

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
MONTANA STATE SENATE

January 7, 1987

The first meeting of the Senate Natural Resources Committee was called to order at 1:00 p.m., January 7, 1987, by Chairman Thomas Keating in Room 405, State Capitol, for organizational purposes.

ROLL CALL: Members present were Senators Weeding, Anderson, Stimatz, Tveit, Lynch, Severson, and Walker. Sen. Halligan was excused; and Sens. Gage, Hofman, and Yellowtail were absent.

Gail Kuntz, researcher, was introduced.

Debra Schmitz, Environmental Quality Council, was introduced and she explained that Environmental Quality Council had been organized since 1971 to provide non-partisan research and information that senators can use in making a decision on natural resource issues. She and Gail are located in Room 432.

Senator Keating announced that there have been many inquiries already and there will be a heavy flow of measures of all sorts, although they are not necessarily controversial--some are technical and "house keeping." However, Natural Resources Committee does have a work load.

COFFEE FOR MEETING: It was decided that each member of the committee would contribute \$3 for the coffee fund, and the money was collected from those present.

ORDER OF BUSINESS: Sen. Keating explained the order of business at hearings--roll call, bill consideration, proponents, opponents, questions/discussion, closing and adjournment. Executive sessions will be held at different times for disposition of the bills. He will schedule single controversial bills on one day and several non-controversial bills on another day. He asked that the committee members notify him ahead of time if they get any feedback on a particular bill and what kind of testimony committee can expect to receive. If there are any proposed amendments to the bill, senators were asked to contact Gail Kuntz, researcher (phone No. 5366) beforehand to help with drafting and review. Sen. Keating said this would avoid some confusion and head off problems.

TIE VOTE: Sen. Lynch mentioned "5-5" status or "tie vote" doesn't mean the bill dies. It remains in committee. Sen. Keating confirmed, and said that anyone could request on Order of Business No. 6 to take the bill from the table out of committee to second reading. There are no adverse committee reports on a tie vote. A bill does not die on a tie vote in committee.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Senator Severson asked how one is to vote if he is someplace else. After some discussion, it was decided that an excused member will be permitted to cast his vote on any measure that is moved in executive session beforehand, on day of meeting, or the day after unless they are down to a critical point. Absent members may want to be on record. Sen. Keating mentioned that usually if someone is absent, he is in another committee meeting; therefore, all agreed that voting will be limited to that day or beforehand on critical issues. Under extreme circumstances; i.e., death in family, etc., if member is unavoidably called away and vote is on critical issue, member may vote via telephone.

QUORUM: In a committee of 12, seven members constitute a quorum. Sen. Keating stated that if a committee is one member short, committee can send out for one of the leaders to fill in. Some of the members are bill carriers and will be gone from time to time.

MEETING STARTING TIME: Out of courtesy to the public and presenters, meeting will open promptly at 1:00 p.m.

Sen. Keating called for a minute of silence for prayer for Sen. Halligan and his family. Meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

  
Thomas F. Keating, Chairman