

## MINUTES

### MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 55th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE ON LONG-RANGE PLANNING

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN ERNEST BERGSAGEL**, on January 21, 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:** none

**Members Absent:** none

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

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: **HB'S 6 & 8** - continued from  
1/2220/97

Executive Action: none

#### HEARING ON HOUSE BILLS 6 AND 8 - CONT. FROM 1/20/97

**Ms. Nan LeFebvre**, LFD, distributed copies of the hearing schedule. **EXHIBIT 1**

#### RRGL Project No. 6 MT Natural Resource Info System (NRIS) Montana Climate Information Center

**Mr. Michael Downey**, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), gave short introduction of the project. Questions were asked about prior funding.  
{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 1.6-3.4}

**Mr. Jim Stimson**, MT NRIS, and author of the grant, spoke. **EXHIBITS 2,3,4** and **5** Questions were asked.  
{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 4.2-16.3}

**Ms. Jo Brunner**, a long-time participant in state water planning including being a member of the Governor's Drought Advisory

Council, spoke in support of the important role of the program in agriculture.

*{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 16.8-19.6}*

Discussion took place regarding the possible future involvement of the Western Regional Climate Center in Reno, NV and other entities, in the program.

*{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 19.7-24.0}*

RRGL Project No. 36

Lewis & Clark County Flood Mitigation Plan

Mr. Michael Downey, DNRC, reviewed the project and recommendations. Questions were asked.

*{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 24.4-26.3}*

RRGL Project No. 28

Fort Shaw Irrigation District

Irrigation Efficiency and Water Quality

Mr. Downey reviewed the project and DNRC's recommendations.

*{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 26.6-28.0}*

REP. JOHN ROSE, HD 87, rose in support of the Fort Shaw and Greenfields Irrigation Districts' work.

*{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 28.1-29.7}*

Mr. Riley Denning, President of the Ft. Shaw Irrigation District, spoke in support of the project and gave a short slide presentation.

*{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 29.8-Tape 1:b:7.2}*

Questions were asked and discussion took place about the project and its affordability as well as alternative ways of addressing the District's problems. Mr. Denning reviewed the funds and equipment the District had on hand.

Mr. Todd Klick, Board of Directors, Ft. Shaw Irrigation Dist., spoke on behalf of the project.

*{Tape: 1; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 18.2-19.9}*

Mr. Alan Rollo, contractor with the conservation districts to work on the Sun River, stated the project dovetailed with the overall Sun River watershed management.

*{Tape: 1; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 20.2-20.4}*

Mr. Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association, rose in support of the project, as did Mr. Scott Boelman, Greenfields Irrigation District Manager.

*{Tape: 1; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 20.5-20.9}*

RRGL Project No. 34  
Lewis & Clark County Water Quality Protection  
Lower Tenmile Resource Assessment

Mr. Michael Downey gave a short introduction. Questions were asked.

{Tape: 1; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 22.0-23.9}

Ms. Vivian Drake, Manager of the Lewis & Clark Water Quality Protection District, spoke in support of the project and gave a short slide presentation illustrating some of the problems the project would address. She clarified that if the project was funded, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) would provide \$83,000 in federal matching monies, not the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) match as listed in the project summary.

{Tape: 1; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 25.0-31.4}

Ms. Eloise Kendy, United States Geological Survey (USGS) Hydrologist, spoke in support of the project.

{Tape: 1; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 31.5-Tape 2:a:7.1}

Mr. Jim Elliott, Lewis and Clark Conservation District Board and Lewis and Clark County Water Quality Board member, spoke in support of the project. Questions were asked.

{Tape: 2; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 7.2-12.4}

Ms. Drake discussed the problems associated with the project to mitigate pollution from the abandoned mines in the upper Tenmile Creek drainage. The funding of the Water Quality District was discussed.

{Tape: 2; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 12.5-18.9}

RRGL Project No. 22  
Pondera County Conservation Dist.  
Lake Frances Shoreline Rehabilitation Project

Mr. Downey reviewed the project and recommendations.

{Tape: 2; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 20.6-21.7}

Mr. Charles Van Gordon, Valier Area Development Corporation Secretary-Treasurer, discussed the project. EXHIBIT 6

{Tape: 2; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 21.8-26.0}

RRGL Project No. 9  
Greenfields Irrigation Dist.  
"J" Lake Reregulation Reservoir

Mr. Downey gave a short introduction.

{Tape: 2; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 26.5-27.8}

Mr. Scott Boelman, Manager of the Greenfields Irrigation District, gave a slide presentation and explained the proposal.

{Tape: 2; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 28.0-Tape 2:b:4.7}

Mr. Alan Rollo, contracted to work on Sun River Watershed and Muddy Creek, spoke in support of the project.

{Tape: 2; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 6.7-7.0}

Mr. Riley Denning, Ft. Shaw Irrigation District, rose in support of the project as did Mr. Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association and Ms. Jo Brunner, landowner and farmer on the Greenfields Irrigation Dist.

{Tape: 2; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 7.1-8.6}

RRGL Project No. 13

MT Bureau of Mines & Geology

Groundwater Protection and Education for Rural Schools

Mr. Downey, gave a short introduction.

{Tape: 2; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 9.0-10.6}

Ms. Jeanette Abda, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, reviewed the program EXHIBIT 7 and gave a slide presentation. Questions were asked regarding finding other funding sources for this ongoing project.

{Tape: 2; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 12.4-Tape 3:a:0.6}

RRGL Project No. 40

MT DNRC, Forestry Division, Fire & Aviation Mgmt. Bureau

Western Montana Fire Hazard Assessment GIS Project

Mr. Downey reviewed the proposal.

{Tape: 3; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 1.1-2.4}

RRGL Project No. 15

Gallatin County Local Water Quality District

Groundwater Evaluation and Monitoring Project

Mr. Downey reviewed the project.

{Tape: 3; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 2.8-4.2}

Mr. Dave Pludeman, Director of Environmental Health, Gallatin County, described the project and the support it had received from the community.

{Tape: 3; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 4.3-10.4}

Ms. Eloise Kendy, USGS, spoke about the groundwork the water quality district needed to do to become operational and what had taken place to date. Questions were asked; Ms. Kendry discussed the Groundwater Assessment Program at Montana Tech and its relationship with this project. Mr. John Tubbs, DNRC, spoke.

{Tape: 3; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 10.5-25.6}

RRGL Project No. 14  
Lake County Land Services  
Evaluation of Level II Treatment for Individual Septics

Mr. Bob Fischer, DNRC, reviewed the project and recommendations.  
{Tape: 3; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 26.0-27.6}

Mr. Paddy Trusler, Administrator, Lake County Land Services,  
spoke, contrasting the costs of various septic systems. EXHIBIT  
8

{Tape: 3; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 27.8-32.2}

Ms. Becky Dupuis, Lake Co. Land Services, reviewed what the  
project proposed to do. Questions were asked. Mr. Trusler said  
it was his understanding that DEQ supported the project. Mr.  
Tubbs said DEQ reviewed the proposal. Mr. Trusler suggested that  
the study would show sand filter systems to be just as effective  
as the mound system, which costs three to five times as much.  
{Tape: 3; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 0.0-14.4}

RRGL Project No. 32  
Park County Hydrological Reconnaissance of Paradise Valley

Mr. Downey reviewed the project.  
{Tape: 3; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 14.9-16.0}

RRGL Project No. 20  
Roosevelt County Conservation District  
Ft. Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Off-Reservation Water Project

Mr. Downey gave a short introduction.  
{Tape: 3; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 16.6-18.6}

Mr. Miles Knudsen, Roosevelt Co. Conservation Dist., rose in  
support of the project. EXHIBIT 9  
{Tape: 3; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 18.9-21.0}

Mr. Tom Watson, consulting engineer for the Ft. Peck Tribes,  
reviewed what the total \$114 million project proposed to do.  
{Tape: 3; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 21.1-24.8}

Questions were asked regarding the cost to the users and the  
possibility of the Fort Peck Water Users joining the project.  
Mr. Watson discussed the financing of the project and compared  
the project costs to those of similar projects in other areas.  
{Tape: 3; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 24.9-Tape 4:a:8.0}

RRGL Project No. 19  
Glasgow Irrigation District  
Vandalia Diversion Dam - Rehabilitation Plan Study

Mr. Downey reviewed the project and recommendations.  
{Tape: 4; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 8.0-9.6}

Mr. Melvin Novak, President of Glasgow Irrigation Dist., rose in support of the proposal EXHIBITS 10 and 11. Questions were asked regarding the costs to the users and the extent of the problems with the dam and the equipment available to repair the dam.  
{Tape: 4; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 9.7-21.1}

Mr. Allan Steiner, Glasgow Irrigation Dist., gave a video presentation illustrating the problems with the dam.  
{Tape: 4; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 21.2-28.8}

Mr. Mike Murphy, MT Water Resources Assoc., rose in support of the project.  
{Tape: 4; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 28.9-30.3}

RRGL Project No. 47  
Fort Peck Rural County Water District

Mr. Fischer reviewed the project, which had been heard during the Treasure State Endowment Program hearings.  
{Tape: 4; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 30.4-31.9}

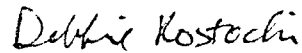
Written testimony from DNRC on behalf of the Governor's Drought Advisory Committee was distributed. EXHIBIT 12

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 12:00 noon

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ernest Bergsagel', written over a horizontal line.

REP. ERNEST BERGSAGEL, Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Debbie Rostocki', written over a horizontal line.

DEBBIE ROSTOCKI, Secretary

EB/DR

This meeting was recorded on four sixty-minute audiocassette tapes.