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 22, 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 36:A:000

Grant #5 Hill County Lower Beaver Creek Dam:

A.R. Toni Hagener, Hill County Commissioner, said $70,000 was recommended to fund an engineering study.

Chairman Thoft asked how old the dam is. Ms. Hagener said the dam is 13 years old.

Rep. Bardanouve asked if the county could contribute 25% of the funding. Ms. Hagener said the bond is not paid off so it will be difficult for the county to come up with monies.

Orin Ferris said they are having problems with the spillway capacity. (095)

Sen. Aklestad asked what jurisdiction the Army Corp. of Engineers hase over states. Mr. Ferris said the Army COE has no jurisdiction.

Rep. Bardanouve asked how many people are downstream from the dam. Ms. Hagener said there are 20 residences, a golf course, railroad and a highway. (238)

Grant #34 Nilan Water Users Association: (370)

Rep. John Cobb said he is in favor of the project.

Grant #37 Toole County Conservation District:

Tom Patton, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology submitted two fact sheets to the Subcommittee (Exhibits #1, #2).

Grant #41 Hayes Water Users Company: (493)

James Muscgrove said he is in favor of the project.

(36:B:000)

Grant #45 MBMG - Investigation of Arsenic: (240)

Marvin Miller, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, said there is a source of arsenic in Yellowstone National Park.

Chairman Thoft asked if the residents have continued drinking the water. Mr. Miller said yes they have continued drinking the water. (300)

Grant #60 MSU Agriculture Experiment Station: (444)

Art Linton, Agricultural Department, MSU, said they are currently producing 100 tons of hay a year.

George Ochenski, Montana Environmental Information Center, said he recommends that a contingency be attached that states the project be monitored by MSU. (540)

(37:A:000)

Grant #61 High Country Rose, Inc.:

Harry Black submitted a fact sheet to the subcommittee (Exhibit #3).

Mr. Black said they will be using hot springs outside of Helena for heat in greenhouses, not for irrigation.

Mr. Black said this grant will not make any difference in this project. He said they are financially backed by an Israeli corporation.

Sen. Walker asked Mr. Black if High Country Rose is going to be applying for a loan. Mr. Black said yes. (192)

Grant #55 MBMG - Hydrologic Controls on Selenium:

Caralee Cheney, DNRC, said this project should have 16 public benefits instead of 10.

Mr. Miller said alfalfa is an accumulator of selenium and other toxic chemicals, even though it controls salinity.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business the Long Range Planning Subcommittee adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Bob Thoft
Chairman Rep. Bob Thoft

law

DAILY ROLL CALL

LONG RANGE PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE Janaury 22 , 1987

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Rep., Thoft, Chairman	✓		
Sen., Van Valkenburg, Vice-Chairman	✓		
Rep., Bardanouve	✓		
Rep., Donaldson			
Sen., Aklestad	✓		
Sen., McLane	✓		
Sen., Walker	✓		

Form CS-30A
Rev. 1985

EXHIBIT 1
DATE 1-22
HB

Cascade County Conservation District
1211 Bypass Northwest - Great Falls, MT 59404 - Phone: (406) 727-3603

January 20, 1987

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The Cascade County Conservation District is supportive of the Satellite Groundwater Data Network. With more and more interest and need for water, and yet, more concern for groundwater pollution and/or depletion, Montana should have an up-to-date program for current available needs.

A computer system as proposed to be studied by five counties in the State through this use of coal-tax funding on a pilot program would certainly be worth the time and funding. Our district showed interest in the program but due to other priorities at this time as well as shortage of funding, we felt we could not take it on--but, do look forward with interest in such a project in the future. We ask your consideration in funding of this pilot program.

Sincerely yours,

for Joy Fulton, Administrative Officer

Dale E. Marxer
Chairman

EXHIBIT 2
DATE 1/22/87
HB

FACT SHEET
SATELLITE GROUNDWATER DATA NETWORK
TOOLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PROBLEM: The Ground Water Information Center (GWIC) of the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology (MBMG) is the largest, most comprehensive source of groundwater data for Montana. It includes about 8000 water analyses, 80,000 water well logs, and water level monitoring data from key wells around the state. The database has grown in size in recent years, and is accessible to individual users by direct inquiry to its Butte center. This method is effective but relatively slow, costly in terms of manpower, and not broadly known to state residents. The need for groundwater information is often immediate; users include individual landowners, drillers, bankers, local groups and government agencies, and engineers. This data is required for well exploration; assessment of water level changes in agricultural areas; and determination of water quality. All this data is currently available in computerized form, but needs distribution to state residents who need this information but are unaware of its existence.

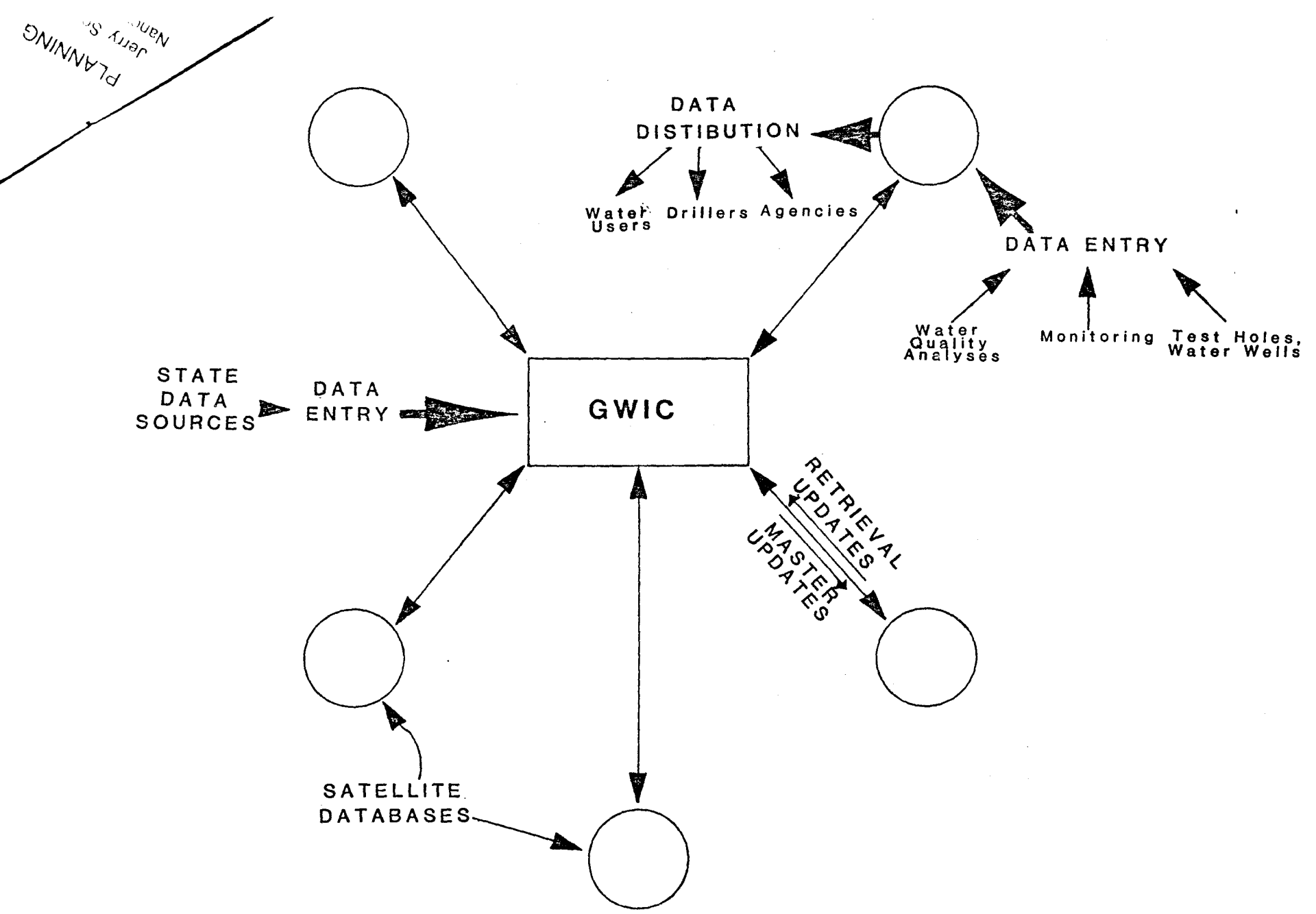
SOLUTION: The satellite network is an attempt to bring this database to the local level, for local use and distribution. A microcomputer version of the database and self-instructional, easy-to-use software for data searches and reporting will be developed to allow county sub-databases to be distributed to participating counties. Local agencies -- conservation districts, extension offices, county government offices -- will be used to maintain the local database on IBM-PC-compatible systems, publicize its availability, supervise its distribution, and assist in groundwater availability evaluations by private individuals. Specific problems encountered at the local level will be referred to the MBMG. This proposal is for a demonstration phase only, to involve 5 counties in development of this system. Once developed, the system can be extended to any interested counties in the state at low cost.

There will be no cost to either local users or to cooperating counties in implementing this system.

BENEFITS: The system is the most intelligent option to dissemination of this type of data throughout the state. It will overcome barriers of distance and poor communication. It will allow for interaction and cooperation between local and state groups, a positive step. It will use existing in-place resources -- computers and manpower -- at the local level, making this a system that can be implemented without the large capital outlays. In a rural and far-flung state like Montana, we feel that this approach will reach and help far more people than a central service.

SUPPORT: Cooperating groups for this pilot phase include: Lake County (County Planning Office); Valley County (Extension Service); Sheridan County (Conservation District and Extension Service); Custer County (Conservation District); and Toole County (Conservation District). A number of other counties have expressed interest in participation, if the pilot project is successful. The MBMG will provide technical, software, and training support, as will as organizing the exchange of data updates with GWIC and the input of new data from the counties to GWIC. Toole County will act as coordinator for the project; however, the project is statewide in scope.

FUNDS REQUESTED: State DNRC:$78,190. MBMG:$37,210. Total: $115,400.



DATA ENTRY AND DISTRIBUTION
SATELLITE NETWORK
GROUND WATER INFORMATION CENTER

LAKE COUNTY
LAND SERVICES DEPARTMENT
POLSON, MONTANA
59860

PLANNING
Jerry Sorensen
Nancy Thormahlen

ADMINISTRATOR
Paddy R Trusler

SANITATION
Al Hawkaluk
Tom Dodd

TELEPHONE 406-883-6211

May 15, 1990

Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation
Water Development Bureau
Metcalf Building
1520 E. 6th St.
Helena, Mt. 59620

Re: Water Development and Renewable Resources Development Grant Programs

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter as support for the grant application for the project entitled 'Satellite Groundwater Data Network'. If the project is approved, Lake County has agreed to cooperate as one of the demonstration counties, provided that our time and resources are available once the project begins. The lead agency which will participate in the project is the Lake County Land Services Department. I have discussed the project with the District Conservationist for the Lake County Conservation District, and he has expressed support for the project.

Lake County is a rural county with a population of approximately 20,000 people. During the last decade, it had the fourth highest rate of growth compared to the other 55 counties in the state; most of this growth occured in rural areas. When subdivisions are proposed in rural areas, a major concern that is raised is what impact the development may have on groundwater aquifers, both in respect to quantity and quality. Information to address this concern is diffuse and difficult to obtain. The proposed project to make this data available on the local level would be very useful. Additionally, the entire Flathead Basin is moving towards better water management on a regional basis, which is stimulated by recognized problems with water quality in the river system and Flathead Lake. Groundwater is an integral part of the system, and easily accessible data will help efforts for better water management.

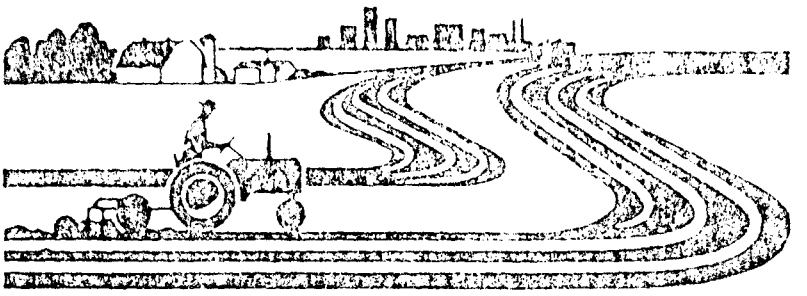
In summary, Lake County supports the grant application and the Lake County Land Services Department is willing to participate as a demonstration agency. Please attach this letter to the grant application entitled 'Satellite Groundwater Data Network'.

Sincerely,

Jerry Sorensen
Planning Director

JS/pt
cc: Joseph J. Donovan, Mt. Bureau of Mines and Geology
J.R. Sears, Lake County Conservation District

SHERIDAN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Phone 765-1801 or 765-2252

558 First Ave. West Plentywood, Montana 59254

May 13, 1986

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

Gentlemen:

This is to indicate our intention to support the Water Development Proposal entitled "Satellite Groundwater Data Network", from the Toole County Conservation District. We would like to participate in the project as a demonstration county if it is funded, with the help of the Sheridan County Extension Agent. The county agent has the required computer hardware for our participation.

We feel this project is very important to the Sheridan County residents, who need this information on groundwater availability and quality. It will also help us gain access to results of our soon-to-be-completed groundwater study.

Sincerely,

SHERIDAN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Ellis Hagen, Chairman

SCCD:tw

Cooperative Extension Service

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY, BOZEMAN, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND MONTANA COUNTIES COOPERATING

REPLY TO:
COURTHOUSE
SHERIDAN COUNTY
PLENTYWOOD, MONTANA 59254
TEL. 765-[illegible] EXT. 311

May 9, 1986

Montana Bueau of Mines & Geology
3021 6th Ave. N. Rm 111
Billings, MT 59101

Dear Sir:

Sheridan County has recently been notified of the possibility of becoming involved in a Satellite Groundwater Data Network program with the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology. Working with the local Conservation District and Extension Service office, we would be interested in becoming a demonstration county for this program.

Through the local Extension Service office, we have access to an IBM PC, which is currently being used for office management, agricultural programs and demonstration purposes. The local Conservation District has been involved in the Northeast Montana Groundwater Study and Water Reservation, and this has accomulated groundwater data for this area. In addition to office use, the local IBM PC could be utilized to generate groundwater data upon request, and serve as a database for present and future groundwater data for this area.

Please keep us informed on the progress of this Satellite Groundwater Data Network program.

Sincerely,

Terry Angvick
Sheridan County Extension Agent

TA:bp

one (406) 232-2439

Custer County Conservation District

2513 Main Street
MILES CITY, MONTANA 59301

May 9, 1986

Water Development Bureau
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
1520 East Sixth Avenue
Helena, Montana 59620

Gentlemen:

We would like to express our support for the project "Satellite Groundwater Data Network." We feel the objectives of this project are in the interest of the people in Custer and surrounding counties who are looking for groundwater. Local drillers also need this information, and are currently not aware of its' existance. We feel that distribution from the local level is the most effective way to make this data available. We would be happy to serve as a cooperating demonstration area for this project, on behalf of the residents of Custer County, within the limitations of our available resources at the time the project is done. Please contact this office at 232-2439 if you need further information.

Sincerely,

Bill Jones

Bill Jones, Chairman

BJ/yw

EXHIBIT 3
DATE 1/22/87
HB

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Process and Products

HIGH COUNTRY ROSE, INC., is building a two-acre greenhouse where high-quality roses will be grown. Twenty-five management and labor personnel will be employed full time. Later, it is intended that hydroponics and aquaculture products will be introduced and sold from the complex which will be located at the Broadwater Hot Springs off Montana Highway 12, two miles west of Helena.

In order to reduce operating costs, hot water from a geothermal well will be used to heat the greenhouse. The geothermal system is being designed to achieve an [illegible] percent reduction in heating costs which translates into a [illegible] percent reduction in overall operating costs.

Israeli technology is playing a major role in the project. For example, a lease has been negotiated with DANCOOR, INC., to supply material for construction. Additionally, the process will include a drip system developed by Dr. Meier Schwarz, head of Research and Development in the Department of Plant Physiology at the Jerusalem College of Technology. Dr. Schwarz will act as an on-site consultant during the first year of production at HIGH COUNTRY ROSE.

During a visit to Montana, Dr. Schwarz observed the need for a training center and an experimental demonstration unit in the United States. Here soilless culture, environmental control and controlled plant growth would be studied and taught on the university level.

Advanced Israeli agricultural techniques and procedures in food production, plant growth control, controlled nutrition and environment, and biotechnological growth and control would be the heart of these studies in conjunction with basic principal life science studies and applied computer and electronic sciences. Dr. Schwarz suggested that an innovative curriculum involving HIGH COUNTRY ROSE and a university be introduced in Montana.

The project's objectives are:

1. to raise roses for commercial sale in and out of the state;

2. to introduce products and markets related to these technologies;

3. to develop products and markets related to these technologies;

4. to raise clean products for (a) the fresh-fish market using aquaculture techniques, and (b) the produce market market using hydroponics techniques;

5. to use low-cost energy sources to reduce operating costs;

6. to work in conjunction with universities to use the pilot facilities as educational tools in aquaculture and advanced agriculture techniques; and

7. to use sources of public funding available for innovative projects using Israeli technologies.

Mr. Damon F. Schlenske, President of HIGH COUNTRY ROSE, has performed more than three years of research and development. In the process, an impressive array of experts has either joined or reviewed the project. Moreover, HIGH COUNTRY ROSE was used as a model for investigating the feasibility of similar alternative energy projects in New England. The Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University performed the study.

Commercial/Market Feasibility

The cut flower industry nationwide is quite large, with approximately 350-to-400 million square feet under glass. Thirty-eight percent of that total is found in the West, where average farm sizes are nearly twice the national average and annual climates are mild.

Since 1975, cut flower production has enjoyed a steady growth of from seven to ten percent annually. Average wholesale prices for long-stemmed roses range from $.80 to $1.00 each. The wholesale price of miniature or sweetheart roses flucuates slightly less.

Rose retailers in Montana find it virtually impossible to obtain high-quality roses year-round. Problems with quality control and consistent prices constantly crop up in shipments from the suppliers in California, Oregon, Utah and Colorado.

HIGH COUNTRY ROSE's marketing strategy is divided into two phases. First, Mr. John Hall of JOHN HALL FLOWERS of Anaconda, Montana, has contracted to sell to in-state retailers. Mr. Hall has been a rose wholesaler in Montana for a decade. His campaign will emphasize a year-round supply of high-quality Grown-in-Montana roses at consistent prices. Second, a secondary market has been established in the Columbus-Cleveland, Ohio, markets. Mr. Hall's parents, who have 50 years of rose-wholesaling experience in Ohio, have agreed to handle these sales.

Summary

HIGH COUNTRY ROSE represents a unique blend of international expertise, mixing the age-old process of growing roses with advanced agricultural techniques, using a largely untapped geothermal source to reduce energy costs, and in the process filling a significant market need that has existed for years, that being: a high-quality, reasonably priced and beautiful rose in Montana.

VISITOR'S REGISTER

LONG RANGE PLANNING ____ SUBCOMMITTEE

AGENCY(S) _____ DATE JANUARY 22, 1987

DEPARTMENT _____

NAME	REPRESENTING	SUP-PORT	OP-POSE
A.R. Hagener	Hill County		
ORDIN FERRIS	" " (HKM Assoc.		
Art Linton	Mt. State Univ. Ag + Range Sci.		
Tom Patton	Mont Beaver & Marten #37	X	
Ted Ducime	MBMG	X	
Debi Brammer	MACD		
Wayne F. Jensen	Town of Browning		
BOB TERVAI'S	" "		
GEO. OCHENSKI	MEIC.		

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

FORM CS-33A
Rev. 1985