

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

February 14, 1985

The meeting of the Long-Range Planning Subcommittee was called to order by Chairman Robert Thoft on February 14, 1985 at 8:03 a.m. in Room 420 of the State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: All members were present.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION, WATER DEVELOPMENT
PROJECTS

Sheridan County, Northeast MT Groundwater Study, Project 21

Caralee Cheney (53:A:017), Chief, Water Development Bureau, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) introduced the project which is on page 48 of the program book (EXHIBIT 1, 2-12-85).

PROPOSERS: Senator Ed Smith (53:A:046), District 10, said he supports this project because a study needs to be done in Northeastern Montana on the underground water supply. Representative Dennis Nathe (53:A:074), District 19, said there has been a considerable investment made to date on this project and this request is for the final phase of the project. Jim Bolstad (53:A:081) said he supports this project wholeheartedly. Duane Christofferson (53:A:085) said it is not easy to find the old riverbed aquifer. He said he feels the study is important to the economy of the area. Joe Donovan (53:A:095), Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, said they have provided technical assistance to the Sheridan County Conservation District for the last three years and will be during this phase of the study. Mr. Donovan submitted information on the project (EXHIBIT 1). Kathy Gallagher (53:A:103), a geologist working for the Sheridan County Conservation District, said the district is developing a groundwater reservation. She said this reservation is unique because it is the first groundwater reservation to be written in Montana. She said the results of the study will allow for more information on water quantity and quality in the area. This information will lend itself to development of better management techniques in the county. Ms. Gallagher said the aquifer also runs into North Dakota and Canada and therefore, the project could have interstate and international implications.

Representative Ernst (53:A:118) asked one of the proponents to explain the map of the aquifer. Joe Donovan did this. Senator Van Valkenburg (53:A:145) asked if either North Dakota or Canada are providing any resources for this study. Joe Donovan said they are not. Representative Nathe said the state of North Dakota already went through this study phase in the early 1970's.

Whitefish Water and Sewer District, Whitefish Lake Critical Study Area,
Project 37

Ms. Cheney (53:A:180) spoke about the project which is described on page 70 of the program book.

PROPOSERS: Representative Ben Cohen (53:A:219), District 3, gave members a flow chart of the project and a summary of revenue and expenses for the project (EXHIBIT 2).

Representative Cohen said the quality of the water in Whitefish Lake has deteriorated in recent years because of increased habitation around the lake and because of poor management practices of the Department of State Lands. The department has allowed forests along Swift Creek (which empties into Whitefish Lake) to be clearcut. The vegetation in the clearcuts has not grown back rapidly and allows for excessive runoff into Swift Creek. The runoff in turn erodes the banks of Swift Creek which are high in phosphates. These phosphates coupled with phosphates and leachates from septic systems are destroying the water quality of the lake. Senator Bob Brown (53:A:271) said the sediment and sewer system problems around the lake will get worse with further development of the area. He said if this project is delayed until a later date the situation may be irreversible. Representative Mary Ellen Connelly (53:A:290), District 8, said up until last year the upper part of Whitefish Lake was part of her district and now it is not. She still is concerned about the problem with the lake and pointed out that if the district does not receive these funds they will not be eligible for Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funding. Jerry Hanson (53:A:304), Director, Whitefish Water and Sewer District told the committee background information on the development of the district. Mr. Hanson said funds will be used to find specific sources of contamination and will provide for preliminary engineering. Jo Messex (53:A:378) gave members a summary sheet about the Whitefish Lake problem (EXHIBIT 3). She used maps to show the 38 leachate plumes around Whitefish Lake. She also used a second map which illustrated possible septic systems. Ms. Messex said Whitefish Lake is aging prematurely. She said this grant will provide for followup on septic system problems and possible solutions to these problems. Bill Leonard (53:A:528) said this effort to clean up Whitefish Lake is totally a community effort. It was not spearheaded by any local, state or federal agency. He said money has been spent in a logical, progressive process. He said the \$100,000 requested for this project will put the district into preliminary engineering and EPA qualified financing. He said the group will not be back for future funding on this project. Ron Newbury (53:A:641) said he has been aware of the problem for 12 to 14 years and it is imperative to resolve it.

Chairman Thoft (53:A:664) asked if the group will be back for funding when the new sewer system needs to be built. Mr. Leonard said the district feels it should get off of the state dole. He said that EPA loans should be available to do the system construction.

Chairman Thoft (53:B:011) asked what the solution is for cabin sites around the lake. Mr. Leonard said a sewer line will be best for situations which will lend themselves to it. Some cabin sites along the lake are able to support a septic tank. The sewer line will be very expensive for cabin owners to install and the district feels it will have to help these owners with installation expenses.

Senator Van Valkenburg (53:B:031) said this project and six others received 49 points on the department's ranking scale. He asked if the advisory council feels there is any difference between these six projects. Ms. Cheney said no these projects are equal and the advisory council recommends that if funding ends in the middle of equally ranked projects, then it should stop just above the first of equal projects. The extra funds resulting from this will be used for emergency projects.

Senator Fuller (53:B:046) asked if there is anything that can be done now about the problem areas around Whitefish Lake. Mr. Leonard said the district can try to get the county health department to do something about the most serious problems. But at a recent meeting the county health department did not appear very interested in doing this because of the lack of time and resources.

Senator Fuller (53:A:109) asked how many of the projects being reviewed will receive funding before the money runs out. Caralee Cheney said DNRC has two funding scenarios for projects and she will supply the committee with copies of the two funding options. One option will fund projects through number 55 and the other will fund all of the water development projects.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY, LEWISTOWN PROPOSAL:

Lonn Hoklin (53:B:152), Executive Assistant, Attorney General, Department of Justice said the Attorney General's Office believes the Lewistown facility is impressive. He said the price of the property is right. However, the one major problem with the location is that the Law Enforcement Academy relies very heavily on the university system for many things. The Commissioner of Higher Education is writing a letter concerning the services provided to the academy by the university system. Mr. Hoklin stressed that the Attorney General has a long-term plan in mind for the academy. This plan emphasizes improving the caliber of training by keeping it more academically oriented to the needs of the law enforcement industry. He said educational programs are getting very technical

in areas such as communications. Mr. Hoklin said the Attorney General has not achieved these long-term goals yet, but relies very heavily on the university system for support and expertise on how to accomplish them. Mr. Hoklin said the Lewistown proposal looks good now, but it might not be on a long-term basis because the academy's operational budget will have to be increased by two or three times, in order to supply the services now provided by the university system free of charge. He also said if the committee introduces a bill eliminating the statutory requirement that the academy be part of the university system, everyone under the sun will have a proposal for the relocation of the academy.

Senator Fuller (53:B:216) asked if the Commissioner's letter will include additional costs for relocating the academy. Mr. Hoklin said it will not for the Lewistown proposal, but it will compare the present location to the Dillon proposal. Senator Van Valkenburg asked if the Attorney General's Office would reach the same conclusion about the Lewistown facility if it were located in Great Falls or Helena. Mr. Hoklin said yes.

Representative Ernst (53:B:255) asked if Senator Van Valkenburg still felt there should be two bills on the subject of the Law Enforcement Academy, one to change the statute and one for the appropriation.

Senator Van Valkenburg said he thinks there needs to be a committee bill removing the statutory requirement. He said he thinks the bill should allow any Montana community to be eligible as the site of the Law Enforcement Academy.

Senator Van Valkenburg (53:B:295) moved that the committee request the drafting and introduction of a committee bill, which will amend the MCA statute limiting the location of the Law Enforcement Academy to a university unit, and which opens the placement of the Law Enforcement Academy to any location in the state. The motion passed unanimously.

Senator Van Valkenburg (53:B:341) asked if the House will accept the subcommittee's action on the bill or will the full Appropriations Committee have to accept the action prior to the drafting of the bill. NOTE: The full Appropriations Committee accepted the subcommittee action on this bill on February 15, 1985.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION, WATER DEVELOPMENT
PROJECTS (CONT.)

Vice Chairman Van Valkenburg chaired the meeting because Chairman Thoft had to leave to present a bill before another committee.

Treasure County Conservation District, Irrigation System Reorganization, Project 22

Ms. Cheney (53:B:362) described this project on page 50 of the program book.

No one was present to give testimony on this project.

Representative Ernst (53:B:382) asked what the program guidelines are for project applications from individuals. Ms. Cheney said they can receive up to 25 percent of the total project request. This funding requirement is by statute. Vice Chairman Van Valkenburg asked if any of the projects heard prior to this are for private individuals. Ms. Cheney said Project 5 is on one individual's property.

Town of Saco, Water Systems Improvement, Project 23

Ms. Cheney (53:B:413) introduced this project which is on page 51 of the program book.

No one was present to give testimony on this project.

Private Water Users Association, Weed and Moss Catcher, Project 24

Ms. Cheney (53:B:447) explained this project by using page 53 in the program book.

No one was present to give testimony on this project.

Box Elder Rural Improvement District, Well Development, Project 25

Caralee Cheney (53:B:493) described the project on page 54 of the program book.

No one was present to give testimony on this project.

Sheridan County, Reserve Sewer System, Project 26

Ms. Cheney (53:B:531) gave a brief introduction on this project which is on page 56 of the program book.

PROPOSERS: Doug Smith (53:B:549), Planner, Sheridan County said this project has been at the top of the EPA's priority list for two years. EPA has given the town until 1987 to begin construction of the sewer system.

Representative Bardanouve (53:B:567) asked how much money EPA will give to support the project. Mr. Smith said EPA will fund 75 to 80 percent of

the project because of the innovative plan design. The \$117,000 from DNRC will be match for EPA funds.

Private Ditch Company, Gravity Irrigation System, Project 27

Ms. Cheney (53:B:656) described this project by using page 57 of the program book.

No one was present to give testimony on this project.

Representative Bardanouve (53:B:699) said he thought this project could lead to a reapplication for a low interest loan to install the system. Ms. Cheney said she could not guarantee that the applicants will not ask for a larger loan in the future.

Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Gartside Dam Repair, Project 28

Ms. Cheney (54:A:007) described this project which is on page 58 of the program book.

OPPONENTS: William Wyman (54:A:020) said he opposes this project on the grounds that the dam is destroying his ranch land. He said this land has been in his family since his father's time and he would like to keep it in his family. The water from the dam is backing up underneath the ground and percolating to the top. This percolation process renders the land useless. He said he thinks, if the dam is to be repaired, studies need to be done to find a solution to his problem. Greg Wyman (54:A:052) showed the committee pictures of the land which has been damaged. He also said when the dam was condemned they thought their problem had resolved itself, but now that the dam is to be repaired they feel a need to call this to the Legislature's attention.

Senator Fuller (54:A:076) asked Mr. Wyman if the problem developed since the dam was put in and asked if there are solutions to his problem that would not eliminate the dam. William Wyman said perhaps a barrier wall or a trench can be dug to keep the water from his property.

Representative Bardanouve (54:A:093) asked if the dam is above or below his ranch, if the land was usable before the dam was made, how far away his ranch is from the dam and if he has ever received any compensation for damages to his property. William Wyman said the dam is below the land, was used as haying ground prior to the dam being built, is 1/4 of a mile from the dam and he has never received any compensation for damages.

Representative Bardanouve (54:A:112) asked if the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FW&P) has considered the Wyman's problem prior to this. Don Hyyppa, Administrator, Parks Division, FW&P, said the department

was not made aware of the problem until after public hearings had been held and the engineering study completed. He said Mr. Wyman contacted the department after one of the public hearings, but it was too late to have his problem included in the engineering study. Mr. Hyyppa said the department recommends placing several monitoring wells between the dam and the Wyman's property to see if the dam water level is causing the problem. Representative Bardanoue (54:A:149) said he is quite concerned about this project. He asked if the feasibility study done by the engineer did not consider the impacts of the dam on neighbors. Mr. Hyyppa said the engineering consultant studied the area from the high level of the reservoir and the Wyman's land did not appear to be at or below this level. The land was also thought to be too far away to be impacted by the dam. Representative Bardanoue (54:A:200) asked if the land might be damaged by saline seep. Both Wymans said no.

Representative Ernst (54:A:208) asked if it is possible to remove the dam. Mr. Hyyppa said the cost of removing the dam is estimated to be \$265,000 because the land will have to be reclaimed once the dam is drained. Mr. Hyyppa said the committee should eliminate the idea that there is a no-cost alternative.

Senator Fuller (54:A:222) asked why the dam was made. Mr. Hyyppa said the dam is there mostly because of the efforts of the Richland County Sportmen, who built it for recreational use. The last season that the dam was used for recreation 26,000 visits were registered at the site.

Representative Bardanoue (54:A:252) asked if Mr. Wyman would be willing to sell the land to FW&P. William Wyman said only as a last resort.

Vice Chairman Van Valkenburg (54:A:278) asked if any other land owners have been effected. Mr. Hyyppa said not to the department's knowledge. William Wyman said people below the dam might possibly be inconvenienced by it.

J.T. Petrik (54:A:309) said he represents the Sidnev Area Chamber of Commerce. He said he sympathizes with the Wyman's, but the area has also been a valuable recreational site. He said he feels the project needs to be studied more to find a solution which is suitable for all parties involved.

Representative Bardanoue suggested the project be delayed until the next legislative session when the department will have a better idea of the total cost of the project, should the Wymans need to be compensated. Mr. Hyyppa (54:A:404) said he is not certain if the department can determine the cause of the Wymans problem without doing the project. He said perhaps the department could assume the dam is causing the problem and attach a compensation cost to the price of the project. Representative Bardanoue (54:A:412) suggested the department send some engineers

down to look at the property and evaluate the situation, and, if possible, come back to the committee with their findings.

Representative Ernst chaired the meeting because Vice Chairman Van Valkenburg had to present a bill in another committee.

Butte/Silver Bow, Sewer-Sludge Application and Plant Trials, Project 29

Caralee Cheney (54:A:439) described this project which is on page 60 of the program book.

PROPOSERS: Bill Pasco, (54:A:471) Plant Superintendent, Butte/Silver Bow Sewage Treatment Plant said the plant currently injects sludge into the soil during summer months. They hope to set up a demonstration project which will find applications for this injection process in farming situations. Dan Ueland (54:A:521) said his ranch has tried to have the sludge injected into the soil, but they have been unable to get good production out of land that was injected with it. He believes this is because of the high metal content in the sludge and more testing needs to be done to determine how much of the sludge is useful and how much is harmful. Mr. Pasco and Mr. Ueland also submitted written information on this project (EXHIBIT 4). David Jones (54:A:604), Environmental Engineer, Soil Conservation Service said the 60 acres the sewer plant currently injects with sludge will be totally unusable in four years. In four years the metal content will render the soil unfit for any type of agricultural production. The project will monitor this site and hopefully determine how much sludge should be used as fertilizer. The sludge has a good nutrient content, but it is difficult to measure how much is needed in fertilizing.

Deer Lodge Valley Conservation District, Gilman-Wimberley Group Flood Protection, Project 30

Ms. Cheney (54:A:694) explained this project application which is on page 61 of the program book.

PROPOSERS: Dene Wimberley (54:B:009) showed aerial photos of the area of the river to be rip-rapped. Ms. Wimberley showed the original location of the river and how it has been rechanneled by the railroad and the Department of Highways. She said the Department of Highways left a huge gravel pit after constructing Interstate 90. During the flood of 1976 the pit was filled with water and caused a great deal of erosion. The 1981 flood also took out 32 acres of land. The river needs to be rip-rapped. If it is not the frontage road could be damaged. If the river is not rip-rapped, to stop the erosion, the housing development that the Wimberley's live in is in jeopardy of being flooded. Ms. Wimberley submitted the project application to the secretary for the minutes (EXHIBIT 5).

Representative Bardanouve (54:B:120) asked if the houses were built on a flood plain. Ms. Wimberley said the houses were built on low ground, but there was never any trouble with flooding until the gravel pit was dug by the Department of Highways. She said they bought their house in 1967 and at that time no one in the area had a flood plain designation. Representative Bardanouve said it appears that the Highway Department is responsible for the flooding problems. Ms. Cheney said it is not clear yet as to the the department's responsibility.

Senator Van Valkenburg (54:B:140) asked if residents have considered suing the department. Ms. Wimberley said yes.

Representative Bardanouve (54:B:148) suggested the committee hear a presentation from Gary Wickes, Director, Department of Highways on this project.

Private Water System Assistance Corporation, Portable Water System
Technical Advisor, Project 31

Caralee Cheney (54:B:183) introduced this project which is on page 63 of the program book.

Vice Chairman Van Valkenburg chaired the meeting again.

Representative Bardanouve (54:B:203) asked if the financing of the circuit rider in this project will be ongoing. Ms. Cheney said there is some likelihood of this happening.

Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, McNeil Slough Dam
Restoration, Project 32

Ms. Cheney (54:B:231) explained this project which is on page 64 of the book.

PROPOSERS: Scott Ross (54:B:246) said the Walleyes Unlimited of Montana support this project. Mr. Ross submitted written testimony (EXHIBIT 6). Bob Maxie (54:B:268) submitted written testimony on the project (EXHIBIT 7). Don Hyypa (54:B:317) said this is a feasible project because the dam did provide for recreational activities for many years. Mr. Hyypa said the project is innovative and cost effective because of the number of groups working cooperatively on it.

Representative Ernst (54:B:330) asked if there is any danger of getting into another Gartside situation with this dam. Mr. Hyypa said a feasibility study is needed to determine how to do the project properly, but he did not think problems of the Gartside nature will happen here.

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Fort Belknap Indian Community, Groundwater Study, Project 33

Ms. Cheney (54:B:347) described this project which is on page 65 of the program book.

PROPOSERS: James Musgrove (54:B:368) submitted written testimony on the project (EXHIBIT 8).

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Madison Valley Arsenic Groundwater Study, Project 34

Ms. Cheney (54:B:467) spoke about this project which is on page 66 of the program book.

PROPOSERS: Doug Daniels (54:B:489), City Engineer, Three Forks, submitted written testimony (EXHIBIT 9). John Sondeegen (54:B:538), Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology submitted written testimony on the project (EXHIBIT 10).

Representative Ernst (54:B:598) asked if the area is under any health restrictions for using the water. Mr. Sondeegen said they are individual supply systems and, therefore, are under no restrictions. Mr. Sondeegen said when the city of Three Forks was having problems with arsenic in its water he took water samples from the surrounding area and found other sources with high levels of arsenic.

Representative Bardanoue asked how long the water had been used before the people found out it is hazardous to their health. Mr. Sondeegen said he does not know if the water is dangerous to your health, but it does exceed the recommended standards for drinking water. He guessed that the water was used for forty years prior to the arsenic finding.

Vice Chairman Van Valkenburg (54:B:649) asked if this project has received money in the past. Ms. Cheney said no.

Private Water Users Association, Ditch Rehabilitation, Project 35

Caralee Cheney (54:B:683) introduced this project which is on page 68 of the program book.

PROPOSERS: Orrin Ferris (55:A:003), HKM Associates, Billings, submitted written testimony (EXHIBIT 11).

Representative Ernst (55:A:048) asked Mr. Ferris to explain the location of the canal. Mr. Ferris and Vice Chairman Van Valkenburg explained that the canal flows through Billings, under 27th Street, into a tunnel, which goes through the Rimrocks and out into the bench area.

Vice Chairman Van Valkenburg (55:A:071) asked about the long-term future of the ditch and wondered if the committee should put \$234,000 into this project. Mr. Ferris said the ditch relies on the Yellowstone as a source of water and other tributaries do not have enough water. he said the only other option to the ditch is pumping from the Yellowstone which would create alot of energy costs. Vice Chairman Van Valkenburg asked if a feasibility study has been done on alternatives to the canal. Mr. Ferris said no.

Representative Ernst (55:A:091) asked if the canal was there before the urban development. Mr. Ferris said the canal was there prior to most of the Billings bench development.

MSU, Groundwater Exploration of Bozeman Fan, Project 36

Ms. Cheney (55:A:106) described this project which is on page 69 of the program book.

No one was present to give testimony on the project.

Representative Ernst asked if the \$57,000 will all be spent on a seismigraphic truck. Ms. Cheney said yes. She said the department will see if leasing the truck is a less expensive option to buying one and, if it is, DNRC will recommend leasing the truck for the project.

Meagher County, Newlan Creek Dam and Irrigation Feasibility, Project 38

Ms. Cheney (55:A:152) explained this request which is on page 72 of the program book.

No one was present to give testimony on this project. Ms. Cheney said she believed no one appeared for this project because originally the department thought there would not be enough funding for them. Mr. Ferris said his firm has been doing work on this project and believes the group would have appeared if they thought more funding was available.

MSU, Southern Ag Research Center, Cablegation Demonstration, Project 39

Caralee Cheney (55:A:221) introduced this project request which is on page 73 of the program book.

Representative Ernst (55:A:244) asked if the project can be successful under the current budget recommendations. Ms. Cheney said she suspected it could not be, but said some of the pipe and necessary equipment needed for the project can be setup at no cost to the operator. DNRC is recommending the demonstration project be setup in this manner. Vice Chairman Van Valkenburg (55:A:256) said, if a similar study has been done in Idaho, what can be accomplished here that was not in Idaho. Ms. Cheney said this demonstration project will allow farmers to observe this approach.

Private Rural Water Corporation, Water System and Supply, Project 40

Ms. Cheney (55:A:274) described this project which is on page 74 of the program book.

No one was present to give testimony on this project.

Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Streambank Preservation, Project 41

Caralee Cheney (55:A:299) explained this request which is on page 76 of the program book.

PROPOSERS: Don Hyyppa (55:A:324) said he would like to register the department's support of this project.

Representative Ernst (55:A:327) asked if landowners will not be able to do projects of this kind without the aid of the department.

Mr. Hyyppa said these grants will help landowners to preserve streambanks through less expensive methods than rip-rapping, etc.

Treasure County Conservation District, Low Interest Loans for Underground Pipe Placement, Project 42

Caralee Cheney (55:A:348) introduced this project which is on page 77 of the program book.

No one was present to testify on this project.

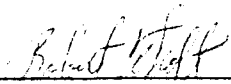
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DNRC, Riparian Management Program, Project 43

Ms. Cheney (55:A:389) described this project on page 78 of the program book.

No one was present to give testimony on this project.

There being no further business before the subcommittee the meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.



ROBERT THOF, Chairman

DAILY ROLL CALL
LONG RANGE PLANNING SUB COMMITTEE

49th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1985

Date February 14, 1985

[illegible]

Exhibit #1
2-14-85

WITNESS STATEMENT

NAME JOE DONOHAN BILL NO. 21
ADDRESS _____ DATE 2-14-85
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT? MONTANA BUREAU OF MINES
SUPPORT _____ OPPOSE _____ AMEND _____

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

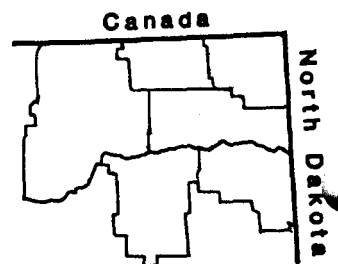
Comments:

I AM INCLUDING FOR THE COMMITTEE'S REVIEW A
FACT SHEET DESCRIBING KEY ELEMENTS OF THE N.E.
MONTANA GROUNDWATER STUDY.

Northeast Montana Groundwater Study

FACT SHEET

Project #21



Sheridan County Conservation District Plentywood, MT

FACT SHEET

History: Begun in 1982 to promote development of groundwater resources in northeastern Montana counties. Technical assistance and support are provided by Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology (MBMG) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Sheridan County Conservation District (SCCD) is the directing agency for study. SCCD has hired a staff geologist to make application for water reservation based on this groundwater study and to assist MBMG in the study. Available information so far is insufficient. More information on quality and quantity is required to define the extent of groundwater resources for agricultural use and to manage and conserve the resource from depletion or degradation because of other uses.

The Northeastern Montana Groundwater Study plays the key role in the reservation process of providing sound information upon which to base water-resource management decisions!

(Sheridan, Roosevelt, Daniels and parts of Valley, McCone and Richland counties make up the region; their conservation districts have all expressed strong support for this project.)

Need: Project need comes from concern for the fate of groundwater resources in the region because of oil and gas development and projected coal and potash development. New irrigation systems are developing with little information available. Therefore, the region needs to determine the potential and optimum level of groundwater development, while avoiding undesirable social, economic, and environmental impacts.

Purpose:

1. To define the nature and extent of groundwater resources in the region by producing a series of 1:250,000 resource maps of the Wolf Point 1°x2° quadrangle for farmers, drillers, water-resource managers, and any other Montanans interested in this area.
2. To perform directed exploration, drilling, and pump testing of currently undeveloped gravel aquifers (Ancestral Missouri River Channel and other outwash channels) for irrigation potential.
3. To assist in the completion of groundwater reservations for all counties in the region.

Products:

1. Maps describing surficial geology, bedrock geology, groundwater resources, and all basic data collected in the study (published as part of the MBMG Montana Atlas Series).
2. Maps at a more detailed scale of the extent, depth, and productivity of buried channel aquifers--of use to irrigators and industry.

Previous Funding: 1983 - Conservation District Fund 223 (\$35,000); H.B. 876 (\$150,000); Water Development Grant H.B. 897 (\$100,000). Matching funds - USGS (\$36,500); MBMG (\$44,000). These funds were applied to project administration, travel inventory and sampling of existing wells, compilation of existing data, field exploration and exploratory well installation, aquifer testing, geophysical exploration, report and map production.

Need For 1984 drilling results have revealed exciting new areas of potential
Added for irrigation. Demand to develop is high, however, irrigation
Funds: feasibility must be assessed based on the quantity and quality of
water on a sustained basis before development can proceed. Installation
of high-capacity wells and testing at high discharge for a
significant time period is required to evaluate definitively the
advisability of irrigation in undeveloped aquifers. A request for
\$100,000 was submitted to the Water Development Account of RIT Funds;
this request was ranked 21st of 76 project proposals by DNRC.

Economic Exploratory drilling currently underway is an attempt to locate and
Benefit map course of ancestral river channels systematically in order to
To The define the resource. Savings in speculative drilling costs by private
State: individuals would be enormous; the cost of typical single irrigation
well is \$15,000-\$25,000. Without information generated by this study,
the success rate of such wells would be low. Reservation application
by SCCD is the first such application for groundwater in the state.
Success of this precedent-setting reservation will depend on the
adequacy of groundwater information. If successful, this reservation
would return resource management to the local government and the
community affected by its decisions. Savings in state regulatory
costs would be substantial. All citizens in NE Montana will benefit
by knowing the extent, quality, and quantity of groundwater available
for development.

Support: Supporting State and Federal agencies closely involved with the pro-
ject include: Soil Conservation Service; U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service; Cooperative Extension Service; Bureau of Indian Affairs;
Conservation Districts in involved counties; EPA; Three Corners
Boundary Association; Board of Oil and Gas Conservation; and NE
Montana Land and Mineral Owners Association.

For Information Contact:

Ellis Hagen
Sheridan County
Conservation District
Plentywood, MT 59254
765-1801

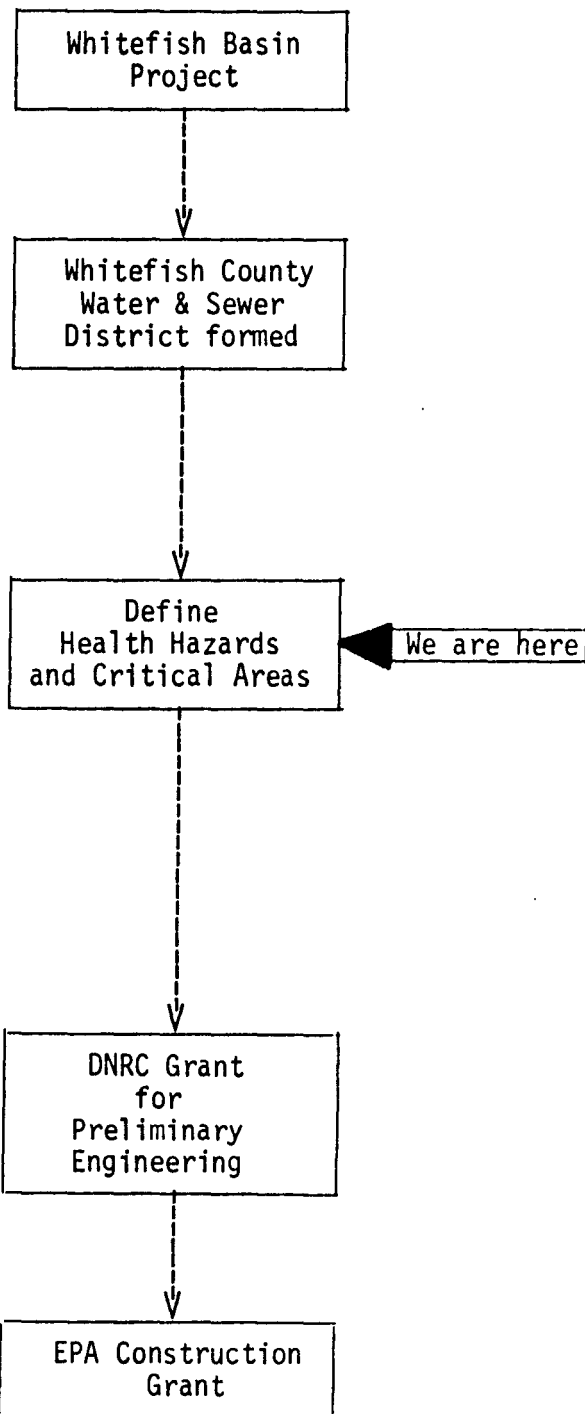
Marvin Miller
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and Geology
Montana Tech College
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2-14-85

WHITEFISH COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

FLOW CHART

- 1981 Public concern expressed
Dye tests show effluent entering
Whitefish Lake
- 1983 Water Management Plan initiated
DNRC Grant obtained (Aug.)
Natural Resource Inventory begins (Nov.)
- 1984 Inventory identifies probable health
hazards; new grant applications submitted
(June and Oct.)
Septic Leachate Analysis begins (Sept.)
Preliminary results indicate serious
problems.
EPA flies area to locate septic tank
failures (Sept.)
EPA flies area for water quality data (Nov.)
Resource Inventory completed (Nov.)
Water Management Plan started
- 1985 Public Hearings for Management Plan
begin (Jan.)
Grant applications for engineering and
river cleanup reviewed by Legislature
(Jan. - Feb.)
Water Management Plan adopted (June)
- 1986-7 Engineering completed
- 1987-9 Provision of alternative methods of
sewage treatment for critical areas



WHITEFISH COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

SUMMARY OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

<u>STATE</u> (2 year grant 1983-1985)	<u>REVENUE</u> \$100,000.00	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>
Operating Expenses (Nov. 1983-Dec., 1984)		\$ 45,501.97
Projected Expenses		
Leachate Analysis \$26,106.00		
Operating Expenses 28,392.03 (through June 1985)		54,498.03
TOTAL STATE:	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
<u>COUNTY</u> (1984 Revenue Sharing)	\$ 35,000.00	
Projected Expenses		
Preliminary Engineering (through July 1985)		\$ 35,000.00
TOTAL COUNTY:	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00
<u>DISTRICT TAX</u> (Levied on District Residents)		
1983	\$ 7,500.00	
1984	9,000.00	
Projected Expenses		
Operating Expenses (through Dec. 1985)		\$ 16,500.00
TOTAL DISTRICT:	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 16,500.00
TOTAL:	\$151,500.00	\$151,500.00

EXPENDITURES BY OTHER AGENCIES

Flathead County		
Whitefish Lake Limnology Study (1982-1983)	COUNTY TOTAL:	\$ 32,500.00
MT Dept. of State Lands, Forestry Division		
Clay Banks Investigation		\$ 750.00
Stillwater Water Quality		6,550.00
Watershed Planning on Forest Lands		26,000.00
DSL TOTAL:		\$ 33,300.00
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency		
Water Quality		15,000.00
Detection of Failed Septic Tanks		15,000.00
EPA TOTAL:		\$ 30,000.00
TOTAL CONTRIBUTION BY OTHER AGENCIES:		\$ 95,800.00

FUTURE COMMITMENTS

MT Bureau of Mines and Geology will commit \$ 22,415 for groundwater evaluation if the District is able to find \$ 29,580 in matching funds.

Prior to the formation of the District in 1981, the Whitefish Basin Project was funded solely by public donation. Donations totalled approximately \$2,700.

Whitefish Critical Area Identification & Preliminary Engineering

SUMMARY SHEET

PROBLEM: Rapid degradation of water quality in Whitefish Lake and watershed.

BACKGROUND: Residents of the Whitefish area observed changes in water clarity and a growth discoloring submerged rocks during the 1970's. These observations have since proven to be valid indicators of a rapidly deteriorating lake, as borne out by the Limnology of Whitefish Lake (1982-1984), preliminary reports of Shoreline Leachate Investigations (1984-1985), the EPA Septic System Survey (1984), and comparison models drawn from the ongoing work on Flathead Lake by the University of Montana Biological Station. Actions taken, to date, to combat degradation of the area's waters include:

- * Citizen formation of the Whitefish Basin Project (1981).
- * Limnology research of Whitefish Lake funded by Flathead County (1982). A baseline is established.
- * Formation of a Water and Sewer District by a 4 to 1 vote (1983).
- * District rated by DNRC as #1 priority for water development grant program. Maximum amount of \$100,000 approved by Legislature (1983).
- * Whitefish Lake findings compared to downstream Flathead Lake. Similarity alarming (1984).
- * Natural Resources Inventory of drainage completed as a foundation for developing a water quality management plan. Plan required for obtaining federal funding (1984).
- * EPA infra-red photos pinpoint 147 septic systems within the drainage suspected of partial or total failure (1984).
- * Preliminary results of leachate detection work on Whitefish Lake by Dr. Jack Stanford indicate 33 leachate plumes entering the Lake (1984).

CONCLUSION: The premature aging of Whitefish Lake is due largely to man-caused injection of contaminants. The most common of which are sewage and surface run-off. Identification of point sources and major problem areas in the drainage is in progress. The project enjoys broad public support. The mechanism (Water and Sewer District) is in place to correct the problem.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That the Legislature allow this major undertaking to continue in order to qualify for construction grants and loans from EPA and other sources. A grant of \$100,000 as recommended by the DNRC, will take the project into the preliminary engineering phase and thus qualify for federal funding programs.

HEADWATERS

RC&D Development Project Area

Conservation
Service

PROJECT 29

Exhibit #4, 2-14-85



BEAVERHEAD • DEER LODGE • JEFFERSON • GRANITE • SILVER BOW • MADISON • POWELL
HEADWATERS RC&D OFFICE, FEDERAL BLDG., 400 NO. MAIN, BUTTE, MONTANA 59701 • PH. 782-7333

FACT SHEET

For More Bill Pasco, Metro Sewer, Butte 723-8267
Information: Ted Dodge, Headwaters RC&D, Butte 782-7333
TESTIMONY - DAN UELAND - RANCHER
Project: Butte-Metro Sewer Sludge Application and Plant Trials

Project Summary:

The Butte-Silver Bow Government and the Mile High Conservation District are requesting an \$88,981.00 grant from the Water Development Program. The purpose of the grant request is to develop a demonstration project designed to indicate the optimum forage crop, irrigation rate, sludge application rate, and soil conditioning required to maximize forage production and nutrient uptake while minimizing heavy metal movement into plants and ground water.

The Butte Metro Sludge Application and Plant Trials will utilize a normally wasted resource, minimize or eliminate soil and water pollution, increase land productivity, make a critical forage source available to a family ranch operation, have the highest public benefit at the lowest environmental cost, reduce soil erosion, extend land application of sludge on a site from a present limit of 4 years to a 30-year period, and provide results which can be applied to other communities in the state.

The lead public entity in this request is the Butte Metro Waste Water Treatment Plant. Butte Metro Sewer is responsible for the treatment and release of Butte-Silver Bow sewage, and has trained personnel to carry out its duties. The Soil Conservation Service through the Mile High Conservation District will provide technical assistance. A graduate student from the Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology, and the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology Hydrology Division will provide the additional technical assistance.

The Butte-Silver Bow Metro Waste Water Treatment Plant produces 12 million gallons of sludge per year. This amount of sludge contains approximately 60,000 pounds of nitrogen, 38,000 pounds of phosphorous, 1,980 pounds of copper, 2,532 pounds of zinc, 91 pounds of lead, and 17 pounds of cadmium. The sludge is presently injected into 60 acres of metro land at such high loading rates that the ground-water contamination and surface soil sterilization is imminent.

Project Status:

The project has been ranked 29th in the Water Development Program, and has been recommended for funding at \$82,000.00

Water Development and
Renewable Resource Programs
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Exhibit #5

2-14-85

ALL GRANT APPLICANTS
AND PUBLIC ENTITY APPLICANTS

UTILIZE WATER, CONSERVATION
AND EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCE
RANKING CRITERIA
NARRATIVE

Applicant Deer Lodge Valley Conservation District

Project Title Gilman-Wimberly Group Flood Protection

Present Potential Losses - some of these losses reflect only one year's costs.
Loss of production due to loss of land is one example.

Agricultural producers

Pasture and Hayland 49 ac. @\$1000/ac. \$ 49,000

Hayland - lost crop if no power:

150 ac. x \$50/ton x 4 ton/ac. 30,000

Power poles and line replacement

1200 ft. x 3.50/ft. 42,000

Camping site & recreational facility

10 ac. @2000/ac. 20,000

Fencing 1.5 miles @2500/mile 3,750

Stock piled gravel

1000 cy. @\$1/cy 1,000

Stock piled top soil

5000 cy. @8/cy 40,000

Grazing for pasture and hayland aftermath

60 ac. x .5 AUM/Ac. x \$18/AUM 540

49

\$148,490

Housing Development

Property values if replaced because of river channel
changes. 5 homes valued at:

and 17 acres of land 40,000

35,000

45,700

16,000

65,205

201,905

\$201,905

\$350,395

The \$350,395 total does not include replacement of highway frontage road. Prices were not available from the Department of Highways at the time of this application

7

Previous Losses - to land and buildings during channel changes and flooding.

Agricultural Producers

Pasture Land	
18 ac. @1000/ac.	\$ 18,000
Fishing & Boating Pond	
14 acres	100,000
1/8 mile of fence	
@\$2500/mile	325
	<hr/>
	118,325
<u>Housing Development</u>	
4 homes and property damaged	
1500 + 750 + 23000 + 300	25,550
	<hr/>
	\$143,875

Present potential costs = \$350,395
Previous losses to land & buildings = \$143,875
Grant request = \$38,167.10
Other resources = \$10,134.02

The project will show a very positive cost to benefit ratio when comparing potential losses of \$350,395 to the grant request of \$38,167.10.

Exhibit #6
2-14-85

WITNESS STATEMENT

NAME Scott Ross BILL NO. _____
ADDRESS Box 1067 Wolf Point DATE 2/14/85
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT? Walleyes Unlimited of Montana
SUPPORT ✓ 32 OPPOSE _____ AMEND _____

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

McNeil Slough was an important recreation area for fishermen, picnickers etc. in the past.

The attributes of McNeil include shelter from wind, as well as the capability to support a diversity of fish species.

Walleyes Unlimited supports this proposal.

Walleyes Unlimited

OF MONTANA



BOX 1067
WOLF POINT, MONTANA 59201
February 14, 1985

Testimony Before the Long Range Planning Subcommittee
Water Development Projects: McNeil Slough

My name is Bob Maxie. I am from Malta.

McNeil Slough was originally constructed in the mid-1940's. Located $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of Nelson Reservoir, the impoundment provided numerous opportunities for public fishing, hunting, trapping, boating, camping and other associated forms of outdoor recreation. The southwest end of the slough is the site of a former state fish hatchery.

Since the closure of the hatchery, and up until the dike collapsed, the facilities were used by many Boy Scouts from Phillips County and surrounding areas for week-end campouts. The area is probably best remembered by local outdoorsmen for the diverse fishing opportunities it offered. While Dad fished for lunker northern, walleyes, or bass, Junior was catching a stringer full of crappie, bluegill, and perch.

The area itself is somewhat unique for Northcentral Montana. Surrounding the slough are REAL TREES! In addition, the slough lies below the foothills of the Milk River drainage and escapes the awesome winds which have ruined many a picnic.

Most importantly, the Slough always had an ample water level to support these activities. While there has been many an argument as to the source of this water (seepage from Nelson vx. natural springs), the fact remains that the water was there. When full, the reservoir has approximately 35 surface acres and a shoreline length of three miles.

In addition to the recreation opportunities, this project will also facilitate irrigation to approximately 100 acres of adjacent cropland and supply sub-irrigation water to an additional 100 acres of cultivated agricultural land.

Community support for this project has been widespread. We have received comments and letters of support from a number of sources, including:

- Sportsmen
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Bureau of Land Management
- Soil Conservation Service
- Adjacent landowners
- Local Boy Scouts of America Troop #29

Since the grant application was submitted to DNRC in June of 1984, we have continued our efforts to see this project completed. The local SCS office was contacted and they have extended their cooperation by agreeing to provide us with a more current engineering study on the project if necessary and practical. The Bureau of Reclamation has indicated they may be able to provide the "fill" necessary for the dike. In short, with the cooperative effort shown to date we expect to be able to complete this project well within the amount of the grant requested.

In closing, it should be noted that our geographical area is not known for its ample recreational opportunities. If the McNeil Project is completed, annual visitor use has been estimated at 4000 use days. This, coupled with the landowner benefits, make what we believe to be a project worthy of completion.

Thank you for your consideration.

Robert A. Maxie
Walleyes Unlimited of MONTana, Malta Chapter

2-14-85

WITNESS STATEMENT

NAME James Musgrove BILL NO. _____
ADDRESS P.O. Box 955, Harlem, MT 59526 DATE 2-14-85
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT? Fort Belknap Indian Community
SUPPORT _____ OPPOSE _____ AMEND _____

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

FORT BELKNAP TEST DRILLING PROJECT

The Fort Belknap Test Drilling Project was ranked # 33 by DNRC. The drought conditions which have existed in the area during the last two years make this project even more urgent and necessary than the three ranking points awarded by DNRC for that category (need and urgency). Summaries of the emergency hay and grain programs are attached. These will give some indication of the urgency to develop the shallow groundwater for supplemental irrigation, stock-water, and even domestic uses. A report by the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology recommended a test drilling project in the area to determine the quantity and quality of shallow groundwater available for irrigation and other uses. U.S.G.S. has also indicated that they would assist the Tribes in the project and possibly provide additional funds. The development plan, after testing, will provide for maximum benefits from the resource by cooperative use of surface water and groundwater.

GRANT NO. C55-G-1420-4002, EMERGENCY HAY PROGRAM, COMPLETION REPORT

I. INTRODUCTION

During the 1984 field season, the Fort Belknap Reservation experienced the most severe drought in recent history. Precipitation for the September, 1983 to September, 1984 time period measured 43% of normal precipitation. This lack of precipitation created an all time low runoff level in the Milk River resulting in the shortage of irrigation water for use by the Indian water users in the Fort Belknap Irrigation District.

Seventy-one Indian cattle operators, who generally relied on hay crops grown on individually owned, irrigated and dry farmlands, were severely impacted when hay crops averaged 20% of normal yield. The minimal hay crops attributed to reductions in available irrigation water supplies and extremely dry soil conditions.

The poor hay yields, low forage yields, and lack of stockwater on the Fort Belknap Reservation created an extreme financial burden on the Indian cattle operators who were faced with purchasing large quantities of hay in order to winter their brood stock. The Indian cattle operators would suffer an approximated \$478,400 loss from their operating budgets due to the loss of hay production on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation. As cattle production is the economic mainstay on both residents and landowners on this reservation, a critical and immediate need existed for supplemental funds to be obtained for the purchase of hay. This hay was needed in order to maintain Indian owned cattle herds and economic stability on this reservation.

II. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Emergency Hay Program were to:

1. Obtain \$150,000 for the purchase of hay.
2. Locate and obtain ~~X~~1660 ton of hay.
3. Distribute all hay acquired to bonafide Indian operators who were severely affected by feed shortages.
4. Through the distribution of hay, reduce the number of brood cows which must be sold in the fall.

III. GOALS

The goals of this Emergency Hay Program were to:

1. Maintain the current size of Indian owned cattle herds of this reservation, and
2. Protect haylands and winter pastures from overgrazing.

IV. METHODS

On September 27, 1984 the Fort Belknap Community Council was granted \$249,500 under Grant C55-G-1420-4002 for the purchase and distribution of hay to qualified Indian livestock operators on the Fort Belknap and Fort Peck Reservations. Upon receipt of the Tribal Grant an Emergency Hay Committee was established by the Community Council to oversee the application and hay purchasing phase of the program.

Six members were appointed to this committee consisting of representatives from the Fort Belknap Community Council, Tribal staff, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and U.S.D.A. Extension Service.

The Emergency Hay Committee established the following for implementation of the Emergency Hay Program:

1. Criteria of eligibility for recipients of hay.
2. Screening of applications and awards to qualified applicants.
3. Standards of hay quality to be purchased with program funds.

With the establishment of hay quality standards, an inventory of hay vendors in the State of Montana, North Dakota, and Idaho was conducted. A log was kept of price quotations from those individuals who had hay which met the standards established by the Hay Committee. A list of 24 vendors was compiled. From the compiled list 13 vendors were selected and contacted for hay purchases. Hay vendors were selected as to maximize hay tonage for distribution to livestock operators. Hay purchased from the selected vendors was delivered to three assigned hay distribution points established by the Hay Committee. The designated distribution points were: Fort Belknap, Montana (located on the northern boundary of the reservation); Hays, Montana (located in the southwest portion of the reservation); and Beaver Creek (located in the southeastern portion of the reservation).

V. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During the period from October 23, 1984 to December 7, 1984 1667.56 tons of hay were purchased at an average price of \$90.56 per ton. Distribution of 1663.14 tons of hay was made to 89 livestock operators for feeding to 6,857 head of brood livestock on this reservation. Approximately 4.42 ton of hay was stolen from the Hays Distribution point on December 2, 1984 as recorded in Bureau of Indian Affairs Police Report No. C55-84-61.

Total expenditures by the local Bureau of Indian Affairs from force account for the administration of the Emergency Hay Program were \$11,948.40. These administrative costs, expended out of the BIA Range Management budget, included personnel salaries, vehicle and equipment costs, and small purchases incurred during the course of the program.

Expenses incurred by the Fort Belknap Community Council during this program totaled \$18,985.79. These expenses included personnel salaries, bookkeeping and budget administration fees, and miscellaneous equipment purchases.

Expenditures of BIA and Tribal funds for the administration of this program were separate from those monies provided for the purchase of hay under Tribal Grant No. C55-G-1420-4002 and totaling \$30,934.19.

PROGRESS REPORT: For January, 1985

PROGRAM: Indian Acute Distress Donation Program

GOALS:

1. Reduce the drought related economic distress of the needy members of the Fort Belknap Assiniboine and Gros Ventre Tribes who own subsistence livestock.
2. Conserve and improve Indian forage resources on the Fort Belknap reservation by reducing or preventing overgrazing, soil erosion, and range deterioration.

PROGRESS NARRATIVES:

As of January 31, 1985 one-hundred-two Indian livestock operators have applied for assistance through the Indian Acute Distress Donation Program (IADDP). Ninety-nine operators have been approved for 4,649,979 pounds of grain. Two applications have been disapproved for grain. One application is pending.

Seven shipments of CCC grain weighing 286 tons have been received. Twenty-five operators have received a total of 944,281 pounds of this grain leaving 3371,951 pounds on hand. Two applications have been stopped due to large livestock reductions.

STATUS OF APPLICATIONS January 31, 1985

	No. Applic.	lbs. IADDP Eligibility	Chinook Applic.	lbs. of grain	Saco Applic.	lbs. of grain
Approved	97	4,579,097	66	2,042,740	31	2,536,357
Not Approved	4	70,882	3	70,882	1	-0-
Pending	<u>1</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>
Total	102	4,649,979	69	2,113,622	32	2,536,357

STATUS OF CCC GRAIN January 31, 1985

	Chinook GTA	Saco Dehy
Grain Ordered	42,000 bu. = 2,016,000 lbs.	53,000 bu. = 2,544,000 lbs.
Grain Received	10,329 bu. = 495,800 lbs.	1,590 bu. = 76,530 lbs.
Grain Distributed	8,848 bu. = 424,684 lbs.	10,825 bu. = 519,597 lbs.
Grain on Hand	1,482 bu. = 71,116 lbs.	-9,235 bu. = -443,280 lbs.

2-14-85

WITNESS STATEMENT

NAME DOUGLAS E. DANIELS BILL NO. _____
ADDRESS Belgrade, Mt. DATE _____
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT? City of Threeforks - City Engr.
SUPPORT # 34 OPPOSE _____ AMEND _____

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments: Letter of support attached

City of Three Forks

Phone 285-3431

Box 187 • 206 Main

THREE FORKS, MONTANA 59752

February 12, 1985

RE: High Arsenic Ground-
water, Madison Valley

Rep. Robert Thoft, Chairman
Long Range Planning Committee
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Chairman Thoft and Committee Members:

During the past several years, the City of Three Forks has been involved in a search to locate a new water supply. The new water supply is needed to replace existing wells that have arsenic levels that exceed the requirements of Safe Drinking Water Standards. Typically, the arsenic levels from the Madison River aquifer have exceeded the acceptable standards by as much as 100% to 200%.

In the last year, the City has intensified the search in preparation to construct the new supply wells. Geologists from the Soils Conservation Service and the Montana Bureau of Mines have been involved in the search. Private consultants have also reviewed the hydrogeology in the area and assisted in drilling additional test wells.

As a result of the research and testing, it has been recommended that the City try to meet its water supply problems by eliminating the arsenic contaminated wells, renovating the remaining wells on the system, and constructing a large storage tank to meet water demands during high use periods. This recommendation was made primarily due to the uncertainty of obtaining water of adequate quality and due to the high cost in both dollars and time to conduct further research for a suitable water supply.

The City of Three Forks will require additional water supply sometime in the future, even if the recommended program to meet the present problem is successful. For this reason, the City would support further research of the water quality in the Madison River Drainage.

Sincerely,

Gene Townsend, Mayor
City of Three Forks

Douglas E. Daniels, City Engineer
City of Three Forks

Madison Valley Arsenic Investigation

1. The area outlined in red is the known area where domestic wells exceed the state and federal permissible arsenic concentration for public drinking water supplies.
2. About 40 one-family dwellings are in this area. It is unincorporated and development has been piecemeal; recent development has been along the frontage road between Three Forks and Logan, largely within the red area.
3. The purpose of the proposed research is:
 - (a) To gain a better understanding of how and why the shallow aquifer has become contaminated with arsenic.
 - (b) To investigate what alternatives are available to the home owners in this area which would provide them with acceptable quality water.
4. The methodology employed will be:
 - (a) Sampling and inventory of the wells in the red and blue area, plus the Madison River itself.
 - (b) Test drilling at the worst locations to sample each water bearing zone to (a modest depth) evaluate what supply alternatives the residents of this area have.
5. Results will be sent to the residents and appropriate officials.

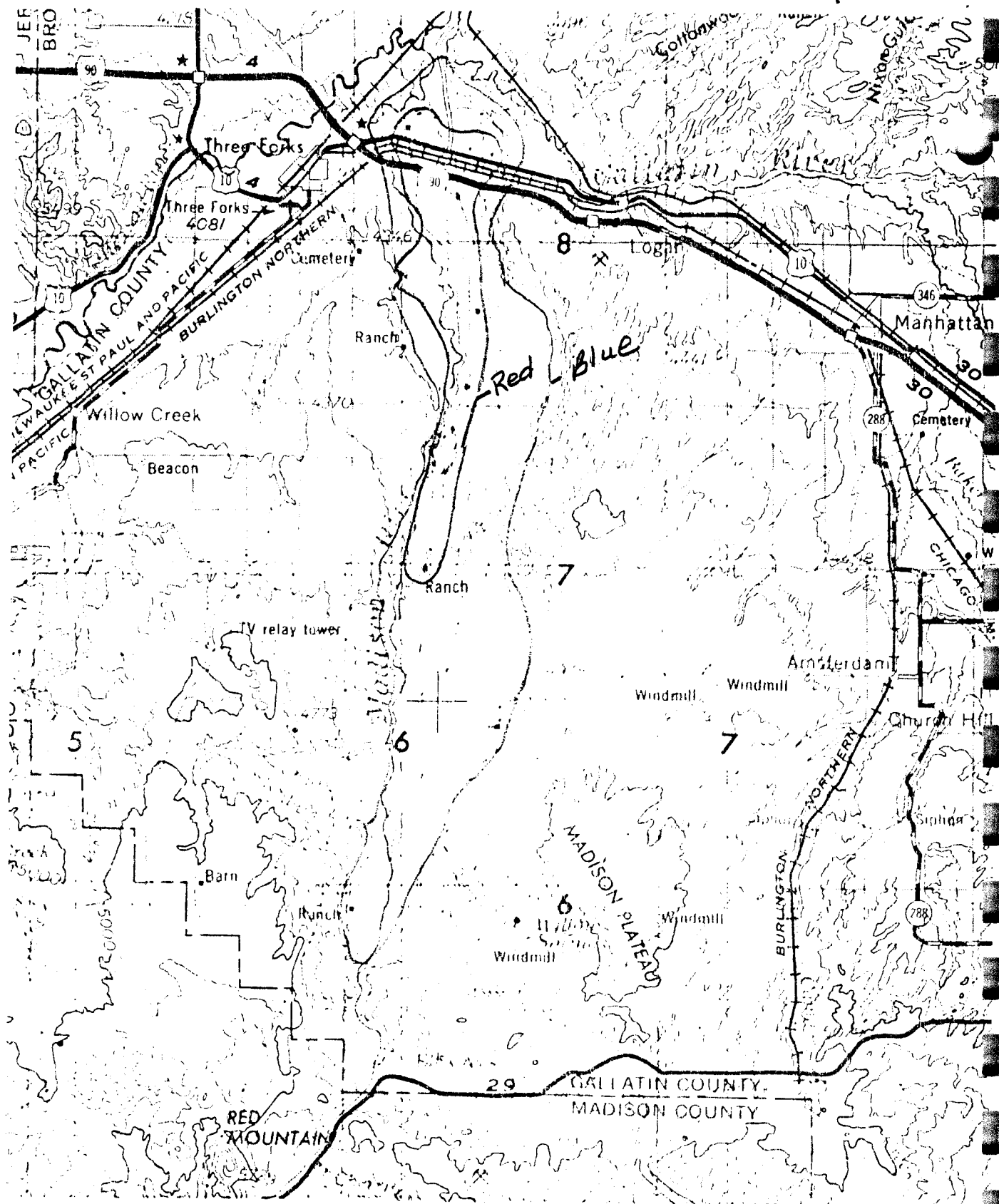


Figure 1. Study area with area of known contamination in red and suspected contamination in blue.

TESTIMONY OF BILLINGS BENCH WATER ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE LONG RANGE BUILDING SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

February 14, 1985

I am Orrin Ferris, HKM Associates, Billings, representing the Billings Bench Water Association. Our firm was responsible for the engineering investigations and plans related to BBWA's proposed canal rehabilitation and for the preparation of the grant and loan application under consideration today. HKM was directed to provide this testimony at BBWA's annual share holders meeting on Tuesday, February 12, 1985.

We appreciate the effort of the DNRC in evaluating the many projects requesting loan and grant funds and understand the difficulty of that task. We would, however, like to emphasize a few areas in which we feel our project was rated low. Referring to DNRC's Project Evaluations and Recommendations, page 9, project 35, we would like to make the following observations.

1. A rating of 3 under "Optimizes Public Benefits, Provide Multiple Uses" is low in comparison with other projects evaluated. Flood control benefits to this project are considered to be large since the problem area on the canal which needs repair lies immediately above a dense residential area in downtown Billings. If the canal were to break due to a landslide or due to rocks falling from the rims above the tunnel entrance to block the canal, flood waters would move through the residential area into downtown Billings. In addition, the State Park at Lake Elmo relies on water from the canal on a weekly basis. If the canal were shut down for repairs, this would have an adverse affect on an intensely used public facility. In addition, 26,000 acres, the bulk of the project land, would be deprived of water potentially during the critically dry period of the summer.

2. A rating of 4 under "Degree of Environmental Impact" appears low due to the potential impact on the human environment in the residential area of Billings. High property damages are expected to occur with possible loss of life being a very real potential.
3. A rating of 5 under "Need and Urgency" appears to us to be low in view of the immediate potential for failure of the canal bank due to land movement in the foundation. This condition is brought on primarily by weather conditions. An extended wet period could initiate a failure. The seepage from the canal also contributes to this condition. Part of the proposed plan is to reduce seepage by lining that immediate portion of the canal.

We very much appreciate the opportunity to present this testimony to the committee and ask for your close attention to the urgency of this request.

VISITORS' REGISTER

LONG-RANGE PLANNING SUB COMMITTEE

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

LESS THAN \$200,000

BILL NO. _____

DATE FEBRUARY 14, 1985

SPONSOR _____

NAME (please print)	RESIDENCE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Jim Bolstad	Horrestead (Sheridan)	X ²¹	
WM H WYMAN	SIDNEY		28 X
PETE PURVIS	FROID	21	
Greg Wyman	Sidney		28 X
KATHY GALLAGHER	BOZEMAN	✓ (21)	
Deane Christofferson	Irish	X (21)	
Marie Schlehwitz	Calbertson	X 21	
DON & DENE WIMBERLEY	Harrison		
Robert Schlehwitz	Calbertson	X 21	
John Somburg	Butte	X (34)	
JOE DONOVAN	BUTTE	X 21	
Marvin Miller	Butte	✓	
Roy & Sherry Wimberley	Garrison		
Rene Hamilton	Garrison		
Ed Smith	Dagmar	29 21 ✓	
David Jones	Bozeman	✓	
ORRIN FERRIS	Billings	✓	
Don Chelad	Silver Bow	✓ 29	
Bill Pasco	Butte	✓ 29	

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

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

VISITORS' REGISTER

LONG-RANGE PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

BILL NO. LESS THAN \$200,000DATE FEBRUARY 14, 1985

SPONSOR _____

NAME (please print)	RESIDENCE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Scott Ross	Wolf Point, Walleyes Union	78, 32	
James Musgrove	Fort Belknap Reservation	X	
Bill Leonard	Whitefish, MT	X	
7. Ron Newberry	Whitefish, MT	X	
Rep Ben Cohen	Whitefish	X	
JERRY E. HANSON	WHITEFISH	X	
Jo Messer	Whitefish	X	
J. T. Petrie	Sidney Mt.		
ROBERT Mullen	SIDNEY MT.	X	
Doug Henry	MALTA MT.		
BOB MAXIE	MALTA MT.		
Lloyd R. M. Mullen	Richland Co.	X	
Engma Jackson	" "	X	
Douglas E. Daniels	Belgrade Mt (City of Three Forks)	X #34	
DON HYPPA	DFWP HELEN	X	

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

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.