

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
55th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

JOINT SUBCOMMITTEES ON LONG-RANGE PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: By Long Range Planning Subcommittee **CHAIRMAN ERNEST BERGSAGEL**, on February 10, 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)
Rep. Roger DeBruycker, Nat. Resources Subcomm. Chairman (R)
Sen. Thomas Keating, Vice-Chairman (R)
Rep. John Johnson (D)
Rep. Bill Wiseman (R)
Sen. Larry Baer (R)
Sen. Linda Nelson (D)

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 BILL 5**, cont. - Fish, Wildlife and Parks Long Range Building Programs
Executive Action: none

HEARING ON HB 5 - CONTINUED
DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS (FWP)
CAPITAL PROGRAM

Mr. Pat Graham, FWP Director, gave an overview of the FWP Capital Program, which includes eighteen projects totaling \$21.7 million. The total is \$3.5 million higher than anticipated due to the advent of whirling disease and the diversion of funds to the Future Fisheries Program. He reviewed the programs in the Fisheries Division. **EXHIBITS 1 and 2**
{Tape: 1; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 0.0-Tape 1:b:2.0}

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Mr. Graham gave an overview of the Wildlife Division programs; questions were asked.

{Tape: 1; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 2.1-15.8}

Mr. Graham reviewed the Parks Division programs; questions were asked. Mr. Arnold Olsen, Parks Division Administrator, reviewed the work being done at Bannack, MT.

{Tape: 1; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 15.9-40.8}

HEARING ON ULM PISHKUN STATE PARK PROJECT
Governor's Budget Book - p. 113

Mr. Graham reviewed the plans for this project, summarized in EXHIBITS 3 and 4. Questions were asked regarding projected ongoing maintenance costs.

{Tape: 1; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 40.9-Tape 2:a:3.6}

Mr. Olsen reviewed the operating budget for Ulm Pishkun EXHIBIT 5 and distributed a handout with visitation projections for the site. EXHIBIT 6 Questions were asked.

{Tape: 2; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 3.7-11.3}

Mr. Olsen reviewed sheets showing cost breakdowns for Phases I and II of the project. EXHIBITS 7 and 8 and a map showing land ownership in the area. EXHIBIT 9 Questions were asked about on-site security and road maintenance. Discussion took place about cost estimates and plans regarding road maintenance, security and the county's role in road maintenance. CHAIRMAN BERGSAGEL asked FWP to provide a more detailed cost breakdown for the \$2.25 million project.

{Tape: 2; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 11.4-30.6}

Mr. Mike Labriola, Executive Vice President of the Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce, rose in support of the Ulm Pishkun project. See written testimony. EXHIBIT 10 Questions were asked regarding the Chamber's plans to help with the project.

{Tape: 2; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 30.6-37.0}

Ms. Cindy Kittredge, Cascade County Historical Society, spoke in support of the project. Mr. Bud Solmonsson, representing the International Wild Foundation Eco Institute and Montana ECO Treks and Tours, rose in support of Ulm Pishkun as a good investment.

{Tape: 2; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 37.1-43.6}

Mr. Leonard Mountain Chief, Blackfeet Indian Tribe, spoke in support of the project.

{Tape: 2; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 43.7-Tape 2:b:0.3}

Mr. Bear Rider Al Reevis, Blackfeet and Piskan Tribal Council, U.N. International Human Rights Commission nominee and writer, spoke in support of the project and noted that the site was a spiritual place for the Blackfeet and will be used by all Indian Tribes to tell their history. He distributed a synopsis of a

movie he had written which could become part of the cultural center program. **EXHIBIT 11** Questions were asked.

{Tape: 2; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 0.3-9.7}

REP. WISEMAN rose in support of the state supporting the project.

SEN. BECK said that **SEN. STEVE DOHERTY, SD 24**, had asked to be put on record as supporting the project.

The role of local governments in the maintenance of new acquisitions and/or projects was debated. **Mr. Olsen** discussed FWP's strategies for increasing funding for operations and maintenance within the Parks budget and answered several questions concerning access and liability. **EXHIBIT 12** **Mr. Reavis** added that the Tribe would like the Ulm Pishkun name changed to Ulm Piskan, its true name.

{Tape: 2; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 9.8-21.6}

Mr. John Hollow, a local attorney and soccer and ski coach, spoke in support of State Parks and Recreation helping cities to fund facilities for children.

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 21.7-24.6}

HEARING ON MILES CITY HATCHERY REPAIRS PROJECT

Governor's Budget Book - p. 129

Mr. Pat Graham reviewed the project. He distributed copies of a memo from **Mr. Thurston Dotson**, FWP Fisheries Division. **EXHIBIT 13** **Mr. Dotson** and **Mr. Graham** answered general questions as well as questions regarding the proportion of funding for warmwater vs. cold water hatcheries.

{Tape: 2; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 25.9-37.0}

Mr. Ken Hoovestal, representing Walleyes Unlimited, spoke in support of the project.

{Tape: 2; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 37.2-38.9}

Mr. Roger Larsen, representing Walleyes Unlimited and the Bass Federation of Montana, testified in support of the hatchery work being completed within the biennium.

{Tape: 2; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 39.0-41.0}

Mr. Mike Sedlock, President of the Helena Chapter of Walleyes Unlimited, spoke in support of putting a high priority on the project; questions were asked. **Mr. Robert Twifid**, State President of Walleyes Unlimited, spoke of the bass shortage in Montana.

{Tape: 2; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 41.1-Tape 3:a:1.1}

Mr. Peter Funk, Trout Unlimited, rose in support of the Future Fisheries Improvement Program and retrofitting of the Lewistown and Giant Springs hatcheries for whirling disease.

{Tape: 3; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 1.2-4.6}

HEARING ON BLUEWATER HATCHERY RENOVATION, PHASE III
Governor's Budget Book - p. 109

Mr. Graham reviewed the project. Funding for this project was delayed to allow for funding the Future Fisheries Program. Several questions regarding current vs. future operating costs, productivity and disease prevention were addressed.

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 4.7-10.9}

HEARING ON FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
Governor's Budget Book - p. 126

Mr. Graham reviewed the program and presented a report. **EXHIBIT 14** He noted that the project was funded by the last Legislature at \$2.3 million, including \$500,000 for the Tongue River mitigation. In addition, some of the money was utilized for Whirling disease. Another twenty to thirty projects have been approved since the report was published; about \$500,000 will be available for the next round of projects on July 1, 1997. In addition to the \$1 million being requested, a transfer of \$200,000 (previously appropriated for the now inactive Big Spring Creek project) is being requested for this project. At least part of that money would be available for use in the East Fork Rock Creek Dam; an amendment to do this is being prepared. Questions were asked.

{Tape: 3; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 11.1-17.4}

HEARING ON SECURE WATER SUPPLY, GIANT SPRINGS TROUT HATCHERY
Governor's Budget Book - p. 106

Mr. Graham reviewed the project for the committee. In August 1996, whirling disease was discovered just fifty miles upstream of the hatchery and Governor Racicot authorized this project, redirecting funds previously approved by this committee for a fish lab (\$200,000) and for a water aeration project (\$750,000) to be used to fund it. Questions were asked.

{Tape: 3; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 17.5-22.1}

HEARING ON SECURE WATER SUPPLY, BIG SPRINGS TROUT HATCHERY
Governor's Budget Book - p. 116

Mr. Graham reviewed the project. Questions were asked; Mr. Dotson explained details of the pipeline portion of the project. Mr. Graham distributed a review of the state's fish hatchery system. **EXHIBIT 15**

{Tape: 3; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 22.2-29.0}

HEARING ON FISHING ACCESS SITE PROTECTION, STATEWIDE
Governor's Budget Book - p. 148

Mr. Graham distributed a layout of the proposals for the 1998/99 biennium **EXHIBIT 16** and a sheet showing what was done in the current biennium. **EXHIBIT 17** Questions were asked.

{Tape: 3; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 29.1-35.2}

HEARING ON FISHING ACCESS SITE ACQUISITION
Governor's Budget Book - p. 154

Mr. Graham reviewed the program. HB 512 (1995) reduced the Acquisition account and redirected funds into the Operations and Maintenance account; the amount being requested is less than it has been historically. Sites on the Ruby River and in NE MT are being considered for acquisition. In response to the wishes of the Legislature, FWP has been trying to negotiate maintenance agreements with the local governments at the time of acquisition.

HEARING ON FISHING ACCESS SITE MAINTENANCE, STATEWIDE
Governor's Budget Book - p. 161

Mr. Graham explained that the money that had been removed from the acquisition account had gone into this account. FY 98/99 plans were passed out EXHIBIT 18 as well as a summary of the current activities. EXHIBIT 19 Questions were asked.

{Tape: 3; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 35.3-42.1}

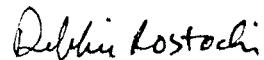
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ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 12:00 noon



Rep. Ernest Bergsagel, Chairman



Debbie Rostocki

Debbie Rostocki, Secretary

EB/DR

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