

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 55th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE ON LONG-RANGE PLANNING

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN ERNEST BERGSAGEL**, on January 28, 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: Department of Administration -
Information Services Division
- Information Technology
presentation
HOUSE BILL 7 - Reclamation and
Development Grants Program
Executive Action: none

Department of Administration
Information Services Division (ISD)
Information Technology (IT) Presentation - Cont. from 1/27/97

Mr. Tony Herbert, Department of Administration ISD Administrator, continued the IT presentation begun on 1/27/97 **EXHIBIT 1**, reviewing the impact of new programming technologies on state government. Questions were asked.
{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 0.0-17.1}

Mr. Herbert discussed the Internet and its potential for the delivery of government services over time. Questions were asked.
{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 17.2-33.8}

Mr. Herbert discussed the role of SummitNet; questions were asked regarding its relationship with the Internet and other networks in the region. Cross-era support issues were discussed.
{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 33.9-end of side a}

HEARING ON HOUSE BILL 7
Reclamation and Development Grants Program (RDGP)

A hearing agenda EXHIBIT 2, a listing of the ranking and funding recommendations for RDGP grant applications EXHIBIT 3 and a memo from the LFD EXHIBIT 4 were distributed by Ms. LeFebvre.

Board of Oil and Gas - Top ranking
Balco Disposal Facility

Mr. Tom Richmond, Board of Oil and Gas Conservation, gave an overview of the Board's business.
{Tape: 1; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 0.0-2.7}

Mr. Jon Hjartarson, Board of Oil and Gas Chief Field Inspector, reviewed the project. Mr. Richmond discussed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) involvement at the site. Mr. Hjartarson reviewed the operations at the facility prior to its closure and discussed sludge recycling.
{Tape: 1; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 2.8-15.4}

Mr. John Tubbs, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) and Mr. Richmond answered questions regarding budgeting. Mr. Hjartarson discussed the expenditure of grant funds and the progress of current projects. Questions were asked.
{Tape: 1; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 15.5-26.3}

Discussion took place regarding the project south of Cut Bank, MT.
{Tape: 1; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 26.4-32.8}

Mr. Richmond requested that the committee revise the statutes to allow the Board to expend excess monies from a site in any part of the state rather than only in the area of the site. Discussion took place regarding the timing of the budget cycle and how it meshed with the expenditure of appropriations. Ms. Jane Hamman, Governor's Office of Budget and Program Planning, commented.
{Tape: 1; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 32.9-end of side b}

RDGP Project No. 8 - Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation
"A," "B" & "C" Orphaned Well Plug, Abandonment, Site Restoration

Mr. Hjartarson reviewed the well plugging projects listed in Application "A" and stated that most of them were high priority.
{Tape: 2; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 0.0-11.2}

Mr. Hjartarson reviewed the projects in grant "B" and discussed the pros and cons of plugging wells vs. retaining their integrity.

{Tape: 2; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 11.3-21.8}

Mr. Hjartarson reviewed the projects in grant "C."

{Tape: 2; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 21.9-28.4}

Questions were asked. Mr. Tubbs and Ms. Denise Mills, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), discussed the funding for the Board of Oil and Gas Conservation and explained how DNRC had revised the Board's funding. Discussion took place.

{Tape: 2; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 28.5-38.0}

RDGP Project No. 10 - North Toole County Reclamation Project

Ms. Karen Boumans, representing the Toole County Commissioners, rose in support of the project and distributed written testimony.

EXHIBIT 5 Questions were asked.

{Tape: 2; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 38.1-41.1}

REP. GARY FELAND, HD 88, rose in support of the project.

Questions were asked. Mr. Lowell Hanson, Toole County, rose in support of the project.

{Tape: 2; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 41.2-43.7}

RDGP Project No. 16

Yellowstone Conservation District

Watershed Planning Using Geospatial Information Systems (GIS)

Ms. Marieanne Hanser, Yellowstone Conservation District Board Supervisor, spoke in support of the project.

{Tape: 2; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 0.0-5.6}

REP. BOB CLARK, HD 8 and REP. JOAN HURDLE, HD 13, rose in support of the project.

{Tape: 2; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 5.8-6.6}

Mr. Mike Matthew, Yellowstone County Commissioner, spoke in support of the project and the GIS.

SEN. AL BISHOP, SD 9, voiced support for the Conservation District.

{Tape: 2; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 6.7-8.4}

Ms. LaVerne Ivie, Yellowstone Conservation District Administrator, discussed the necessity of tracking the locations of refinery pipelines which cross the Yellowstone River. She read a letter in support of the grant from REP. ROBERT STORY, HD 24. EXHIBIT 6

{Tape: 2; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 8.5-11.3}

Ms. Gayla Wertman Hall, Lewis and Clark Conservation District, rose in support of the proposal.

{Tape: 2; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 11.6-12.7}

Mr. Monty L. Sealey, Coordinator for the Central Montana RC & D, rose in support of the GIS approach and suggested that the project be ranked higher.

{Tape: 2; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 13.0-17.4}

A letter in support of the project from REP. KIM GILLAN, HD 11, was submitted. EXHIBIT 7

RDGP Project No. 7

Butte-Silver Bow Superfund Technical Assistance

Mr. John Sessel, Planning Director for Butte-Silver Bow, discussed the role of the Upper Clark Fork Basin local governments' technical specialist as their liaison with the EPA.

{Tape: 2; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 18.7-22.2}

Mr. Jack Lynch, Butte-Silver Bow Chief Executive, rose in support of Projects No. 7, 15 and the Butte-Silver Bow Mine Subsidence Project.

Mr. Cameron Beul, the above-mentioned Technical Specialist, reviewed his work.

{Tape: 2; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 22.3-28.8}

Ms. Mills, DEQ, rose in support of the participation of the local governments in the EPA project design process.

{Tape: 2; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 28.9-30.2}

Ms. Mary Ellen, representing Granite County on behalf of Mr. Mike Kahoe, rose in support of the project. EXHIBIT 8

{Tape: 2; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 30.3-30.9}

Discussion took place regarding funding responsibility for the project.

{Tape: 2; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 31.0-35.8}

RDGP Project No. 15 - Butte-Silver Bow Travona Mineyard

Mr. Sessel gave a short introduction.

{Tape: 2; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 35.9-37.9}

Mr. Mark Reavis reviewed the project. Mr. Sessel discussed the historic park development concept.

{Tape: 2; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 38.0-Tape 3:a:4.8}

REP. DAN HARRINGTON, HD 38, testified on behalf of the project.

Ms. Sara Weinstock, EPA, spoke in support of the project.

Mr. Sessel discussed other sources of funding and related efforts.

{Tape: 3; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 4.9-7.7}

RDGP Project - unranked
Butte-Silver Bow Mine Subsidence Project

Mr. Sessel reviewed the proposal and outlined Butte-Silver Bow's policy regarding safety issues and liability.

{Tape: 3; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 7.8-14.1}

Mr. Lynch spoke of Butte-Silver Bow's safety concerns and the urgent need for funding.

{Tape: 3; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 14.2-18.2}

SEN. J. D. LYNCH, SD 19, spoke in support of the project as well as RDGP projects No. 7 and 15, stressing the safety concerns.

{Tape: 3; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 18.3-20.3}

REP. DAN HARRINGTON rose in support of the project. Ms. Weinstock testified as to EPA jurisdiction regarding subsidence holes on superfund sites and stressed the safety hazard.

{Tape: 3; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 20.4-23.0}

Mr. Bernard Harrington, Mayor of Walkerville, spoke in support of funding.

{Tape: 3; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 23.1-23.9}

RDGP Project No. 14 - Town of Walkerville
Development of Reclaimed Properties

Walkerville Mayor Harrington rose in support of the proposal; see written testimony EXHIBIT 9; Mr. Lynch spoke in support of the project as well as REP. DAN HARRINGTON and Ms. Weinstock.

{Tape: 3; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 24.0-28.9}

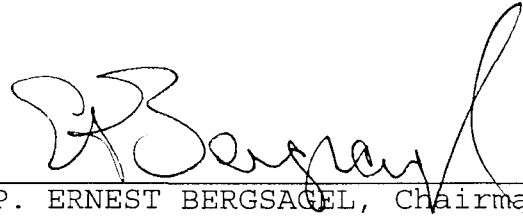
RDGP Butte-Silver Bow Mine Subsidence Project
Questions and Discussion

Mr. Tubbs discussed the participation of the federal Office of Surface Mining in the project. CHAIRMAN BERGSAGEL and SEN. LYNCH requested that Mr. Lynch provide further information, including a breakdown of the holes and their locations. Mr. Tubbs explained why the project hadn't been recommended for funding. In response to REP. ZOOK, Mr. Lynch stated he believed this grant to be the most critical of the Butte-Silver Bow applications. Discussion took place regarding responsible parties and liability.

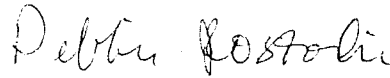
{Tape: 3; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 29.0-44.5}

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 12:15 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ernest Bergsagel", written over a horizontal line.

REP. ERNEST BERGSAGEL, Chairman

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Debbie Rostocki", written over a horizontal line.

DEBBIE ROSTOCKI, Secretary

EB/DR

This meeting was recorded on three 90-minute audiocassette tapes.