

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 52nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON FISH & GAME

Call to Order: By Bob Williams, on January 10, 1991, at 1:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Bob Williams, Chairman (D)
Don Bianchi, Vice Chairman (D)
John Jr. Anderson (R)
Eve Franklin (D)
Lorents Grosfield (R)
Greg Jergeson (D)
Dick Pinsoneault (D)
David Rye (R)
Bernie Swift (R)

Members Excused: Senator Svrcek

Staff Present: excused

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Announcements/Discussion: Roll call was taken with absentee members noted.

Chairman Williams stressed that Senators should refer to each other as Senator Bianchi or Senator Anderson during Executive Committee meetings especially when visitors are present.

Senators previously on the Senate Fish and Game Committee are Senators Svrcek, Anderson, Jergeson. Senator Bianchi was an employee of Fish, Wildlife and Parks for 29 years.

Chairman Williams stated that if anyone has anything to contribute to the way this Committee operates during the hearing, would be appreciated as the people attending these hearings were a different type from those attending any of the other Senate hearings.

Chairman Williams stated that it will not be necessary to have a second on any motion.

A comment was made regarding proxy voting. Senator Swift commented that in previous meetings, to keep everything on an

SENATE FISH & GAME COMMITTEE

January 10, 1991

Page 2 of 4

even keel, if a person is going to be absent, addressing a straight-forward Bill with a few amendments, leave a proxy vote with the Secretary and then if the Bill is amended, within 48 hours take the action whether the member gets back to Committee or not. This will offer the member a chance to change his/her mind based on the new information included in the new amendment. It was agreed that when a member had to be absent they would leave their proxy with the Vice Chairman on a hard copy of what the Senator wanted the Vice Chairman to vote on a particular bill. This would be further verification that the vote had been done correctly if a question would ever arise. McNess is preparing the proper proxy forms.

Senator Bianchi made the motion to allow a person to leave a proxy vote with the Vice Chairman. In the event of amendments to the Bill after you had voted, you would have until the next Executive Session to cast a different vote. All members agreed with this policy.

Senator Pinsoneault suggested that if a member has a personal interest in a particular Bill to abstain from voting. Chairman Williams suggested declaring the member's personal interest although it was the choice of the member to advise the Committee exactly what that might be. All members agreed.

Chairman Williams advised that because of time limitations the Fish and Game Committee would start at 1 P.M. if a quorum was present regardless if all members were in attendance.

Senator Bianchi will present a Bill Thursday, January 17 and discussion was made if Room 402 would be large enough to accommodate the expected visitors. Senator Mazurek will put out a memorandum on the use of Room 325 outlining the requirements to request use of this room because of it's popularity. He will monitor all requests that come through.

Chairman Williams mentioned how much it was appreciated that the Committee had been invited to tour the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Building and become acquainted with the staff that the members would be working with. Jim Elliott, House Fish and Game Chairman, Director Cool and Chairman Williams will meet once a week and try to keep the line of communications open.

Chairman Williams stated that if a Bill is heard, there would be 20 minutes for presenting of the Bill by the sponsor, 20 minutes for the opponents' arguments, 15 minutes for questions and 5 minutes for the sponsor to close on. Very strict rules are needed during the hearing of a Bill because of past experience.

Chairman Williams suggested that when a Committee Member is presenting his bill that the Member remain standing rather than returning to his seat at the table as to ride herd on the people supporting the Bill, rather than nodding to so-and-so to speak.

SENATE FISH & GAME COMMITTEE

January 10, 1991

Page 3 of 4

If you have a Bill and would like to get it to F&G and it is going to another Committee, Mazurek assigns them and if there is a little forewarning, visit with him a little bit as he is very flexible and reasonable and will assign to F&G if he can.

Senator Jergeson stated that close to transmittal when there are hundreds of Bills before Senator Pinsoneault's Judiciary Committee and they can't possibly get through them, the President may assign Bills to other Committees whose workload is not as heavy.

Director Cool has advised Senator Bianchi that FWP has 17 Bills and the majority are starting on the House Side. Director Cool has a Fee Increase Bill that Senator Svrcek is sponsoring which is basically the FWP. Two Bills are starting in the House that are drafted on Buffalo--one is to do away with the hunt by Rep. Rainey and Rep. Menahan to reduce the license fee from \$200.00 per buffalo to \$200.00 for a bull, \$100.00 for a cow and \$50.00 for a calf. The Bills are drafted but this may change their getting to the floor because of the recent law suit.

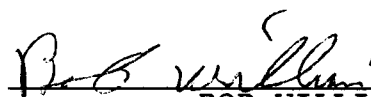
Senator Pinsoneault commented that he lives 1/2 mile from the Bison Range which is completely fenced but they have been herd thinning by rounding them up like cattle, driving them to a holding area, auctioning them off which makes a substantial amount of income for the Park Service. The round-up is controlled by the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service. Senator Pinsoneault stated that there are three Bills he is sponsoring in the Senate, however he is holding off until he sees what the judgment will be on the recent court case.

Senator Rye expressed his appreciation on receiving a letter from Chairman Williams welcoming everyone to the Committee.

Visitors were Stan Bradshaw, lobbyist for Montana Trout Unlimited. Also Robert VanderVere, an unpaid citizen lobbyist, who has attended F&G meetings for over 17 years.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment At: 1:41 P.M.



BOB WILLIAMS, Chairman

SENATE FISH & GAME COMMITTEE

January 10, 1991

Page 4 of 4



JULIA LEVENS, Secretary

BW/JL