

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
50TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The meeting of the Natural Resources Committee was called to order by Chairman Tom Jones on April 17, 1987, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 312 of the State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: All committee members were present with the exception of Rep. Roth who was excused.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 59: Rep. Jack Ramirez, District #87, stated this is a simple resolution that would direct the Department of Natural Resources, in conjunction with an appropriate Yellowstone County Entity, to request the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and other appropriate agencies to re-evaluate the feasibility of developing the Calamity Jane reservoir and to evaluate other reservoir sites near Billings for recreation potential; and directing the Department to submit a proposal to the 51st Legislature for development of a reservoir if the reservoir is determined to be feasible and cost effective. He stated there have been many programs intended for off-stream storage of these waters, however, often times there are no federal funds for these types of programs. At the present time, there is federal funding available, and they would like to take advantage of this, because they know the funding will not be available for long.

PROPOSERS: REP. TOM HANNAH, District #86, stated this was an original idea of Lowell Frasier's approximately 25 years ago, and studies were done looking into the problem of the storage of water. He feels this is a significant idea, with perhaps many other spinoff programs that may also benefit from this one as well. He pointed out to the committee that it is important for Billings to establish a recreational area or body of water that can be utilized by the residents of Billings. He stated we must take advantage of the federal funding while it is available.

OPPOSERS: NONE

REP. RANEY asked Rep. Ramirez how he proposed to do this, when he felt there was not nearly enough water in Canyon Creek to form a reservoir.

REP. RAMIREZ stated the water would come from the Yellowstone River.

REP. RANEY then wondered if there would be some sort of canal system that would take the water to its destination.

REP. HANNAH stated perhaps the Calamity Jane would not be the closest site to look at, and stated there are closer places that could be utilized. He stated that is one option this resolution gives them, that being the option to look at all the possible areas that may be considered for this type of program. He stated eventually, the water would be used and always returned to the original site, by whatever means would best accommodate the procedure, and would be most effective.

REP. GRADY wondered who would pay the State's cost.

REP. RAMIREZ stated this would come from many sources, however, he stated the majority would come from the DFWP and some would come from the coal tax monies. He stated they are attempting to raise more at the State levels, as well.

REP. KADAS asked Rep. Ramirez, if in fact, they would need this resolution in order to apply for the federal funding.

REP. RAMIREZ stated the request of feasibility must come from DNRC, and the resolution merely authorizes them to request the studies in determining feasibility.

REP. COBB asked if the reservoir site was on mostly public or private land.

REP. RAMIREZ stated it could involve some federal lands, however, he was not sure how much. He thought most of the sites would occur on private or public land.

REP. HARPER emphasized he would like to see Sen. Manning's proposal have some new life put into it. He felt the resolution may perhaps offer spinoff programs that would benefit the water resource in the State. However, he asked Rep. Ramirez why this seemed to limit the areas specifically for recreational purposes.

REP. RAMIREZ stated they felt with the downturn in agriculture, it would be best to direct the resolution to involve recreational areas, mainly because it is the best change at these federal funds, and would be the most cost effective.

REP. ADDY wondered if there had been any parameters set, stating when he thinks about recreation on the waters, he thinks about boating and water skiing, and wondered if there had been any numbers proposed on how long, and how wide this area may be.

REP. RAMIREZ stated they do not have a definite answer to this, however, he felt what was ever the most cost effective.

REP. RANEY asked Rep. Ramirez if he would have objections to adding counties that may be included involving these conversions.

REP. RAMIREZ in closing stated he would have no objections to including this. And with that he thanked the committee for their time and consideration in HJR 59.

HEARING CLOSED ON HJR 59.

EXECUTIVE SESSION


HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 59: REP. RANEY moved HJR 59 DO PASS. He then moved the amendment to include, "and the associated counties", which would then change "entity" to "entities", and would demand a title change.

REP. ASAY pointed out that in doing this, you could strike the language on page 3. Rep. Raney agreed with this. Rep. Addy then moved the amendment by Rep. Raney. Question was then called, the motion CARRIED unanimously.

REP. HARPER then felt it was important to include other uses, besides just what it directs in the bill regarding recreation. He would leave the final wording up to Hugh to draft, and pointed out this would also demand a title change. He then moved his amendment. Question being called on the Harper amendment, the motion CARRIED unanimously.

REP. SMITH moved HJR 59 DO PASS AS AMENDED. Question was then called, the motion CARRIED unanimously. See Standing Committee Report Nos. 1-9.

ADJOURNMENT: Being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.



TOM JONES, Chairman

DAILY ROLL CALL

NATURAL RESOURCES

COMMITTEE

50th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1987

Date April 17, 1987

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
TOM JONES, CHAIRMAN	✓		
CLYDE SMITH, VICE CHAIRMAN	✓		
KELLY ADDY	✓		
TOM ASAY	✓		
JOHN COBB	✓		
BEN COHEN	✓		
ED GRADY	✓		
JOHN HARP			
HAL HARPER	✓		
MIKE KADAS	✓		
AL MEYERS	✓		
JOAN MILES	✓		
MARY LOU PETERSON	✓		
BOB RANEY	✓		
RANDE ROTH			
ANGELA RUSSELL	✓		
BRUCE SIMON	✓		
BILL STRIZICH	✓		
STAFF: EQC HUGH ZACKHEIM			

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

APRIL 1

19 6

Mr. Speaker: We, the committee on NATURAL RESOURCES

report HJR 59

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> do pass | <input type="checkbox"/> be concurred in | <input type="checkbox"/> as amended |
| <input type="checkbox"/> do not pass | <input type="checkbox"/> be not concurred in | <input type="checkbox"/> statement of intent attached |

TOM JONES

Chairman

1. Title, line .
Strike: "YELLOWSTONE COUNTY"
Insert: "COMMUNITY"

2. Title, line 11.
Following: "POTENTIAL"
Insert: "AND OTHER BENEFITS"

3. Page 2, line 12.
Following: "recreational"
Insert: "and other"

4. Page 3, line 4.
Strike: "within Yellowstone County"

5. Page 3, line 1 .
Strike: "in Yellowstone County"

. Page 3, line 21.
Strike: "Yellowstone County"
Insert: "community"

. Page 3, line 25.
Following: "potential"
Insert: "and other benefits"

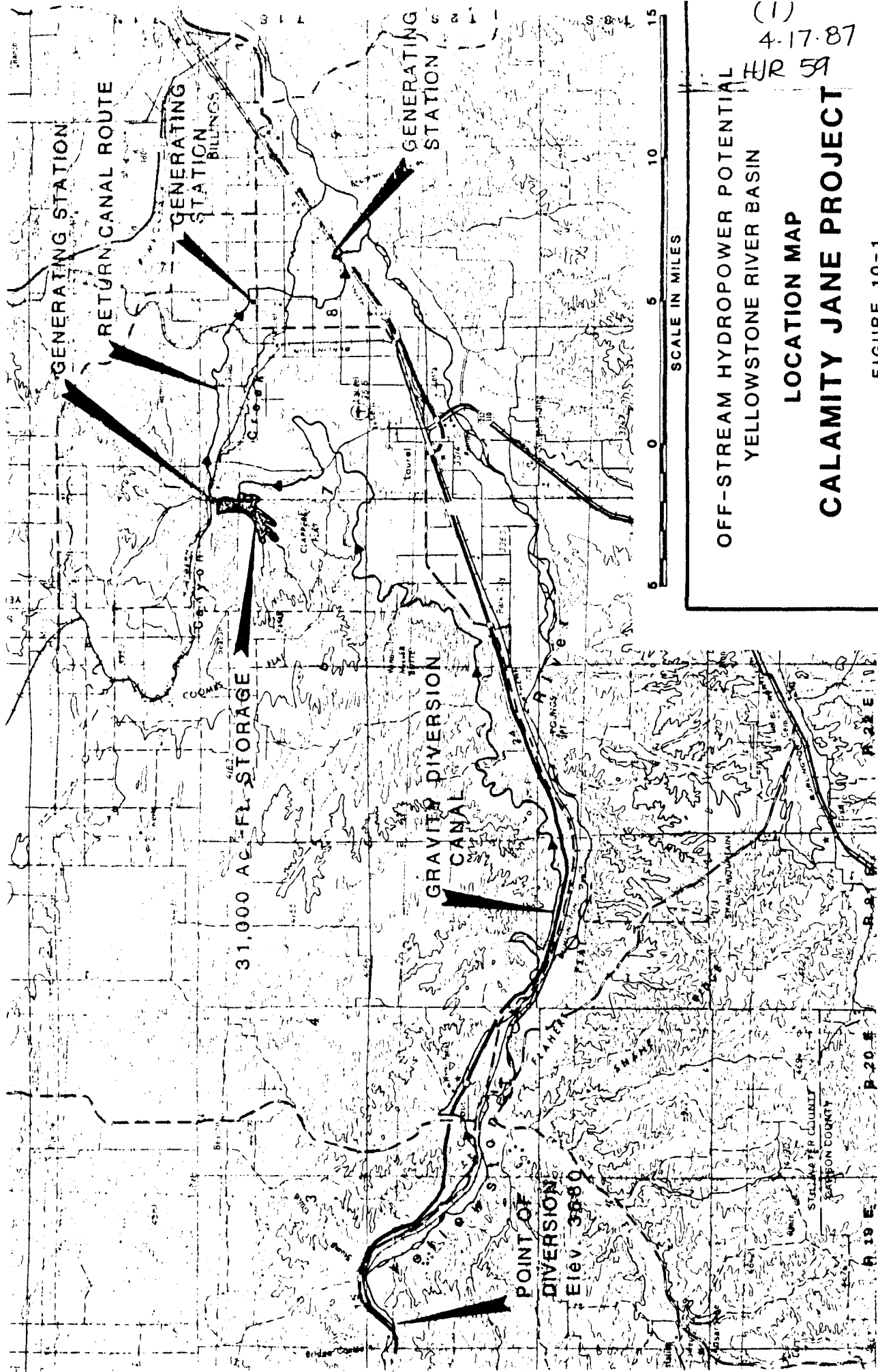
3. Page 4, line 2.
Strike: "Yellowstone County"
Insert: "community"

9. Page 4, line 10.
Strike: "Yellowstone County"
Insert: "community"

FIRST

WHITE

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OFF-STREAM HYDROPOWER POTENTIAL
 YELLOWSTONE RIVER BASIN

**LOCATION MAP
 CALAMITY JANE PROJECT**

(1)
 4-17-87
 HJR 59

FIGURE 10-1

NL 12-9 Billings, Montana, 2 Minute Quadrangle