:A:694) asked the age of the present headquarters and if the property in Great Falls will be sold to the Department of Highways. Mr. Flynn said the buildings are 30 to 32 years old and the property in Great Falls belongs to the Department of State Lands. Senator Tveit asked if there is enough land at Giant Springs State Park for the new headquarters. Mr. Flynn said yes.

Senator Fuller (39:B:001) asked Mr. Correa if the new headquarters will be assisting the chamber with tourist information. Mr. Correa said the chamber has worked with the department in support of the new headquarters. It will continue to send tourists to the headquarters and will depend on FW&P for tourism information. Mr. Correa said the chamber has a good working relationship with the department.

Representative Ernst (39:B:010) asked where the present facility is in Bozeman and where the new one will be built. Mr. Flynn said the research lab is on the MSU campus and in the old alumni building. There is room at the present site for the new facility or it might be located on the MSU campus. Mr. Flynn said the department is inclined to keep the same location for the new building.

Senator Van Valkenburg (39:B:026) asked if there is a need for two Visitor's Centers at Giant Springs, the one in the headquarters and the national center for the Lewis and Clark Expedition (See Exhibit 4). He also asked if this part of the construction might not be done in phases until FW&P knows if the national center will be funded by Congress. Mr. Flynn said the department had the same concern about the two centers, but they have been told that funding of the national center is quite remote. Mr. Flynn also said the Visitor's Center in their plan is part of the headquarters itself. It is not a separate building and would not lend itself to phased construction. Don Hyyppa, Administrator, Parks Division, FW&P said the Visitor's Center will be used when the headquarters offices are closed. Sydne Abernathy (39:B:094) and Dick Martin (39:B:101) both said funding of the national center is slight.

Representative Bardanoue (39:B:200) said he is concerned that the department's ambitious building replacement program will create a larger maintenance budget in future years. He said he is afraid the department will have to keep coming back to the legislature for more license increases in order to maintain these new buildings. Mr. Flynn said Representative Bardanoue's concerns are well founded, but the reality is that current sites need to be maintained and upgraded. He said Montana sportsemen do not pay nearly as much for licenses as sportsmen in other states. The other states do not have good quality resources like Montana. Mr. Flynn said sportsmen are not opposed to fee increases for building improvements. Mr. Flynn said after five years the bonds will be paid off and the increase in fees can be used for other projects or even decreased.

Chairman Thoft (39:B:281) asked what the percentage increase is for license fees over the past five years. Mr. Flynn said fees have increased more in the last four years than they have in the last ten. He said the department will supply the committee with percentage increases on licenses.

Fishing Access Site Protection: Mr. Flynn (39:B:308) said this project is for development of fishing access sites throughout the state. The program will cost \$600,000 for the biennium. \$300,000 is to come from the General License Account and \$300,000 from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The department presently has 232 fishing access sites in the park system, 119 of these are totally undeveloped and 80 more are in need of additional work. In the past biennium the department purchased 18 new sites. Eight acquisitions are pending and initial discussion has begun on 50 more sites. There is a real need to develop present fishing access sites. Development includes signing facilities, fencing, roads, parking and at some sites development of boat ramps and latrines. The \$600,000 will enhance 30 sites. This request is strictly for development, not for acquisition.

Senator Fuller (39:B:363) asked what is the LWCF. Mr. Flynn said it is a federal royalty tax on offshore gas and oil. He said 50 percent, of the money given to Montana, is used by the state and 50 percent is distributed to local governments for outdoor recreation projects.

Giant Springs State Park Improvements: Mr. Flynn (39:B:409) said the development of the park has been ongoing for several years. The project will cleanup a coulee used in the past as a dump. The coulee will make a nice addition to the park. The project will cost \$200,000. The Resource Indemnity Trust (RIT) Interest Earnings will provide \$150,000 and \$50,000 will come from LWCF and private donations.

Proponents: Sydne Abernathie (39:B:458), Joe Forzley (39:B:482), Warren Sawyer (39:B:498) and Representative Bardanoue (39:B:506) all spoke as proponents of the project.

Representative Ernst (39:B:530) asked what steps have been taken to prevent the coulee from being used as a dump. Mr. Hyypa said the department does restrict dumping in the area, but it is difficult to stop promiscuous dumping. By cleaning the area up people will discontinue to use it as a dump. Mr. Flynn said the new headquarters at the park will also be a negative incentive for dumping and vandalism.

Senator Tveit (39:B:565) asked if the \$150,000 of State Park Fees are the same as the \$150,000 of RIT Interest Earnings. Mr. Hyypa said the RIT money will be deposited into the department's earned revenue account for State Park Fees.

Headquarters Storage Building, Glasgow: Mr. Flynn (39:B:602) said the new Glasgow Regional Headquarters, approved for construction last session, will be completed this Spring. The old headquarters building will be converted into a shop. The \$30,000 needed for this project will come from General License Revenue.

Relocation of Sign Shop from Whitehall to Helena: Mr. Flynn (39:B:683) said the department is a great user of signs. He said the department has recently gone through a review of the sign shop operation and three options were discussed concerning it: 1) contract with a commercial sign maker; 2) use the Prison Industries Program to make signs; and 3) relocate the sign shop to Helena and continue to have the department make its own signs. Option 3 was chosen as the best solution to the sign shop problem. The relocation will cost \$30,000. Mr. Flynn said the supervisor of the shop is retiring and the other person who makes signs was told about the possible relocation at the time she was hired.

Chairman Thoft (40:A:022) asked if a new facility will be built or leased for the sign shop. Mr. Flynn said no, the new shop will be located in one of the old warehouses here in Helena.

Representative Ernst (40:A:036) asked why the Prison Industries Program was not a suitable alternative to the relocation. Mr. Flynn said the prison program is utilized whenever possible. However, they prefer to do a large volume of signs and they do not have the skills or equipment necessary to make scotch light signs. Chairman Thoft asked if the department can give the prison the equipment needed to make scotch light signs. Don Hyypa said it is not so much the equipment as it is the lack of skills and volume needed to make the signs at the prison. Mr. Hyypa said there are graphic skills involved in making signs.

Chairman Thoft (40:A:073) asked why someone with these skills could not be hired at the prison. Mr. Hyyppa said the department looked into this, but it was determined the program at the prison could not be up and running by the time the other sign shop will be phased out.

Wildlife Habitat Acquisition: Mr. Flynn (40:A:104) said this request is for \$1,000,000 which will be used by the department to purchase big game winter range. Mr. Flynn said \$1,000,000 was appropriated in 1983 for habitat acquisition and \$560,000 has been spent. The remaining \$440,000 will be spent with the \$1,000,000 requested this session. Mr. Flynn said about 2,200 acres will be purchased with this money.

Chairman Thoft (40:A:182) asked Mr. Flynn to give the committee maps showing the areas to be purchased and those which have been purchased in the past.

Representative Ernst (40:A:253) noticed there is \$750,000 in federal funds available for the project. He asked if these funds are locked into land acquisition. Mr. Flynn said the federal funds are from the Pitman-Robertson Tax which is a federal excise tax on hunting equipment. The money is available for acquisition or any other activity related to wildlife management. The funds must be matched by state dollars.

Senator Van Valkenburg (40:A:282) said he is not familiar with the topic of winter game ranges. He asked the department to give a presentation on why winter game ranges are needed in Montana.

Chairman Thoft (40:A:348) said he is concerned that land purchased for game ranges is removed from the tax rolls. Mr. Flynn said the department does pay in lieu of taxes.

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION, CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM: Senator Van Valkenburg (40:A:430) said Tom O'Connell from Architecture and Engineering (A&E) made a list of projects which deal with health and safety issues. He said he would like the committee to discuss these projects and possibly introduce a committee bill which will get funding for these projects going now. Senator Van Valkenburg (40:A:469) asked what the total funding is for the health and safety projects. Tom O'Connell, Chief, Facility Planning Bureau, A&E said \$4.4 million, but this includes the MSU brick project. Senator Van Valkenburg said he felt the brick problem is too large to act on now, but he is most concerned about the Swan River Sewer and the Prison Sewer. He said he is also concerned about the colleges where problems exist with fumes and exhaust.

Mr. O'Connell said he only included projects on the list which were prioritized in the Long-Range Building Cash Program. He cautioned against making the list too large. A&E will get bogged down with all the work involved in trying to get projects out for bid. Representative Bardanouve (40:A:515) said he would hesitate to pull projects out and give them priority over others. He said he thought the committee should consider the whole funding package.

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There being no further business before the subcommittee the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.



ROBERT THOFT, Chairman

Walleyes Unlimited OF MONTANA



BOX 1067
WOLF POINT, MONTANA 59201
February 4, 1985

Testimony Before the Long Range Planning subcommittee
(Joint Appropriations Committee)

I'm Scott Ross from Wolf Point. I represent Walleyes Unlimited of Montana.

Recreation is important to Montana, both in terms of contributing to our quality of life and contributing to our state's economy. Our fine recreation resources are often the topic of discussion when sportemen get together anywhere in the nation.

Since January of 1983, Walleyes Unlimited's membership has grown to over three thousand. The growth of our organization bears testimony to the fact that Montana's vast warm water fisheries are important in the overall Montana recreation package.

Sportsmen from Dillon to Plentywood and from Belle Creek to Kalispell have taken an increased interest in the diverse opportunities that these fisheries have the potential of offering.

Montana's warm and cool water fisheries present special problems for fisheries managers. Foremost among these problems is the fact that many of our warm water fisheries are located in reservoirs which are operated for the benefit of many, Montana interests and the interests of downstream states included.

WALLEYES UNLIMITED TESTIMONY (2)

The complexity of the management of these reservoirs has resulted in operating plans which do not always allow for natural stability in game fish populations or the forage fish populations that contribute to the predator-prey balance in these waters.

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, with the support and aid of Walleyes Unlimited, has instituted new programs intended to develop these fisheries and thus expand Montana's recreation opportunities.

Forage fish capable of reproducing in our man-made reservoirs have been introduced by FWP in numerous waters. Walleyes Unlimited chapters are carrying out ambitious projects targeting habitat improvement and rearing of both game and forage species.

The most crucial problem to date has been maintaining game fish numbers in those waters where spawning habitat is limited or made unavailable during spawning periods by the operation of those projects benefitting power generation, irrigation, flood control, and downstream navigation. Montana must institute an aggressive planting program in these waters, backed by a modern warm water hatchery such as the proposed expanded Miles City operation.

The problems that Montana faces in managing its warm and cool water fisheries are not unique. Downstream states...North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska...have successfully dealt with similar problems.

Men and women with foresight have approved expanded management efforts in those states...with results that are the envy of all that follow the progress of their recreation development. That

part of those states' economies that is directly related to the use of their warm and cool water resources is now measured in many millions of dollars each year. A drive through the Van Hook area of North Dakota's Garrison Reservoir quickly attests to this fact. The typical fisherman in that area sports extensive recreation gear (camper, completely equipped boat, etc.). A quick check of license plates will show that a substantial number of Montanans are enjoying the fine fishing that Garrison Reservoir offers.

WALLEYES UNLIMITED supports the appropriation of funds to expand the Miles City warm water hatchery based upon the effects that such an expansion will have upon the future of recreation in Montana.

We, who appreciate the quality of life that Montana's fine recreation opportunities provide for, believe that the expanded warm water fisheries programs, backed by a modern hatchery facility, will ultimately benefit the entire state.

Making MONTana an even better place to live can become a reality. Appropriation of the funds for the expansion efforts at the Miles City hatchery will be a step toward this goal.

From: Sydne Abernathy
1127 - 4 Avenue North
Great Falls, Montana

Feb. 4, 1985

Exhibit 2

To: Chairman Thoft and Committee Members

The state of Montana, the Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Dept., and the community of Great Falls have a unique opportunity awaiting them. An opportunity that will give a quarter of a million people a deeper appreciation of what our state has to offer through the Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Dept. programs.

By supporting the building of the District 4 Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Regional Headquarters at Giant Springs Heritage Park, another phase of a Master Plan started in 1975 by the Giant Springs Heritage Park Commission will be accomplished. The site for the proposed building is ready and waiting and incorporating the district headquarters, the fish hatchery, and the park in one area will be a first in this state. The advantages of this 3 in 1 arrangement are many for the FW&P and the quarter of a million visitors from throughout the United States, our Canadian friends, and other foreign visitors.

The present facility located in Great Falls is extremely cramped and outdated as well as being difficult to find!

The community of Great Falls has given and continues to give widespread support to the planned development of the Giant Springs and Riverfront areas and I find this same widespread support for the District 4 Headquarters and Visitors Center. I ask that you give a positive recommendation to this project.

Thank you for your support over the last several years and for this opportunity to speak to you today. Your continued support for on-going development of the Giant Springs Heritage Park area is deeply appreciated and future generations will thank you.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. My name is Warren Sawyer, I live in great Falls and am a member of the Giant Springs Heritage State Park Commission.

This Commission was organized as a non-profit voluntary tax-exempt organization to "plan, promote and develop a Heritage Park in Cascade County and to seek and coordinate funds available for its development"

Since 1971 over \$ 1,000,000 has been spent at the Park, with 16% for land acquisition (75 acres), 77% for Park improvements and 7 % for relocation of roads. The largest % of funds have been from Montana state matching or allocated funds- 51% of the total - and you and other legislators deserve a great deal of praise for your continued support of this State Park. Another 32 % came from Federal funds and smaller amounts from city and county governments.

The Commission itself raised over \$150,000 in cash donations from individuals and companies and another \$ 100,000 in donated services. I think it is no exaggeration that this local enthusiastic and generous support was an essential catalyst for the creation of the most-used state park in Montana.

The Commission has continuously worked closely, productively and cooperatively with the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. We have helped in development of long range plans, provided volunteer help on many occasions and generally worked together for the benefit of the Department and the citizens of Montana.

As an organization we are very familiar with the present District 4 headquarters building, and we believe this facility to be obviously inadequate. We strongly support the construction of a new District 4 Headquarters building, and believe the ideal location for such headquarters would be at Giant Springs Heritage State Park, ~~with great advantages both for the public and for the~~ with great advantages both for the public and for the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. We further strongly recommend that the new District 4 Headquarters building incorporate a Visitor center, which would likewise be of great value both to the public and the department.



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January 29, 1985

To: Long Range Building Committee
Montana State Legislature - 49th Session

From: Roger W. Young, President

Subject: ***REGION IV FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS***

When your committee conducts a hearing February 4, 1985 to listen to arguments concerning the possible construction in Great Falls of a new Region IV Headquarters/Visitor Information Center for the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department, please count us as proponents.

The Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce has long seen the need to replace our current FWP facility. Built in the early 1950's, it is clearly obsolete, fails to fill current needs, and is on land which is planned for future highway development. We advocate a new facility on a site available from Giant Springs Heritage State Park. It should include a year-round visitor center to accommodate growing national interest in the history of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. In so far as possible, we would hope the State would be aware of a proposal advanced by Congressman Ron Marlenee for a National Lewis & Clark Visitor Center which national park service planners prefer to locate in the same area now proposed for the Regional Headquarters. This consideration should not, however, preclude moving ahead with the FWP headquarters this session. Its need is great, funding is available, and it should not be delayed.

Giant Springs Heritage State Park is one of the most highly used of the state parks. The prospect of the headquarters/visitor center being added to it is an exciting opportunity to make it better still.

cc: Cascade County Legislative Delegation

VISITORS' REGISTER

LONG-RANGE PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE

Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

BILL NO. Capital Construction ProgramDATE FEBRUARY 4, 1985

SPONSOR _____

NAME (please print)	RESIDENCE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Scott Ross	(Helena) Willets Unlimited	✓	
Sen. Lee Harris	Miss. City	✓	
Tom Connell	Helena	✓	
Rep. Paul Zabecki	Miss. City	✓	
Hal Price	Mont. Wildlife Fed	✓	
Mary Wright	Trout Unlimited	✓	
Rep. Gerry Devlin		✓	
Rep. Hubert Adams		✓	
Sen. Pat M. Gordon	Great Falls	✓	
Sen. Ed B. Smith	Dagmar	✓	
Rep. Dyane Abernathy	Gt Falls	✓	
Warren Sawyer	" "	✓	
Polly Kolstad	" "	✓	
Jackie Bourret	" "	✓	
Joe Porzley	" "	✓	
Roger Young	" "	✓	
Rep. Bob Gilbert	Sidney H.D. 22	✓	
Rep. Marion H. Hansen	Ashland H.D. 100	✓	
Toga W Young	Great Falls	✓	

IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR WITNESS STATEMENT FORM.

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

LONG-RANGE PLANNING SUB COMMITTEE

BILL NO. Capital Construction Program DATE FEBRUARY 4, 1985

SPONSOR _____

IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR WITNESS STATEMENT FORM

CS-33