

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
55th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE ON LONG-RANGE PLANNING

Call to Order: By CHAIRMAN ERNEST BERGSAGEL, on January 22,
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
Debbie Rostocki, Committee Secretary

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: HOUSE BILLS 6 and 8 -
Renewable Resource Grant and
Loan Program
Executive Action: none

HEARING ON HOUSE BILLS 6 AND 8 - CONT. FROM 1/21/97
RENEWABLE RESOURCE GRANT AND LOAN (RRGL) PROGRAM

RRGL Project No. 5 - East Missoula Sewer District

Mr. Bob Fischer, Department of Natural Resources and
Conservation, reviewed the project and recommendations.
{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 0.0-4.0}

Mr. Jack Ballas, Chairman of the East Missoula Sewer District,
rose in support of the project; questions were asked.
{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 4.4-5.1}

Mr. Scott Anderson, representing the engineering firm that had
contracted with the District, spoke; questions were asked.
{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 7.2-13.5}

RRGL Project No. 10 - City of Valier

Mr. Fischer reviewed the project. Mr. Jim Edgcomb, Department of Commerce (DOC), Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP), reviewed the TSEP application.

{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 13.6-16.0}

Mr. Harry Kovatch, Mayor of Valier, rose in support of the project. Mr. Scott Anderson stated his firm was also engineering this project and spoke in support of funding it. Questions were asked.

{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 16.1-20.2}

RRGL Project No. 7 - City of Fort Benton
Water Distribution Improvements & Meter Installation

Mr. Fischer and Mr. Edgcomb reviewed the project and funding.

{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 21.8-24.5}

Mr. Roger Axtman, Mayor of Fort Benton, spoke in support of the project; questions were asked. Mr. Tim Farwick, Fort Benton Utilities Director, testified in support of the proposal.

{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 24.6-30.3}

RRGL Project No. 41 - Town of Chester

Mr. Fischer and Mr. Edgcomb reviewed the project and recommendations.

{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 30.4-32.8}

RRGL Project No. 49 - Town of Culbertson

Mr. Fischer reviewed the project and reported that it had not been recommended for RRGL funding due to its prematurity; Mr. Edgcomb reviewed the TSEP application. Questions were asked.

{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 34.0-35.6}

RRGL Project No. 39
Fort Benton Irrigation & Community Forestry Rehabilitation

Mr. Michael Downey, DNRC, reviewed the project and recommendations.

{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 38.3-39.5}

Mr. Roger Axtman, Mayor of Fort Benton, spoke in support of the project.

{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 39.6-end of side a}

Mr. George Humphrey spoke in support of the project and the commitment of the local citizenry on behalf of Mr. Skip Ross, Planning consultant for the project. EXHIBITS 1, 2 and 3
{Tape: 1; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 0.0-5.7}

Mr. Bob Nelson spoke on behalf of Mr. Bill Wideman regarding the fire suppression aspect of the project. Mr. Humphrey made additional comments; questions were asked. Mr. John Tubbs, DNRC, reviewed the project's eligibility.
{Tape: 1; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 5.8-18.8}

RRGL Project No. 43 - Town of Ekalaka

Mr. Fischer reviewed the project and recommendations and explained that the TSEP funding the town had applied for was for a separate project. Mr. Robb McCracken, Department of Commerce, discussed the TSEP application. Written testimony from Ekalaka was presented. EXHIBIT 4
{Tape: 1; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 18.9-24.1}

RRGL Project No. 51 - County of Richland

Mr. Downey reviewed the project, which had not been recommended for funding. Questions were asked. Mr. Edgcomb discussed the TSEP application, which had also not been recommended for funding.
{Tape: 1; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 24.2-29.3}

City of Whitehall - request for increase in loan authorization

Mr. Fischer discussed the City of Whitehall's request to increase their loan authorization from \$400,000 to \$509,000 on their water system improvement project.
{Tape: 1; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 29.4-31.6}

RRGL Project No. 44 - City of Roundup

Mr. Fischer reviewed the project and stated no funding was recommended due to the fact that permitting limits had not been thoroughly addressed.
{Tape: 1; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 31.7-33.9}

Mr. Gary Thomas, Director of Public Works for the City of Roundup, rose in support of the project, stating there was a possibility the city will turn the existing lagoon over to the Highway Department. Questions were asked.
{Tape: 1; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 34.0-38.9}

REP. ROBERT C. CLARK, HD 96, asked to go on record as being in support of the project.

{Tape: 1; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 39.0-end of side b}

Excess Appropriations - HB's 5, 6 and 7

Mr. Tubbs reviewed the projects in HOUSE BILLS 5 and 6 which had excess RRGL State Special Revenue Account appropriations.

{Tape: 2; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 0.0-10.5}

Mr. Tubbs reviewed the projects in HOUSE BILL 7 which had excess Reclamation and Development grant appropriations. EXHIBIT 5

Questions were asked and discussion took place regarding accounting issues. Mr. Tubbs agreed to draw up amendments for the committee to consider.

{Tape: 2; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 10.6-24.5}

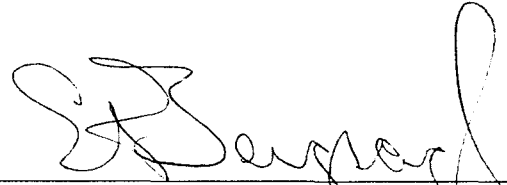
RRGL Project No. 42 - City of Thompson Falls #1

Mr. Fischer and Mr. McCracken reviewed the project.

{Tape: 2; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 24.6-30.4}

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:40 a.m.



REP. ERNEST BERGSAGEL, Chairman



DEBBIE ROSTOCKI, Secretary

EB/DR

This meeting was recorded on two ninety-minute audiocassette tapes.