

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
LONG RANGE PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE
50TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The meeting of the Long Range Planning Subcommittee was called to order by Chairman Rep. Robert Thoft on January 20, 1987 at 8:00 a.m., in Room 202B of the State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: All members of the Long Range Planning Subcommittee were present except Rep. Donaldson who was excused.

Tape 27:A:000

Butte Ball Field - 1985 RIT Grant

Caralee Cheney, DNRC, passed out a fact sheet (Exhibit #1). Ms. Cheney said work is going forward ahead on the Walkerville drainage ditch.

Rep. Bardanoue asked how much money is left over. Ms. Cheney said there is less than \$100,000.

Chairman Thoft said if the Long Range Planning Subcommittee did not approve funding for that particular project than the monies should revert.

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Grant #1 Private Company: (100)

Ms. Cheney gave a overview of the Lima Dam Rehabilitation project.

Alan Martinell said the dam was declared unsafe by the Army Corp. of Engineers. (125)

Mr. Martinell said the dam was built in 1890 and rehabilitated in 1934.

Rep. Bardanoue asked if there is a public safety hazard if the dam breaks. Dick Dawsman said the town of Lima is 12 miles below the dam, but is not in the flood plain. (176)

Grant #2 Montana State Library: (209)

Ms. Cheney gave a overview of the project.

Sara Parker, Montana State Library, submitted a fact sheet for the Subcommittee (Exhibit #2). Ms. Parker invited the subcommittee to the library. (304)

Larry Thompson spoke in favor of the project.

Janet Ellis, National Audobon Society, submitted her testimony to the Subcommittee (Exhibit #3).

George Ochenski said he is in favor of the project. (409)

Rep. Bardanouve said he was impressed with there previous project. (420)

Grant #3 Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology: (492)

Ms. Cheney gave a overview of the project.

Marvin Miller, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology said he is in favor of the project.

(27:B:000)

Rep. Bardanouve asked Mr. Miller what he will do with the information. Mr. Miller said possible prohibition certain agricultural chemicals may result.

Grant #4 Meagher County Newlan Creek Water District: (101)

Ms. Cheney showed the Subcommittee a map of where the project drains into the Smith River, just north of White Sulphur Springs.

Ms. Cheney said the project was built in the early 1970's. She said the project will become a state owned project at a request of the water users. Ms. Cheney stated the federal government withdrew their support of the project in 1979. She said the project is not revenue producing, and is not used for irrigating land just for recreational use. Ms. Cheney said it is beyond the capabilities of the water users to develop.

Ms. Cheney said the \$2 million structure is holding water now. (301)

Rep. Bardanouve asked what the cost is of making the project usable. Rollin Jackson, Director, Meagher County Water District, said that is what the study will tell.

Mr. Jackson said the primary problem is the spillway. Rep. Bardanouve said he does not want a white elephant.

Marshall Hanson, said he is in favor of this project. (442)

Rep. Bardanouve asked if there are any populated areas below the dam. Mr. Hanson said no, there are three ranches houses.

Grant #5 Hill County: (459)

Ms. Cheney gave an overview of the project.

Orin Ferris, HKM Associates, said this dam is 12 miles away from Havre on Beaver Creek.

Grant #6 Treasure County Conservation District: (28:A:000)

Ms. Cheney said the \$100,000 grant would be used to provide loans to landowners to convert an open irrigation system to underground pipelines. Ms. Cheney said the loans will be at 3% interest for five years.

No one showed up if favor of the project.

Grant #8 UM - Bitterroot Valley Groundwater Study: (059)

Mr. Engil said they will develop a computer system of water tables and give them to any one who wants the information. Mr. Engil said the information will help in building homes, businesses etc.

Rep. Bardanouve asked what they will do with the results. Mr. Engil said it will limit how much the area can be populated.

Rep. Bardanouve asked what the level of public support is. Mr. Engil said he is not sure. (077)

(30:A:000)

Grant #9 Montana Rural Water Systems:

Ray Wadsworth said the monies would provide for a third staff person. Mr. Wadsworth said they have six staff people now; three full time and three part time. Mr. Wadsworth said they want to go to four full time and 2 part time employees. (102)

Mr. Wadsworth said there are 455 Community water systems, 152 of these have memberships with their group. No fee is charged for technical assistance. (270)

Mr. Wadsworth said they are used by the DHES, but are not under a contract with them.

Grant #10 Montana Salinity Control Association: (364)

Tom Burns, Montana Salinity Control Association, submitted a fact sheet (Exhibit #4).

Mr. Burns said the annual cost per soil plan is \$3,500, \$1,400 is contributed by the landowners.

(30:B:000)

Pete Purvis, Alvin Boxwell, Ron Long, Ramsey Oferdahl and Dan Hibner said they are in favor of the project.

Rep. Bardanouve said he was in favor of the project.

Grant #11 MSU - Agricultural Engineering Department: (261)

Leo Payne said the department developed a process of taking plastic and molding it to a ditch. Mr. Payne said the lining ranges from 2 millimeters to 1 inch thick. Mr. Payne said it is comparatively priced because the life expectancy is longer. Mr. Payne said the cost for installing the ditch is \$.25 a square foot. (392)

Rep. Thoft asked if the project sponsors have applied to the Science and Technology Board or the Economic Development Board. Mr. Payne said no. Rep. Thoft added the contingency that the grant be repaid if profits are generated.

Grant #12 Edgar Canal Erosion Control: (484)

Pat Larson said she is in favor of the project.

Rep. Bardanouve asked how many ranchers and farmers are involved. Ms. Larson said there are twelve ranches and seven farms that will benefit from the projects. (533)

Rep. Bardanouve asked if the canal can be moved. Ms. Larson said she it could be rechaneled but would destroy a county road.

(31:A:000)

Grant #13 Powder River Conservation District: (025)

Ms. Cheney said it is a two phase study that is gathering data to enforce the Powder River compact with Wyoming.

No one was present for the project.

Grant #14 Flathead Conservation District: (038)

Larry Johnson, Chairman, People to Reform Spring Creek Committee, said there are 190 landowners which are involved with the project and only two reside out-of-state.

Rep. Bardanouve asked if they are going to rebuild the creek bed are they still going to let cows use the creek. Mr. Johnson said no, they are going to fence the area off while still providing cattle runs for the cattle to drink from.

Grant #15 Rosebud Conservation District: (181)

Caralee Cheney said that the project would level land and replace ditches. The project will pay for itself. The conservation received a previous water development grant for this project. No one was present for the project.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business the Long Range Planning Subcommittee adjourned at 11:40 a.m.



Chairman Rep. Bob Thoft

law

EXHIBIT 1
DATE 1/30/89

PUBLIC BENEFITS ASSESSMENT

The project would provide mined land reclamation, reforestation of areas damaged by mining, milling, or smelting activities, provide recreational areas to compensate for loss of recreation areas because of resource extraction and provide remediation of sites where hazardous and toxic wastes threaten the environment.

The improved condition of the land, improvements to air and water quality, and elimination of public health and safety hazards would provide compensation for the damages caused by resource development. The residents of the Ruttearea would benefit directly from this project and all recreational and other users of the Silver Bow Creek and the Clark Fork River would benefit from improvements in water quality.

RECOMMENDATION

A grant of up to \$545,000 is recommended for reclamation and improvement of the four identified ballfields, and design and construction of the Walkerville drainage ditch contingent upon (1) DNRC approval of reclamation sites, specific projects, scopes of services, preliminary engineering studies, reclamation and/or rehabilitation plans, specifications, and costs, (2) receipt of DHES and EPA notification that the specific project(s) do not conflict with Superfund activities and that the State of Montana is not incurring CERCLA liability for funding cleanup by funding such specific project(s), (3) receipt of deeds for the ballfield properties or easements from AMC for the applicant to continue to use the four identified ballfields for 20 years, and (4) receipt of DSL notification that the specific project(s) do not conflict with activities proposed by the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program. According to DHES, the majority of drainage and erosion control and surface reclamation work proposed by the applicant (all except the Walkerville drainage ditch) conflicts with Superfund and is, consequently, not fundable. The DHES also indicates that the Emma Mine Park probably conflicts with Superfund. The DHES and EPA have indicated a willingness to investigate and evaluate the materials in the ballfield areas during the first part of their Superfund area investigation in order to expedite their approval of the proposed improvement projects at the four ballfields.

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APPLICANT NAME: Toole County
PROJECT/ACTIVITY: North Toole County Reclamation Project
GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$783,539
TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$783,539

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Oil was discovered in North Toole County in the 1920s. Today, over 13,000 acres of the county contain refuse, equipment, machinery, vehicles, and dwellings abandoned as a result of diminished oil and gas exploration, extraction, and processing. In addition, oil-saturated soils, sludge pits, and waste water (brine) sites have contaminated ground water supplies, thereby

EXHIBIT 2
DATE 1/20/87
HB _____

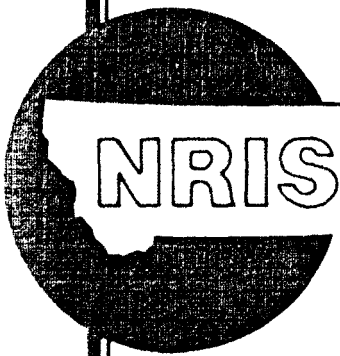
Montana

Natural Resource Information System
and
Natural Heritage Program

First Annual Report

DECEMBER, 1986

Montana Natural Resources Data System
Advisory Committee



NRIS

Natural Resource Information System

Montana State Library 1515 East Sixth Avenue Helena, Montana 59620

Montana
Audubon Legislative Fund

EXHIBIT 3
DATE 1/25/81
RE.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My Name is Janet Ellis and I'm here before you representing the Montana Audubon Legislative Fund. The Audubon Fund consists of 2500 members of the National Audubon Society and includes nine chapters located throughout the state.

The Audubon Fund wants to go on record in support of this proposal for a Montana Water Resources Data Management System. In order to make wise decisions about our water resources, the best information possible should be consulted. And getting the best information can be an expensive process.

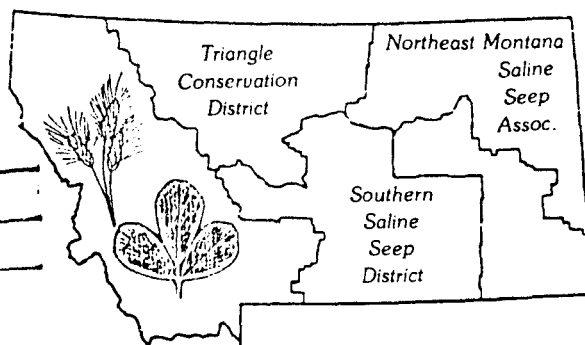
Water resource decisions made today will affect Montanans for generations to come. Especially today, with economic times the way they are, we need to make those decisions with as little expense as possible. It hence seems appropriate to use Coal Severance Tax money to fund a program that will provide efficient and important information to water users today at an expense saving price - a program that will clearly benefit future generation in this state.

Thank you.

Montana Salinity Control Association

Saline Seep Reclamation Areas

P. O. Box 1411
Conrad, Montana 59425
Phone (406)278-3071



FACT SHEET

EXHIBIT 4
DATE 1/20/87
HB _____

PROBLEM: Saline seeps are recently developed low-volume springs caused by change in land-use, predominantly from native perennial vegetation to the alternate crop-fallow dryland cropping system. The saline seep or discharge area, is actually the symptom of inefficient use of annual precipitation in the up-slope or recharge area. Saline seeps, water quality degradation, erosion and soil organic matter decline, are only symptoms of the problem.

NEED AND URGENCY: Saline seep is among the top 4 resource problems in MT. with over 280,000 acres of cropland estimated out of production, and the rate grows at 10% per year. Using an average of \$40/acre net return in a crop-fallow system, \$5,600,000.00 is lost in annual production. The taxes on the salinized land can be reassessed at a lower value (from a \$2.30/ac avg. for cropland to \$0.34/ac avg.) for a potential yearly loss in tax revenue of \$548,000.00. The degradation to surface and groundwater is not easily quantified but is perhaps the most severe consequence. Degraded water quality goes beyond the individual landowner to affect both the rural and urban population. Wells and reservoirs are abandoned and irrigation is reduced or eliminated. Numerous rural water lines have been needed because of poor water quality. It has cost the state over \$2.5 million in grants and loans to help finance these, not to mention the increased maintenance costs to the users. The water quality in most seeps exceeds the recommended limits for any domestic use and has been documented as high as 78,000 mg/l TDS or twice that of sea water. At present levels, saline seep is costing MT in excess of \$11,352,000.00 per year. If allowed to go unchecked, this figure could grow in the next 20 yrs. to \$76,370,000.00 for 1.8 million acres (assuming 10% growth rate). Therefore, the prevention of saline seeps is just as important as reclamation of existing ones.

TECHNIQUE: The MT. Salinity Control Association technical field team has developed a proven technique to work on a farm-by-farm basis to achieve saline seep prevention and reclamation using state-of-the-art recharge area identification, intensive cropping, and reclamation techniques. In the 7 years the MSCA has been working on the problem, 266 individual reclamation plans have been developed. The implementation rate has been 84%, a very impressive rate considering the increased costs and management necessary for the cooperators.

NEW STATE GROUP: The MT. Salinity Control Association (MSCA) was formed in June, 1985, to encompass the three organizations involved in salinity reclamation and prevention, which include the Triangle Conservation District (TCD), Northeast MT. Saline Seep Association (NMSSA) and the Southern Saline Seep District (SSSD). The 1985 Legislature provided funding for the 33-county area with grants from the coal and mineral tax interest funds. In addition, for the first time a portion of the project budget is being provided through the State's General Fund, which is a major step towards a stable, long term program. The project funding is administered through the Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC).

MSCA continues to generate one third of the total budget through charges to the landowners and for special projects related to water quality. In order to cut administrative expenses, a six-member executive board was elected to provide policy and guidance to the staff.

Chairman:	Pete Purvis	- Box 126, Froid, MT. 59226	963-2283	NE MT. Saline Seep Assoc.
Vice-Chairman:	Alvin Boxwell	- Box 235, Cut Bank, MT. 59427	336-2321	Triangle Con. District
	John Zinne	- Rapelje, MT. 59067	663-2203	Southern Saline Seep Dist.
	Ellis Hagen	- Westby, MT. 59275	385-2508	NE MT. Saline Seep Assoc.
	Keith Lockie	- Angela, MT. 59312	354-7391	Southern Saline Seep Dist.
	Tom Burns	- Box 595, Chinook, MT. 59523	357-4207	Triangle Con. District



EXHIBIT 5
DATE 1/28/09
HB _____

The Northwest Montana Chapter of Trout Unlimited is supporting a grant from the Coal Tax Trust Fund for the purpose of rehabilitating Evergreen Spring Creek. Spring Creeks are the ultimate in habitat for trout due to their nearly constant year around water flows and temperatures. They are also important sources of irrigation water and an important wetlands habitat.

Evergreen Spring Creek is to a large extent a suburban stream. As such, it provides needed recreation to the children of the Evergreen/Kalispell area. This type of opportunity is getting scarce. The stream is in trouble from siltation and widening of its banks causing warmer water temperatures and little cover for fish.

The proposed grant will not be the only contribution to the well being of the stream. Land owners in the area are contributing to the effort at their own expense, and Trout Unlimited will also be having a project on the stream. The result will not only benefit this particular stream, but serve as an inspiration to others as well as an example of various methods of stream rehabilitation.

Support for this project has been excellent. Agricultural interests, suburban homeowners, sportsmen's groups and government agencies have all joined together to save this stream. With the support of the Legislature we can accomplish something of lasting benefit to our state.

Don Alley
Secretary, Northwest
Montana Trout Unlimited
24 Iowa Ave.
Whitefish, MT 59901

VISITOR'S REGISTER

LONG RANGE PLANNING

SUBCOMMITTEE

AGENCY (S) _____

DATE January 20, 1987

DEPARTMENT _____

NAME	REPRESENTING	SUP- PORT	OP- POSE
Allen Martineall	Water Users Irrigation Co		
Dana Field	Audubon	X	
Edward Burgamer	Proponent of M.S.C.A.	X	
Ronald Long	" " "	X	
HAYDEN Ferguson	MSU - Chemical movement in ground water	X	
Tom Patton	Montana Bureau of Mines	X	
Martin Miller	Mont. Bur. of Mines + Geology	X	
Brenda Shyge	for water Resource Data mgmt Montana Cultural Advocacy	X	
CONRAD BUCKINGHAM	Newman Creek Water District	X	
Henry McClernan	Md Tech	X	
Rick Griffith	Butte Silver Bow	X	
Janet Ellis	MT Audubon leg. Fund	X	
LeRoy Payne	M.S.U. Plastic Ind. Assoc	X	
Francis Graham	Flathead Conservation District	X	
Larry P. Johnson	Flathead Conservation District	X	
JERRY SIDERIUS	Flathead Cons Dis	X	
William Spratt	Spratt + Associates (FCP)	X	
Donald Alley	Trout Unlimited	X	
GEORGE OCHENSKI	MT. ENVI. INF. CENTER		
PACHY LARSEN	EDGAR CANAL	X	

IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR WITNESS STATEMENT.
IF YOU HAVE WRITTEN COMMENTS, PLEASE GIVE A COPY TO THE SECRETARY.

VISITOR'S REGISTER

Long Range Planning SUBCOMMITTEE

AGENCY(S) _____

DATE January 20, 1987

DEPARTMENT _____

NAME	REPRESENTING	SUP- PORT	OP- POSE
Dan Hybner	Montana Salinity Control Assn.	✓	
Bob Stephens	Montana Drain Drainage Assn.	✓	
Jane Holzer	MT Salinity Control Assn	✓	
James Musgrave	Have Water Users	✓	
C. Ramsey Offord	Montana Salinity Control	✓	

IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR WITNESS STATEMENT.
 IF YOU HAVE WRITTEN COMMENTS, PLEASE GIVE A COPY TO THE SECRETARY.

