

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE SENATE

January 17, 1985

The second meeting of the Senate Fish and Game Committee was called to order at 1:00 P.M. on January 17, 1985 by Chairman Max Conover in Room 402 of the Capitol Building.

ROLL CALL: All members were present with the exception of Senator Severson, who was excused, and Senator Smith, who arrived late.

CONSIDERATION OF SB 77: Senator Jacobson, District 36, presented this bill to the committee. The bill does just one thing and that is to change the word December, on Line 16, to July. She served on a Legislative Audit Committee this past year and in a performance audit of the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks it was the recommendation of the audit committee to change the submittal date to July 1. The reason being is that when they are submitting the proposals on the first of December, prior to a legislative session, they just don't have time to adequately review the proposals for recommendation to the legislature. The July 1 deadline would give them more time for review. She said Jim Flynn, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, indicated they have no problem with the bill.

Chairman Conover asked for proponents to the bill.

Robert VanDerVere, a concerned citizen lobbyist, feels this is a good bill and hopes it will go through.

Chairman Conover asked for opponents. There were none.

ACTION ON SB 77: Senator Lane made a motion that SB 77 DO PASS. The motion passed unanimously with the members that were present. Senator Smith had not arrived at the meeting as yet.

Jim Flynn, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, arrived at the meeting late, but submitted written testimony in support of SB 77. A copy of his written testimony is attached as Exhibit 1.

Chairman Conover closed the hearing on SB 77. He then introduced Chris Hunter from the American Fisheries Society and advised the committee that he would present a slide/tape program on the values of riparian and wetland habitats.

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Chris Hunter is a member of the American Fisheries Society. He stated that they have been working on a bill that would provide tax exemption to land owners who manage land compatible to riparian vegetation. He then presented the slide program to the committee.

Committee members very much appreciated the program and there were several comments made concerning personal experiences committee members have had with riparian and wetland acreage problems due to channeling of river beds.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 1:38 P.M.



MAX CONOVER
Chairman

AH

Exhibit 1
January 17, 1985

SB 77

Testimony presented by Jim Flynn, Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

January 17, 1985

The Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks supports passage of SB 77.

This bill was introduced in response to a recommendation made by the State Legislative Auditor as a result of a performance audit of the Parks Division conducted in 1983. The audit had two recommendations with respect to the Coal Tax Parks Acquisition process. Since both recommendations relate directly to SB 77, I will recap them together with our response.

WE RECOMMEND THE DIVISION REDESIGN THE COAL TAX PARKS ACQUISITION PROPOSAL SUMMARY TO INCLUDE A DIVISION EVALUATION OF EACH PROPOSAL.

Response - Conditionally concur.

Implementation - Based upon experience gained during the three previous legislative sessions, the department is providing the legislature the information it desires in a form which is acceptable to that body. However, the department will be prepared to provide additional evaluation information and make recommendations on proposed sites if the legislature requests it. In the 1985 session we will again discuss with the long-range building committee the form and content of the report we provide to them. We would be happy to make any changes requested by the committee and will be willing to draft legislation to accommodate those changes if it appears to be necessary.

WE RECOMMEND THAT LEGISLATION BE ENACTED TO CHANGE THE COAL TAX PARKS PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL DATE TO JULY 1 OF THE YEAR PRECEDING THE CONVENING OF A LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

Response - Conditionally concur.

Implementation - The department will draft such legislation if requested to do so by the legislature.

In summary, if the long-range planning subcommittee wants more information from the department regarding acquisition proposals, the change of the submittal deadline date to July 1 would be very helpful. In fact, even if the legislature is satisfied with our presentations, the change in the deadline would be helpful because proposals are usually incomplete when initially submitted and often take considerable time and effort prior to preparing our report. At the present time we have the month of December to accomplish that, and the additional five months could be put to very good use. Consequently, we support the passage of SB 77.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

January 17,

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MR. PRESIDENT

We, your committee on SENATE FISH AND GAME

having had under consideration SENATE BILL

No. 77

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**JULY 1 DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS FOR ACQUIRING
PARK PROPERTY**

Respectfully report as follows: That SENATE BILL

No. 77

DO PASS

~~DO NOT PASS~~

MAX CONOVER,

Chairman.