

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
55th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE ON LONG-RANGE PLANNING

**Call to Order:** By VICE CHAIRMAN THOMAS BECK, on January 15, 1997, at 8:00 a.m., in Room 317 of the State Capitol.

ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Rep. Ernest Bergsagel, Chairman (R)  
Sen. Thomas A. "Tom" Beck, Vice-Chairman (R)  
Sen. John "J.D." Lynch (D)  
Rep. Matt McCann (D)  
Rep. Tom Zook (R)

**Members Excused:** CHAIRMAN BERGSAGEL excused for first 45 mins. of meeting

**Members Absent:** none

**Staff Present:** Nan LeFebvre, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)  
Debbie Rostocki, Committee Secretary

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: **HOUSE BILL 11** - Treasure State Endowment Program  
Executive Action: none

HEARING ON HOUSE BILL 11, CONT. FROM 1/14

Ms. Nan LeFebvre, LFD, provided the committee with a new Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) hearing schedule **EXHIBIT 1** as well as a hearing schedule for the Renewable Resource Grant and Loan (RRGL) program applications. **EXHIBIT 2** She explained that the hearings on those projects that had applied for both TSEP and RRGL funds would only be heard once, under the TSEP hearings.  
{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 0.2-1.9}

TSEP Project No. 8 - City of Glasgow

Mr. Jim Edgcomb, Department of Commerce (DOC), TSEP Program, reviewed the project and recommendations.

{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 2.1-4.2}

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Mr. Willie Zeller, Mayor of Glasgow, rose in support of the project; Mr. Carlo Porteen, City of Glasgow, discussed the funding package the city had put together.

{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 4.3-6.7}

Mr. John Bengochea, Public Works Director, City of Glasgow, described what the proposal entailed. Mr. John Juras, Project Engineer, also spoke. Questions were asked.

{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 6.8-13.2}

TSEP Project No. 6 - Town of Twin Bridges

Ms. Judy Broadwater, DOC TSEP Program, reviewed the project recommendations.

{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 13.3-14.5}

Ms. Betty Sykes, Twin Bridges Mayor, rose in support of the project and turned the testimony over to Mr. Sam Novich, Maintenance Supervisor, Town of Twin Bridges, who reviewed the history of the town's infrastructure issues. Questions were asked.

{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 14.6-22.8}

TSEP Project No. 17 - City of Chinook

Ms. Broadwater reviewed the project and recommendations.

{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 22.9-24.4}

Mr. Bill Oehmcke, Mayor of Chinook, spoke.

{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 24.5-27.8}

Mr. Vince Chappell, Head Operator of the Chinook Water Plant, described the current problems which the project would address.

{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 27.9-end of side a}

Mr. Dick King, Bear Paw Development Corp. Director, spoke up in support of the project. He clarified that the City had applied for a loan, not a grant, from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC). Questions were asked.

{Tape: 1; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 0.0-2.8}

TSEP Project No. 27  
Highwood - Choteau County

Mr. Edgcomb gave a short overview of the project.

{Tape: 1; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 2.9-5.6}

Mr. Dick King, Bear Paw Development, pointed out that the RRGL program had recommended a \$100,000 grant and they are moving along with the project. Questions were asked.

{Tape: 1; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 5.7-15.9}

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**Mr. Joe Ferda**, President of the Water and Sewer Board in Highwood, discussed the situation. Questions were asked.  
{Tape: 1; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 16.0-22.3}

TSEP Project No. 16 - Missoula/Neighborhood

Ms. Broadwater reviewed the project and recommendations.  
{Tape: 1; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 22.4-25.0}

**Mr. Bruce Bender**, Missoula Public Works Director, reviewed the city's involvement in funding the project. Questions were asked.  
{Tape: 1; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 25.1-Tape 2:a:2.2}

TSEP Project No. 1 - Town of Cascade

Ms. Broadwater reviewed the project.  
{Tape: 2; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 2.3-4.4}

**Mr. Gordon Booth**, Mayor of Cascade, spoke of the need for financial aid and said the community supported the project. Questions were asked. In response to REP. MCCANN, Mr. Booth said the town had been fined more than \$9,000 for wastewater which had escaped from the lagoons. Regarding the well, he said the town is filing suit against the ex-mayor and Delta Engineering.  
{Tape: 2; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 4.5-10.2}

TSEP Project No.16 - Missoula/Neighborhood - additional testimony

REP. CAROLYN SQUIRES, HD 68, rose in support of the project.  
{Tape: 2; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 10.3-13.9}

TSEP Project No. 1 - Town of Cascade, Continued

Ms. Julie Birkenbuel, Cascade Town Council, spoke up in support of the project. EXHIBIT 3  
{Tape: 2; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 14.0-16.8}

Ms. Lori Carey, President of the Cascade Town Council, added that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had placed the town under mandate: the initial potential penalty against the town was \$13.6 million, but had been negotiated down to about \$9,000.  
{Tape: 2; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 16.9-18.2}

TSEP Project No. 22 - City of Choteau

Ms. Broadwater reviewed the project. Questions were asked.  
{Tape: 2; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 18.3-21.3}

REP. SAM ROSE, HD 87, rose in support of the project.

{Tape: 2; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 21.4-23.3}

**Mr. Roger Kelly**, Choteau Mayor, spoke up in support of the proposal and outlined the city's involvement. City Council President **Mr. Denny Perry**, stressed the city's fiscal responsibility. Questions were asked.

{Tape: 2; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 23.4-end of side a}

**Mr. Jim Christiaens**, Choteau City Clerk and Superintendent, clarified that the project was a \$400,000 project; he reviewed the work done thus far. Questions were asked.

{Tape: 2; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 0.0-2.5}

TSEP Project No. 21 - Town of Neihart

**Mr. Robb McCracken**, DOC TSEP Program, reviewed the project and recommendations.

{Tape: 2; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 2.6-5.0}

**Mr. Bob Reynolds**, Neihart Town Council member, reviewed the changes that had occurred since the time of the grant application. The treatment plant went on line in October 1996 and soon thereafter it was determined that the distribution system demand was more than the plant's capacity. A letter was submitted which addressed the town's debt capacity. **EXHIBIT 4** Questions were asked.

{Tape: 2; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 5.1-10.5}

**REP. GAY ANN MASOLO**, HD 40, rose in support of the request. She added that **SEN. MIKE FOSTER**, SD 20, was also in favor of the project.

{Tape: 2; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 10.6-11.9}

TSEP Project No. 11  
Hill County/Box Elder Water District

**Ms. Broadwater** reviewed the project.

{Tape: 2; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 12.0-13.4}

**Mr. Howard Huntsinger**, Hill County/Box Elder Sewer Board, rose in support of the project and submitted a copy of a supporting letter from the Hill County Commissioners. **EXHIBIT 5** **Mr. Nolan Menard** asked for the committee's support. Questions were asked.

{Tape: 2; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 13.5-16.7}

**Mr. Lewis Dielman**, another Sewer Board member, discussed the problems the district faced. **Mr. Dick King**, Bear Paw Development, spoke up in support of the work the community had done to address their problems.

{Tape: 2; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 16.8-19.2}

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Mr. Scott Anderson, Neil Consultants, spoke about the design of the proposed system and funding details. Questions were asked.  
{Tape: 2; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 19.3-24.7}

TSEP Project No. 37 - City of Great Falls

Mr. McCracken reviewed the project and recommendations.  
{Tape: 2; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 24.8-27.3}

Mr. Dave Dobbs, Great Falls City Engineer, described the area the project was located in. Questions were asked.  
{Tape: 2; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 27.4-Tape 3:a:1.5}

TSEP Project No. 29 - Jefferson County

Mr. Edgcomb reviewed the project and recommendations.  
{Tape: 3; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 1.6-2.2}

Ms. Glenna Obie, Jefferson County Commission Chairman, spoke in support of the proposal. She stressed that the improvements would reduce the risk to the public: on Dec. 29, 1995 Mr. Bill Patrick, a Solid Waste District employee, was pinned in the waste container and froze to death. She stated she disapproved of DOC's ranking analysis that states the system's deficiencies were not considered to be a problem and stressed the need for funding, in order to prevent any future accidents. Questions were asked.  
Ms. Sherrel Siegmund, Manager of the Jefferson County Solid Waste District, provided additional information.

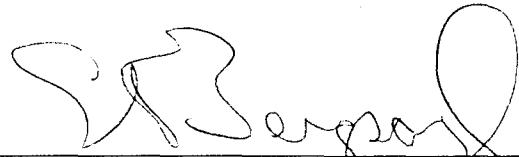
{Tape: 3; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 2.3-14.9}

Mr. Edgcomb passed out some statistics regarding income status and target rate calculation. EXHIBITS 6, 7 and 8

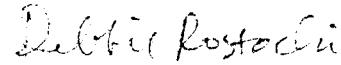
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ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 12:00 noon.



Rep. Ernest Bergsagel, Chairman



Debbie Rostocki, Secretary

EB/DR

This meeting was recorded on three sixty-minute tapes.