

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 21, 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.

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Grant #32 Eastern Sanders County: (010)

Clayton White said he is in favor of the project.

Mr. White presented the Subcommittee with two graphs, one graph showed the location of artesian wells and the other showed how the pressure of the artesian wells is going down.

Bill Christianson said he is in favor of the project.

Paul Houser presented a fact sheet to the Subcommittee (Exhibit #2).

Sen. McCallum said he is in favor of this project.

Joe Donovan, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology presented a chart to the Subcommittee. Mr. Donovan said plugging the runaway wells will help cut down on the waste of recharge water.

Rep. Bardanouve asked how many people are affected. Mr. White said 300-400 people are affected.

Chairman Thoft asked if you plug the runaway wells do you need to recharge the aquifer. Mr. White said yes, to raise the water pressure.

Rep. Bardanouve asked who is responsible for wasting water. Mr. White said the individual land owners are responsible.

Rep. Bardanouve asked if it is possible to get enough water down three or four wells to recharge the area. Mr. Donovan said yes.

Rep. Bardanouve said he wants to attach a stipulation that states all runaway wells be plugged before any monies are spent.

Chairman Thoft asked how many wells are leaking around the casing. Mr. White said they are aware of one well that is leaking.

Rep. Bardanouve asked if there are water rights. Mr. Christianson said yes, there are water rights on all of these wells.

Chairman Thoft asked how deep the wells are. Mr. Christianson said they are 230-240 feet deep.

Grant #16 Department of State Lands  
Grant #17 Department of State Lands  
Grant #20 Department of State Lands:

Dick Juntunen said these projects are not eligible for federal funds.

Mr. Juntunen said these three underground mine sites have had raw spoils lying in the surrounding streams for 50 years.

Mr. Juntunen said they would remove the tailings, find a dry area to bury the neutralized waste, and revegetate the topsoil.

Rep. Bardanouve asked who owns the mines. Mr. Juntunen said the Mike Horse Mine is owned by ASARCO, the Carbonate Mine is abandoned and the Snowshoe Mine is owned by a private individual and has Forest Service claims.

Grant #18 Water Management Bureau:

Gary Knudsen, DNRC, said the project arose from the Western Governor's Conference.

Mr. Knudsen said they are not proposing to generate new information.

Rep. Bardanouve asked Mr. Knudsen what they can do with \$52,000. Mr. Knudsen said he wants to outline a strategy to make Montana efficient.

Sen. Van Valkenburg asked if anyone else is doing this. Mr. Juntunen said yes, the Extension Service is also doing this work.

Grant #19 Blaine County Conservation District:

Gene Billmeyer submitted a fact sheet to the Subcommittee (Exhibit #3).

Mr. Billmeyer said 300 people are involved with the project.

Tom Patton, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, said the water table has dropped 7 feet in the past 3-5 years.

Grant #21 Butte-Silver Bow  
Government & Mile High Cons. Dist.:

Caralee Cheney, DNRC, said the Butte-Silver Bow Government and the Mile High Conservation District propose to demonstrate the feasibility of using a high metal content, municipal sludge for increased production on crop land, while minimizing soil and groundwater pollution.

Bill Pasco said he is in favor of the project.

Grant #22 Ruby Valley Conservation District:

Ms. Cheney said the Ruby Valley Conservation District requests funds for the installation of automated snow, precipitation, and temperature recording equipment with in the Short Creek drainage, a tributary to the Ruby River.

No one showed up in favor or against the project.

Grant #23 DNRC/Conservation Districts Division:

Ms. Cheney said the purpose of this project is to address riparian stream corridor erosion and land management problems as they relate to agricultural influences. The specific objectives are to complete the inventory and planning phase on three rivers - the Sun River, East Gallatin River, and the Musselshell River - and to implement the needed improvement practices identified in previously completed management plans on the Smith River and Otter Creek.

Ray Beck, DNRC, and Gail Stenveck said they are in favor of the project.

Grant #24 Yellowstone Conservation District:

Ms. Cheney said the Yellowstone Conservation District requests funding to collect, compile and interpret all the existing groundwater data available for the urban and urban rural fringe areas of Yellowstone County, and to use that data to compile maps and other tools to be used in making decisions on land use planning and groundwater development and protection.

Alan Bond said he is in favor of the project.

John Darling read his testimony to the Subcommittee (Exhibit #4).

Mr. Bond said the conservation district has committed \$1,500.

Rep. Bardanouve asked where the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology's (MBMG) monies come from. Wayne Van Voast, MBMG, said with in the MBMG appropriation.

Grant #25 Rosebud and Big Horn Conservation District:

Ms. Cheney said the coal beds being mined in southeastern Montana are the most productive and accessible aquifers available to the agricultural community there. She said to provide information needed to understand the effects of mining on these aquifers, the MBMG has, since 1979 conducted hydrologic investigations and has monitored groundwater conditions in southeastern Montana.

Mr. Van Voast submitted letters of testimony (Exhibit #6).

Jack Knobloch said he is in favor of the project.

Mr. Van Voast said the MBMG is trying to isolate the hydrologic effects of mining. He said cones of depression have formed around the Decker coal mines.

Rep. Tom Asay said he is in favor of the project.

James Mockler, Montana Coal Council, said he is in favor of the project.

Rep. Marian Hanson said she is in favor of the project.

Dennis Hemmer, Department of State Lands, said he need the data to do cumulative hydrologic impact analysis.

Grant #26 Gravity Sprinkler Project  
Grant #27 Gravity Sprinkler Project:

Gary Mentzer submitted fact sheets to the Subcommittee (Exhibit #7, #8).

Paul Schafer, Keith Graybeal and Ron Crawstad said they are in favor of the projects.

Ms. Cheney said the project sponsor proposes to convert 254 acres of flood irrigated hay and pasture to gravity sprinkler irrigated hay. She said the delivery pipeline will be shared with a neighbor who proposes, in a separate application, to convert 382 acres of flood and pump sprinkler irrigated hay to gravity sprinkler irrigated hay.

Grant #28 DNRC - Water Management Bureau:

Ms. Cheney said the goal of the proposed study is to collect the data necessary for the implementation of a water management and improved irrigation efficiency program for the Musselshell River Basin.

Walter Wilkins, Keith Nelson, Walt Newlan and Mike HOFFEY said they are in favor of the project.

Rep. BARDANOUVE asked how the Bureau of Reclamation fits in to this project.

Ms. Cheney said the BOR will cover this kind of study if a match is provided.

Rep. BARDANOUVE asked how much Delphia and Melstone pay for water.

Rich BRASCH said they pay \$10.50 as acre foot.

Rep. BARDANOUVE asked how many people are involved.

Mr. BRASCH said 239 people.

Grant #29 Lower Yellowstone Cons. Dist. Dev. Committee:

Bill GREMAN said he is in favor of the project.

Ms. Cheney said the Lower Yellowstone Conservation District Development Committee was formed in 1983 by six conservation districts in the Lower Yellowstone River Basin to pursue development of their water reservations. Ms. Cheney said the group has investigated a variety of development strategies, including the use of low-cost power for irrigation pumping available under the Pick-Sloan Missouri River Basin Plan of the federal government. She stated this grant will fund a BOR assessment of three existing irrigation projects to satisfy the conditions necessary for congressional authorization of such power to each project.

Grant #30 Carbon County:

Ms. Cheney said the Town of Roberts is a small unincorporated community of approximately 200 people located in Carbon County. The town's water supply consists of two wells. Water from the wells is pumped to a 5,000 gallon storage pressure tank. The distribution system consists of 2,400 feet of six inch pipe and 4,310 feet of four inch pipe.

Ms. Cheney added this project will provide an adequate water supply for the residents of Roberts, by improving the

system's chlorine detention time, resolving safety hazards, and renovating deteriorated distribution conditions.

Barbra Garrett, HKM Engineers, said the total project cost is \$190,000.

Bill Greman said there is great community support.

Ms. Garrett said an unincorporated town can issue bonds through as rural special improvement district.

Grant #44 Mineral County:

Ms. Cheney said the northwestern Montana community of St. Regis proposes to improve its 13 acre community park by expanding the irrigation and drinking water system and improving the water quality and useability of an existing pond. Irrigation is presently limited to 2 1/2 acres of softball fields. Plans call for irrigation expansion to nine acres. The pond will be dredged to deepen it and debris will be removed. Part of the shoreline will be regraded to create a safe swimming area and improve areas for fishing. In addition, an aerator will be installed to maintain pond water quality through the summer. The pond is often affected by mid-summer algal blooms. She added this park provides the only available swimming area for the St. Regis community.

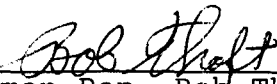
Shirley Anderson read her testimony for the Subcommittee (Exhibit #10).

Rep. Bardanouve asked where the water comes from. Ms.. Anderson said from an artesian well.

Rep. Bardanouve asked what the population is. Ms. Anderson said there is 500-600 people.

Rep. Barry Stang said he is in favor of the project.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business the Long Range Planning Subcommittee adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman Rep. Bob Thoft

DAILY ROLL CALL

## LONG RANGE PLANNING

SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE JANUARY 21, 1987

**Eastern Sanders  
Conservation District**

102 Highway 200 West  
Plains, Montana 59859

EXHIBIT 1  
DATE 11/21/97  
HB



**RECHARGE CONSERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT, LITTLE BITTERROOT VALLEY  
FACT SHEET**

The Problem: Since 1915, the Lonepine aquifer has been used for irrigation with primarily flowing but also non-flowing wells. This artesian aquifer has high capacity, but declines in water level occur every irrigation season. The declines have resulted in conflict over water use and rights in the past. Also, a long-term water level decline of about 0.8 to 2.5 feet/year is taking place. This has been caused by increased irrigation, insufficient conservation, and withdrawals in excess of recharge. This situation has prevented a number of individuals, with the need and desire to irrigate, from developing this groundwater.

The Goal: Conservation and optimum development of the groundwater resource, for the sake of both existing and possible future users. Our goal is to increase the efficiency of our management of this water, and to encourage its prudent use and development.

The Approach: (A) To see to it that water waste is reduced or eliminated by plugging or repairing leaky wells, managing winter flows, and improving irrigation management; (B) To increase recharge to the aquifer using unused flows diverted from the Little Bitterroot River. (B) will be done in two phases: a pilot phase, using an existing well for injection (to be funded by the state); and a permanent, high-capacity phase, using water from Lower Dry Fork Reservoir of the Flathead Irrigation Project (to be funded by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation). The permanent system will be based on gravity delivery of reservoir water to an injection wellfield of 7 acre-feet/day capacity. A proposal to the USBR has been submitted and is under review. If both proposals are successfully funded, federal funds will match state funds on a 4:1 basis.

Benefits: Projected increase in recharge amounts will be 500 or more acre-feet/year. Conservation measures will save another 500 or more acre-feet/year. If these figures are attained, the current water level decline can be reversed, and it is likely that new development could be possible. Project success will reduce future expenditures in water rights disputes and litigation.

Beneficiaries will include all residents of the valley, including non-irrigators, tribal members, and local businesses which utilize this water, as this aquifer is the source for nearly all wells in the valley.

Support: Technical support will be provided by the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, the Soil Conservation Service, the Flathead Irrigation Project, and the USBR itself. A local groundwater user's association will be responsible for long-term operation and management of the recharge system, in cooperation with the Irrigation Project.

Cost: Total Project, \$549,800. State DNRC, \$86,300. MBMG, \$10,500. USBR, \$9,300. No previous funding.



EXHIBIT 2  
DATE 1/21/87  
HB \_\_\_\_\_

Flathead Irrigation & Power Project  
P.O. Box G  
St. Ignatius, MT 59865

May 15, 1986

Caralee Chaney  
Water Development Bureau  
Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation  
1520 E. 6th Avenue  
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Ms. Chaney:

The Flathead Irrigation Project supports the proposed ground-water recharge project ("Recharge Enhancement and Conservation - Little Bitterroot Valley") for the Lonepine aquifer. This support, at this time, is in principle only, and more active support in the future would depend on any interference with existing surface waterusers or on the Project's trust responsibility to the Tribes.

Sincerely,

/s/

DERWIN F. HALVORSON, JR.  
Acting Project Engineer

cc: Joe Donovan  
Bureau of Mines, Billings

DFHALVORSON:sm:05-15-86

FACT SHEET  
TURNER-HOGELAND IRRIGATION AND AQUIFER STUDY

EXHIBIT 3  
DATE 11/11/87  
NO.           

Need for Project

Over 7,800 acres of groundwater supported irrigation have been developed on the Turner-Hogeland Plateau. Pumping of groundwater has created a declining water table situation in a portion of the aquifer which if allowed to continue will eventually cause severe hardship upon local water users. Water level decline in a portion of the aquifer has approached 30% of the pre-pumping saturated thickness.

The Big Flat Water users Association, Blaine County Conservation District, and Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology are working together to provide data to local water users which will enhance their ability to manage the groundwater resource. A good water level monitoring network exists for the aquifer but additional information about irrigation practices and the aquifer itself is necessary before good decisions about management of the aquifer can be made.

Project Tasks

- 1) Illustrate cost effective ways to lower irrigation water use by innovative sprinkler management.
- 2) Attempt to quantify recharge to the aquifer.
- 3) Define the southern, southwestern and western edges of the aquifer.
- 4) Obtain aquifer storage and permeability data.
- 5) Design a groundwater flow model for the heavily pumped portion of the aquifer so that estimates of proper well spacing and affects of groundwater withdrawal can be derived.

Budget

	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Recommended</u>
Blaine County	\$11,400	\$ 8,776
Irrigation Study	\$33,800 (\$28,152**)	-0- (-0-)
Hydrologic Study	\$54,721 (22,622*)	\$50,000 (\$22,622*)
TOTAL	\$99,921	\$58,776

\* in kind services amount - from Montana Bureau of Mines

\*\* in kind services amount - Soil Conservation Service

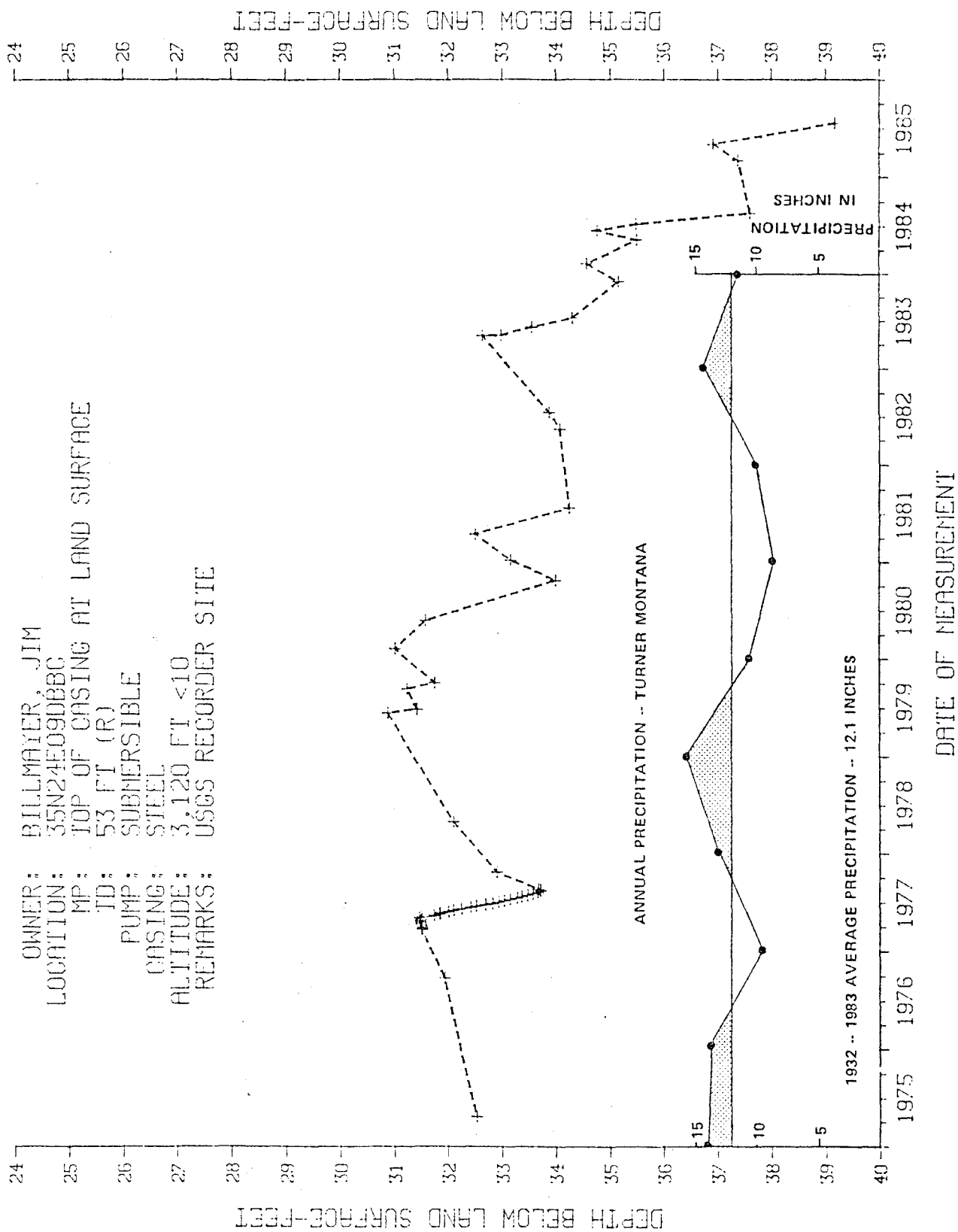


Figure 8: Water levels in observation well 6 on Figure 2.

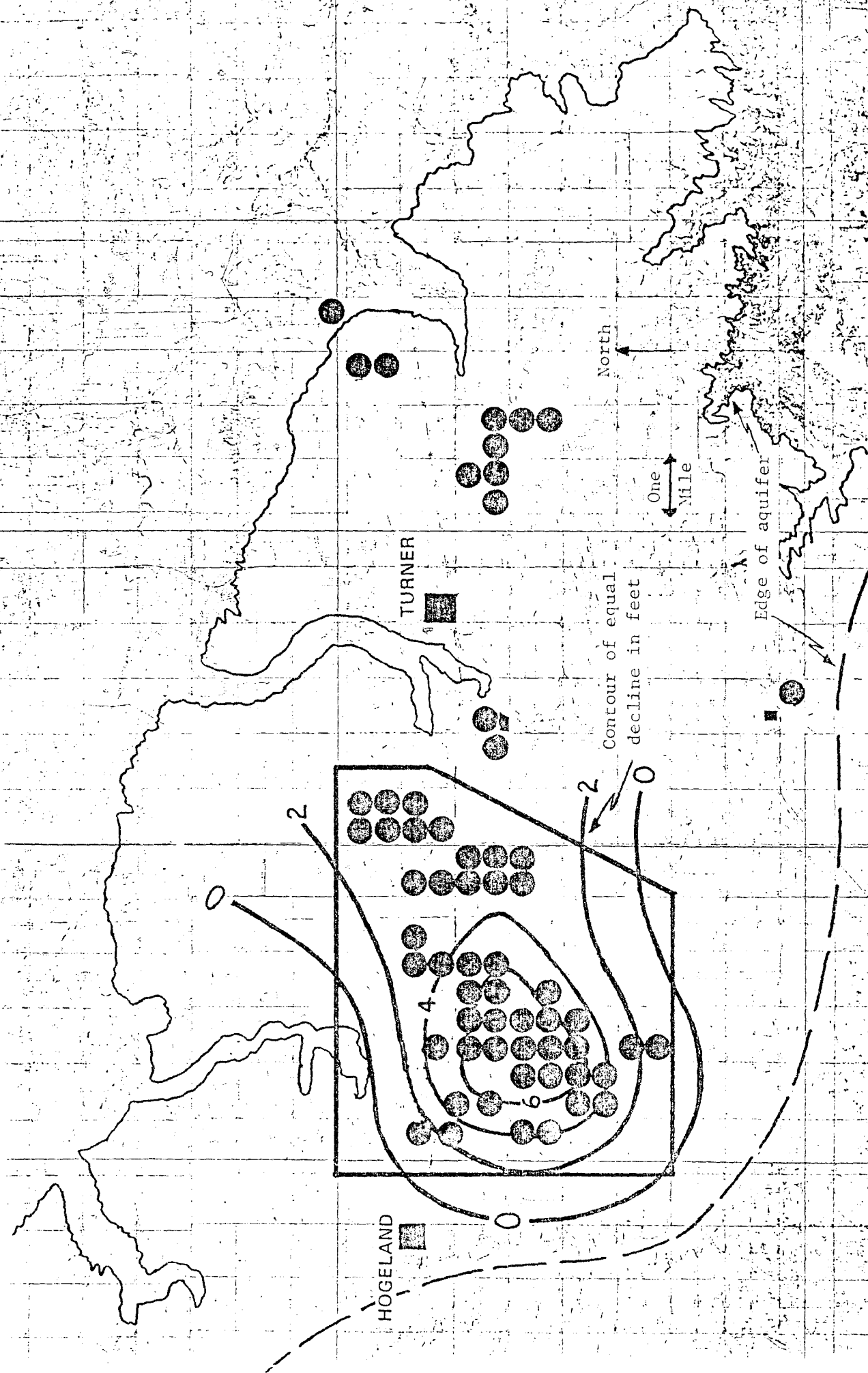


Figure 7: Irrigated acreage and water level declines during the period 1977-1985, Turner-Hogeland area, Montana.

# YELLOWSTONE COUNTY BOARD OF PLANNING

4TH FLOOR, LIBRARY BUILDING • 510 N. 28TH  
PO. BOX 1178 • BILLINGS, MONTANA 59103  
PHONE: (406) 657-8246

EXHIBIT 4  
DATE 1/21/87  
HB                     

January 20, 1987

Long Range Planning Committee  
Montana State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Helena, Montana

RE: Request for Funding Yellowstone County Groundwater Study

Mr. Chairman. Members of the Committee:

My name is John Darling. I am Planning Director for the Yellowstone County Board of Planning which serves Yellowstone County, the City of Billings and the Town of Broadview. I am here today to speak on behalf of funding for the proposed Yellowstone County Groundwater Study requested by the Yellowstone Conservation District.

To give you a broad idea of the importance of this particular study I believe that a little background in the operation of the Yellowstone County Planning function is appropriate. The Yellowstone County Board of Commissioners, in 1984, along with the City of Billings, determined that the most appropriate way to provide planning services was on a countywide basis. In furtherance of that objective a fifteen member planning board was established. Five members of the board represent the five wards of the City of Billings, seven members represent seven geographic districts within the rural portions of Yellowstone County and a representative of the Yellowstone Conservation District constitute the thirteen voting members of the Board. Two ex-officio members, one representing Billings School District No. 2 and one representing the County School Superintendent's office round out the fifteen member board.

The first major activity of the Yellowstone County Board of Planning is the development of a Countywide Comprehensive Plan to serve as a footprint for the future. The Board is presently involved in this formidable task. To assist in this process the Planning Board has created Citizen Advisory Committees (CAC) to serve as sounding boards for planning issues throughout the County. At numerous Planning Board and Citizen Advisory

Committee meetings during the current development of the Comprehensive Plan a major issue and concern raised by both urban and rural citizens of the County has been the location, quality, quantity and availability of water both for the present and the future.

The Comprehensive Plan will address this critical issue as part of its overall environment and land use orientation. Within our Comprehensive Planning process we in Yellowstone County are not looking at prohibiting development or certain uses but rather locating those activities in areas which are appropriate. An understanding of the groundwater situation within our County is a critical component in the process of identifying areas which are either appropriate or inappropriate for suburban development as well as other more intense non-agricultural land uses. The location, quality, quantity and availability of groundwater is essential in assessing the impact that urbanization in the fringe areas of the City of Billings and along the Yellowstone Valley will have on future agricultural operations.

The compilation of information and data proposed under this study will be invaluable to agricultural interests, property owners, realtors and developers. It will assist in identifying areas of the County where detailed site specific information must be gathered before rational development can proceed. The study, in addition to bringing together data on groundwater, will catalog the sources of that information as well as identify the network of agencies involved in various groundwater issues. This will permit a ready up-dating and further detailing of groundwater within Yellowstone County.

We have in Yellowstone County numerous examples where, if the type of general information proposed in this study had been available in a centralized and readily usable fashion, existing problems could have been avoided. We have examples of suburban residential subdivisions such as the Emerald Hills area to the east of Billings which were developed in areas relying on individual wells where the groundwater supplies are unreliable both in terms of quantity and quality and as such necessitate the trucking in of domestic water supplies. We have examples where development of rural subdivisions have created a drawdown of already existing agricultural groundwater placing increased financial burdens on agriculture as well as new home owners. Hopefully, these types of situations can be identified early on and various areas of Yellowstone County can be set aside for specific further detailed study before harmful development takes place.

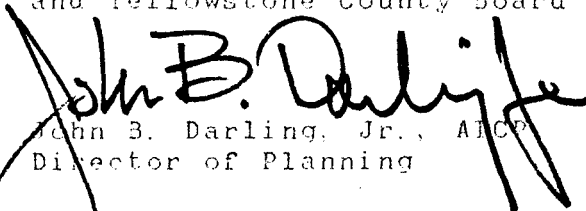
Long Range Planning Committee  
January 20, 1987  
Page 3

On a positive note we have examples of citizen initiated zoning districts with residential lot sizes as large as forty acres per lot. These lot sizes were created as a means to protect a very fragile groundwater supply in upland areas. These districts were established on a very general understanding of groundwater issues, not on specific information which would be provided by the proposed study.

As a part of this project, Yellowstone County is committed to provide inkind participation. Such participation may include use of our computer and mapping capabilities as well as assistance in primary and secondary data gathering under the direction of the Yellowstone Conservation District and the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology.

Your favorable consideration of this project is encouraged and respectfully requested by both the Yellowstone County Board of Commissioners and the Yellowstone County Board of Planning. Completion of this activity will provide a wealth of information in a concise and centralized, readily usable format which will aid local elected City and County officials, developers, land owners and very importantly, the agricultural community in making rational decisions as to where appropriate development can occur without injury to our fragile groundwater supplies.

Respectfully, for the Yellowstone County Board of Commissioners and Yellowstone County Board of Planning,



John B. Darling, Jr., AICP  
Director of Planning

cc: Yellowstone County Board of Commissioners  
Yellowstone County Board of Planning

JBD:rm



Yellowstone Conservation District

Building A, suite 6 - 1629 Avenue D - Billings, Montana 59102 - Phone (406) 657-6135

May 9, 1986

EXHIBIT 5  
DATE 11/2/87  
HB                     

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
Water Resources Division  
Water Development Bureau  
Lee Metcalf Building  
1520 East Sixth Avenue  
Helena, MT 59620

Gentlemen:

The Yellowstone Conservation District Board of Supervisors approves the submittal of this proposal for a grant under the Water Development and Renewable Resource Development Programs; and, as presented by Mr. Wayne Van Voast, Bureau of Mines and Geology.

There is a paucity of information relative to ground water location and its quality in Yellowstone County. The demand is great for specific information as growth continues rapidly in areas not served by municipal systems.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

For Lee Lane, Chairman

*Allen Bond*  
Allen Bond, Executive Secretary

Yellowstone Conservation District Board of Supervisors:

*Lee Lane*  
*Charles F. Cassatt*  
*Robert F. Han*  
*Wilson F. Clark*  
*Marjorie J. Hansen*  
*Victor L. McFarland*





# WESTMORELAND RESOURCES, INC.

Post Office Box 449, Hardin, Montana 59034 (406) 342-5241

October 4, 1984

EXHIBIT 1  
DATE 11-1-1977  
HB 1

Mr. Wayne Van Voast  
Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology  
3021 6th Ave Nth, Rm 111  
Billings, Montana 59101

Dear Wayne:

I understand that the surface coal mine hydrology program conducted by your agency is currently under reconsideration. From the viewpoint of a coal mine operator, I feel that your work has been and will continue to be of great value to the Montana coal industry. It has enabled much more precise predictions of hydrologic consequences, and hence has afforded greater protection of water resources.

Although the mining companies conduct intensive hydrologic baseline and monitoring studies, my experience has been that there is very little if any duplication of effort. Your program provides the only vehicle for a consolidation of hydrologic information from the various mines and potential mining areas. Consequently, our ability to predict future hydrologic effects, both locally and regionally, is undergoing continuous refinement.

As the hydrologic data base in the coal regions of eastern Montana expands, our understanding of hydrologic processes becomes greater. Although there may be a need for periodic evaluation of research priorities, I am confident that your program will continue to provide needed information. Please call if I can be of any assistance in program development or review.

My best regards,

David W. Simpson  
General Manager

DWS:jb

# **WESTERN ENERGY COMPANY**

AREA C / P.O. BOX 98 / COLSTRIP, MONTANA 59323



November 21, 1984

Mr. Wayne Van Voast  
Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology  
Room 111, 6th Avenue Plaza  
3021 6th Avenue North  
Billings, Montana 59101

RE: Ground Water Monitoring Request for Coal Funding

Dear Wayne:

Western Energy Company fully supports the Rosebud Conservation District's Ground Water Monitoring request for Coal Board funding. We feel it is very important to maintain the continuity of the monitoring program established by the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology over ten years ago. Your program provides a long term continuous record for regulatory agencies, industry and any other interested parties. In addition this program compliments and provides an independent check on monitoring currently being done by the industry.

I doubt that I will be able to attend the Coal Board meeting in December, but I hope that this request will be funded.

Sincerely,

Peter Norbeck, P.E.  
Hydrological Engineer

# Kiewit Mining & Engineering Co.

P.O. Box 3049  
Sheridan, Wyoming 82801  
(307) 672-3401

October 3, 1984

Mr. Wayne Van Voast  
Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology  
Room 111  
6th Avenue Plaza  
3021 6th Avenue North  
Billings, Montana 59101

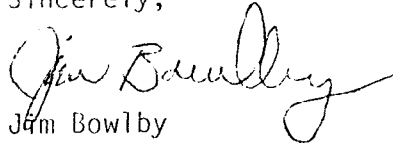
Dear Wayne:

For the past twelve years or so, your group has been monitoring changes to the hydrogeologic system at our Decker mines. This long-term record has been invaluable in our company's attempt to quantify impacts to the hydrologic system from surface coal mining operations. Even though some of your water level monitoring activities appear to duplicate our vast network of wells, it is important to maintain your long period of record. It is also valuable to our company having an independent State agency complement our monitoring activities.

In addition, spoil aquifer research and resulting publications have been valuable to the entire coal mining industry. Specifically, research conducted at our West Decker mine, in conjunction with our own monitoring activities, has enabled us to predict cumulative and long-term impacts to the hydrologic regime.

We strongly encourage the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology to maintain hydrogeologic research/monitoring activities at our Decker mines.

Sincerely,



Jim Bowlby  
Hydrology Supervisor

JB/ilf



Consolidation Coal Company  
Environmental Quality Control  
45 East Loucks, Suite 207  
Sheridan, Wyoming 82801  
(307) 672-8971

November 5, 1984

Montana Bureau of Mines & Geology  
3021 6th Avenue North  
Billings, Montana 59101

Attention: Wayne VanVoast

Dear Wayne:

Consolidation Coal Company is going to close its Sheridan, Wyoming office on December 31, 1984. I will continue to manage environmental permitting activities for our CX Ranch Mine project from our corporate headquarters in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The decision to close the Sheridan office is based largely on the present soft coal market and the fact that Consolidation Coal Company will not be opening its CX Ranch Mine in the near future. We plan to continue monitoring wildlife; vegetation and hydrology, but at a much reduced level of effort.

The purpose of my letter is to stress to you the importance to Consol that the Bureau continues its hydrologic monitoring in this area. As you are aware, Consolidation Coal Company was required to prepare a regional hydrologic impact assessment, and this would have been impossible without data from wells currently being monitored by the Bureau. In this instance, the monitoring of wells off the proposed permit area were of particular importance. However, as we scale down our field efforts even more, it will become increasingly important to us that the Bureau continue its monitoring program throughout the area.

There are a few situations when the Bureau has monitored wells that Consol's contractors also monitor. The third party oversight provided in this situation is valuable.

I would be very interested in knowing the Bureau's plans in and around the Squirrel Creek drainage for the next couple of years. Again, I wish to stress the importance of your work to this company as well as other coal companies operating or planning to operate in the area.

Sincerely yours,

Earl D. Smith, Manager  
Environmental Activities  
Sheridan Office

EDS:wmm

cc: Dave Kirtz  
CX hydrology File - Sheridan

# PEABODY COAL COMPANY

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DIVISION

10375 EAST HARVARD AVENUE

SUITE 400

DENVER, COLORADO 80231

(303) 337-5903

November 20, 1984

Mr. Wayne Van Voast  
Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology  
3021 Sixth Avenue, North  
Billings, MT 59101

Dear Wayne:

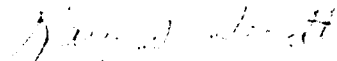
This letter is in reference to our phone conversation on November 20, 1984 and your discussion with Mark Koffler on November 2, 1984, concerning Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology's (MBMG) involvement in hydrologic monitoring and research in the vicinity of Peabody Coal Company's (PCC) Big Sky Mine.

MBMG hydrologic monitoring and research activities near Big Sky Mine have historically been very important to Peabody Coal Company. Continued hydrologic monitoring, to some degree, by MBMG would be an excellent form of quality control within PCC data collection system.

The MBMG research of reclaimed coal mined areas and potential mining areas have been an invaluable source for information for determining pre- and post-mining conditions within the hydrologic system. MBMG has collected and compiled hydrologic research data from the Colstrip area since 1971. Peabody recognizes the importance for MBMG to maintain a degree of historical oversight, for continuity reasons, on the current hydrologic monitoring system in the Colstrip area.

Peabody sincerely hopes that the MBMG will have funds and resources available to continue monitoring and research of the hydrology system as it relates to coal mining in this region.

Sincerely,



Gary W. Wendt  
Montana Project Manager

kmt

c: Slade Dingman  
Mark Koffler  
Jim Lunan  
Jay Mednick

EXHIBIT 7  
DATE 11/21/77  
HB                     

## MENTZER-GRAYBEAL PROJECT

### I. Benefits

- a. Dewatering of Douglas Creek
- b. Land protection from erosion
- c. Sediment protection of down slope drainages, Barnes Creek
- d. Irrigation water savings for 636 acres
  - 1. Evaporation and seepage losses from open ditch delivery system
  - 2. Change water use efficiencies from 20 and 25 % to 70%
- e. Less maintenance and upkeep on water control structures and irrigation ditch if replaced with buried pipeline

GROUP INSTALLATION OF  
OVERFLOW PIPE.

1500 FT. 10" PVC	\$5250
INLET 400 FT. STR.	2000
INSTALLATION	1245
	<u>18495</u>

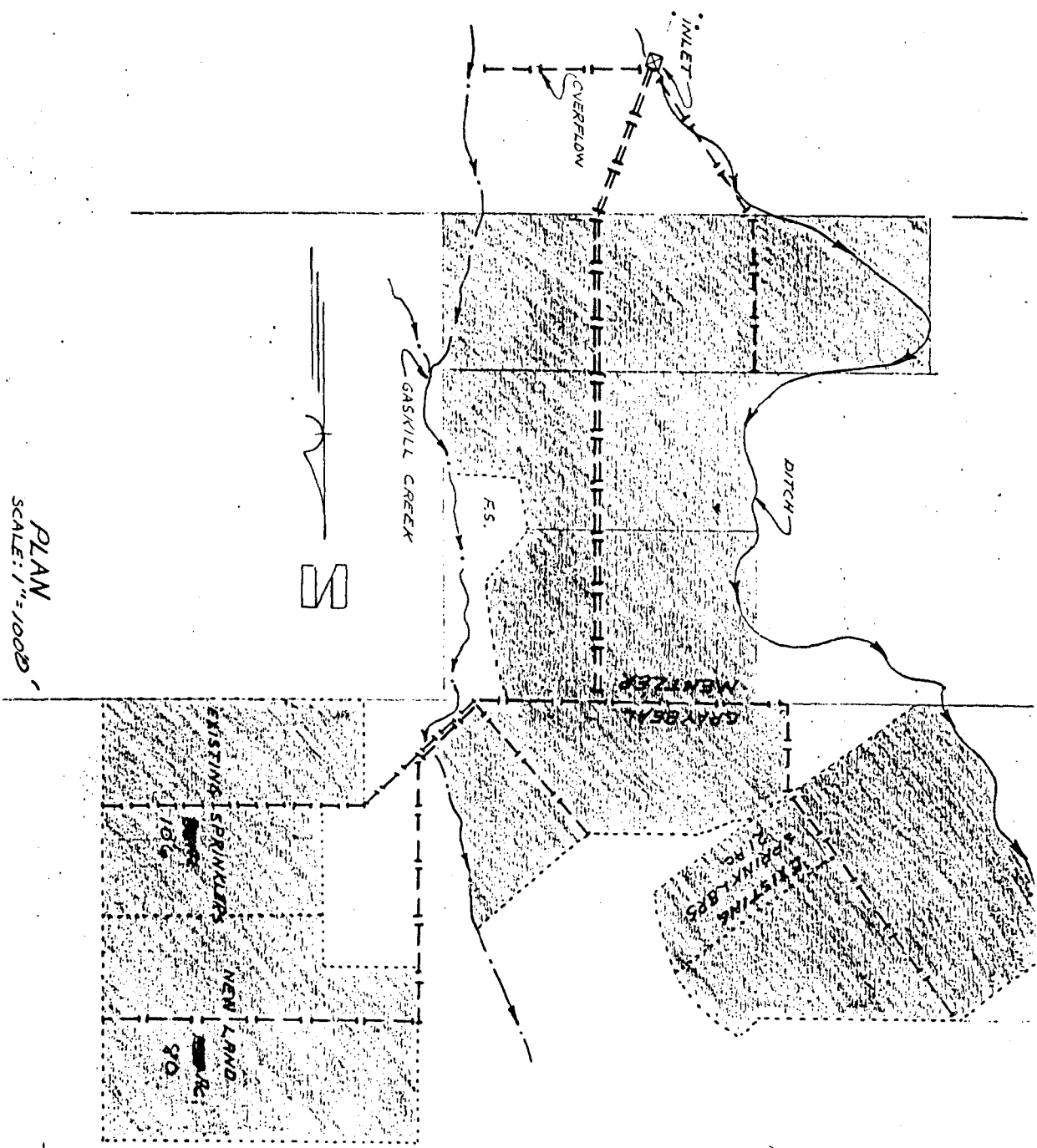
ACREAGE: MENTZER	254
GRAYBEHL	382
	<u>636 TOTAL</u>

EXHIBIT 8  
DATE 11/1/99  
HB

PRELIMINARY ONLY

DESIGNED BY: *[Signature]*

DATE: 5/85



PLAN  
SCALE: 1"=1000'

EXHIBIT 9

DATE 1/21/87

HB

The Billings Gazette

Wed., July 24, 1985

5-A

# State water shortage worsens

HELENA (AP) — Several Montana communities face increasingly serious water shortages as the 1985 drought continues choking off rivers and streams, a group of state officials was told Tuesday.

At its weekly meeting, a newly formed drought task force composed of state cabinet members learned that both surface and ground water supplies continue to dry up, fire danger remains very high and weather forecasters predict little relief.

Larry Fasbender, director of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, said Cut Bank officials reported the city will run out of water by Thursday unless something is done to increase the flow in Cut Bank Creek. City officials were seeking solutions to the problem.

Dr. John Drynan, head of the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences, said nine other communities are plagued by similar problems and have implemented some type of emergency conservation measures.

Browning, which also draws its water from Cut Bank Creek, does not have enough water pressure to operate its hydrant system if there's a fire. Bozeman, Dillon and East Helena also report water shortages, he said.

The towns of Melstone and Dodson are looking for new wells. Columbus has started drilling, and Grass Range has found a new ground water supply, according to Drynan. Conservation measures in Butte have cut that city's consumption from about 25 million gallons daily to 15 million gallons, he said.

## Region

Task force members expressed concern that communities may be caught by surprise unless their officials closely monitor water supplies. Enough advance warning is needed to prevent a complete loss of water, they said.

"I have an uneasy feeling that there are more serious problems out there than we know about," said Jim Flynn, director of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. "Streams are drying up that have never dried up before. Something's happening to the ground water. We need to get a handle on what's happening with the municipal (water) systems."

He said the state should urge the U.S. Geological Survey to conduct a review of ground water supplies earlier than the agency's usual Oct. 1 check. Early measurement of dwindling supplies can allow time for conservation measures to be implemented, Flynn said.

Mike Pichette, aide to Gov. Ted Schwinden, said 45 of the state's 56 counties have asked to be declared disaster areas, making them eligible for federal aid to offset agriculture losses caused by the drought. The remaining counties have been asked to submit their requests by Aug. 1.

However, since counties bordering those with disaster status would also be eligible for the aid, all of Montana is covered by existing requests, Pichette said.

Flynn said the hot, dry conditions have created a "dismal outlook for waterfowl" and could result in a shortened hunting season or stricter bag limits this year. Duck breeding populations are down about 35 percent from last year, reaching the lowest point since records were started 20 years ago, he said.

For upland game bird hunters, the tinder-dry prairies could force cancellation of the season to avoid the danger of fires, Flynn said.

He also reported the Powder River no longer has flowing water and is "about dried up." The falling level of Georgetown Lake may cause problems with plant growth, while runoff in the Big Horn River Basin is only 40-50 percent of normal, he said.

Fasbender said the state should not expect any electricity shortages this year because of the lack of water for hydropower, although Flynn said Montana Power Co. facilities are generating 150 megawatts less electricity than normal.

Fasbender warned that a small snowpack this winter, combined with light fall and spring rainfall, could produce "extreme" power problems next summer.

State Lands Commissioner Dennis Hemmer said fire restrictions remain in effect for state campgrounds, but his office is reluctant to completely close any sites because enforcement would require personnel needed for firefighting.



Date: January 21, 1987

To: Department of Natural Resources & Water Conservation, Hearing Com.

Re: St. Regis Community Park Grant Proposal

Presenter: Shirley Anderson, Park Committee Chairman

For two reasons I have asked for your time; to present evidence of need & support not contained in the Grant Proposal and to offer a scaled down request.

1. The western end of Mineral County with approximately 1300 people has no area devoted to group & community activities other than this.
2. The site has numerous advantages; walk-in for St. Regis users; two blocks from Interstate for tourist use; sufficient land for many activities (13 acres county owned, 10 acres FS Permit); beautiful site surrounded by mountains with forest on FS land; centrally located between Superior city parks and the Idaho border.
3. The park receives strong local support:
  - a. County Planner & Commissioners support with limited funds.
  - b. FS supports with building plans, advice, usage permit.
  - c. School supports with use of building for fund raisers.
  - d. Thousands of hours of citizen labor and machinery have gone into the park.
4. The park was used this past two summers for various activities; softball tournaments, swap meets, Fourth of July & Family Fun activities, reunions, even a wedding. Picnic sites were used daily.
5. Progress to date is impressive:
  - a. Legal Boundaries established.
  - b. Legal access obtained through FS Usage Permit
  - c. Master Plan drawn from community input
  - d. Improvement District #4 established for maintenance & development, brings 3 to 4 thousand.
  - e. Usable facilities ; one ballfield, picnic tables & barbecues, pavilion, winter skating rink, playground equipment, vault toilets, maintenance building.
  - f. 2,000 yards of topsoil hauled, graded, & seeded; 150 shrubs & trees planted.
6. Continued progress is hindered by the need for water:
  - a. Irrigation for grass, trees & shrubs
  - b. Drinking water
  - c. Pond improvement for fishing & swimming
  - d. Large pavilion with water for restrooms & concession stand
  - e. Irrigation & water for Memorial Gardens, second ballfield, & Horse Arena.
7. Water development plans, by use of a timed irrigation system, will effectively use the current 60 gpm.

SEALED DOWN REQUEST

1. 20,000 for irrigation expansion of area #1
2. 15,000 for Pond development

Please consider either or both of these. We are not making a study, we have proven local support, we have demonstrated need & usage, we have observed the economic impact with tourists & local citizens, we do not waste but stretch every dollar as far as possible.

Thank you for your time & consideration of the above.

ST. REGIS  
TRAVEL CENTER

WAGON ROOM RESTAURANT  
GAS • DIESEL • MINI-MART  
GIFT-SOUVENIR SHOP

661 649-2407  
Regis, MT 59866

JACK D. LINCOLN

Jan. 12, 1987

ST. REGIS TRAVEL CENTER

WAGON ROOM RESTAURANT  
GAS • DIESEL • MINI-MART  
GIFT & SOUVENIR SHOP

Dept. of Natural Resources  
Helena, Montana

Gentlemen,

The St. Regis Park Committee, chaired by Shirley Anderson of St. Regis, will be presenting your department with a request for grant monies for the continued development of our community park.

I feel that her request should be granted for both social and economic reasons. The St. Regis Community Park has rapidly become the focal point of our community, being the only site in the area to stage summertime activities. These activities; softball tournaments, flea markets, community picnics, and similar events are all staged at the park.

The participants undoubtedly enjoy the facilities thru the social activity level. As a businessman in the community, I have the added enjoyment of commercial activity that the assorted activities promote. As our area feels the economic slump of declining logging activity and minimal agricultural activity, the need for the economic impact created by recreation and travel becomes even more acute.

Many tourists and travelers have started to enjoy the park at its current stage of completion. I think it is critical for a gateway community to provide a true "Big Sky Welcome". The continued promotion and expansion of the St. Regis Park will be yet another way of opening our "Latch String" and showing the traveler that we truly do welcome them and appreciate the time that they spend in Montana.

I have personally viewed the plans and I feel that they represent one of the more progressive ideas that I have seen that still possess local significance. I can also assure you that the people of St. Regis would treat and maintain the project with proper care and respect. Our citizenry truly has civic pride in our park!!

Montana Regards,

*Jack D. Lincoln*  
Jack D. Lincoln

P.O. Drawer G  
St. Regis, MT 59866  
(406) 649-2407

# Jasper's

P.O. Drawer L

St. Regis, Montana 59866

(406) 649-2416

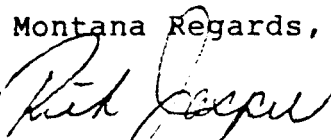
January 20, 1987

Water Development and Expansion  
Department of Natural Resources  
Helena, Montana 59624

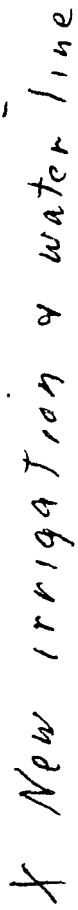
To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the proposed grant for water development at the St. Regis Community Park. The park development has proven to be a positive addition to the St. Regis business and recreational community. Additional development would only reinforce and strengthen an already positive addition to the community. I would hope the Board would look with favor on this request for additional development funds.

Montana Regards,



Rick Jasper, owner  
Jaspers Inc.  
St. Regis Super 8 Motel



NOTE: USE MEASURED DATE FROM BACK LINE (FRONT) & TO LOCATE DIVISION, TAIL TRAIL, SPOON, ETC.

## VISITOR'S REGISTER

LONG RANGE PLANNING

SUBCOMMITTEE

AGENCY(S) \_\_\_\_\_

DATE JANUARY 21, 1987

DEPARTMENT \_\_\_\_\_

NAME	REPRESENTING	SUP- PORT	OP- POSE
<i>Tom Putton</i>	<i>MOBMA Proj 19</i>	<i>✓</i>	
<i>Gene Billmeyer</i>	<i>Big Flat water association Proj-19</i>	<i>X</i>	
<i>Art Matta</i>	<i>Big Flat water ass. Proj. 19</i>	<i>X</i>	
<i>Bill Christensen</i>	<i>HH's Betterment Water User</i>	<i>X</i>	
<i>Walter W. P. St.</i>	<i>" " " "</i>	<i>X</i>	
<i>Paul Hansen</i>	<i>" " " "</i>	<i>X</i>	
<i>Eddie A. Magera</i>	<i>Eastern Landers Coors Dist</i>	<i>X</i>	
<i>Martha (Hug Blank)</i>	<i>High Country Rore Helena</i>	<i>X</i>	
<i>Barbara Marrett</i>	<i>HKM Associates</i>	<i>X</i>	
<i>GERHARD M. KNUDSEN</i>	<i>DNRC - HELENA</i>	<i>X</i>	
<i>Dick Juntunen</i>	<i>State lands 16, 17 + 20</i>	<i>X</i>	
<i>George McGallum</i>	<i>Sanders County</i>	<i>X</i>	
<i>David J. J. J.</i>	<i>Blaine Co</i>	<i>X</i>	
<i>Bill Pasco</i>	<i>Metro Plant Butte MT</i>	<i>X</i>	
<i>Allen Bond</i>	<i>Yellowstone Conservat. <sup>18, 22</sup> <sub>24</sub></i>	<i>X</i>	
<i>JOHN B. DARLING</i>	<i>Yellowstone County Planning</i>	<i>X</i>	
<i>Shirley Anderson</i>	<i>St. Regis Comm. Fair <sup>Min.</sup> Co.</i>	<i>X</i>	
<i>REP HOLLIDAY</i>	<i># 28</i>	<i>X</i>	
<i>Keith Nelson</i>	<i># 28</i>	<i>X</i>	
<i>Walter Wilkins</i>	<i># 28</i>	<i>X</i>	

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 \_\_\_\_\_

DEPARTMENT \_\_\_\_\_

NAME	REPRESENTING	SUP- PORT	OP- POSE
Rep. Barry Dineen	HQ 52 St. Regis Route N.Y.C.	✓	
Carl R. Stensrud	L.M.C.D. Roundup/Helstone ALT	✓	

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