

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND USE

January 14, 1999 1:00 P.M. Hearing Room B, Tapes 1 - 3

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Veral Tarno, Chair

Sen. Tony Corcoran, Vice Chair

Sen. Gary George

Sen. Thomas Wilde

MEMBER EXCUSED:

Sen. Marilyn Shannon

STAFF PRESENT:

Ray Kelly, Administrator

Diana Bronson, Administrative Support

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:

Adoption of Committee Rules

Informational Hearing

Water Resources Department

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Oregon Water Resources Congress

Oregon Farm Bureau

Oregon Cattlemen's Association

Oregon Trout

Water for Life

Oregon Ground Water Association

Water Watch of Oregon

Oregon Environmental Council

Oregon Nurserymen's Association

League of Oregon Cities

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TAPE/# - Speaker - Comments

TAPE 1, A

010 Chair Tarno Convenes organizational meeting at 1: 10 P.M.

ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE RULES

016 Sen. Corcoran MOTION:Moves to ADOPT the proposed Committee Rules dated 12/29/98.
(EXHIBIT A)

VOTE: 3-0 EXCUSED: 2 -Shannon, Wilde

Chair Tarno Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.

018 Chair Tarno Closes organizational of meeting. Asks the senators to introduce themselves.

OPENS INFORMATIONAL MEETING

028 Sen. George Senate District 2. Introduces himself and states he is a life long farmer and rancher. States his district is very concerned about water issues and is between Newberg and Sherwood down to Florence and includes part of Polk County, most of Yamhill County, part of Tillamook County, all of

Lincoln County, and part of Lane County.

036 Sen. Corcoran Senate District 22. Introduces himself and states his district is predominantly timber land and farm land and he represents the rural parts of Lane County and about one-sixth of N. Douglas County. States that water is a crisis in this state.

053 Chair Tarno Senate District 24. Explains his district runs from the north city limits of Florence to the California border. States that his district also has water issues.

062 Ray Kelly Committee Administrator. Gives his office number as 334, and phone number as 986-1675.

070 Chair Tarno States Kelly is available to help out this session.

076 Mike Probst Polk County Commissioner. States he represents the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC). Reads from testimony and discusses the use and need for water in Oregon. Discusses policies for site banking for now and future uses.

101 Chair Tarno Asks for definition of site banking.

102 Probst States that site banking identifies sites for future reservoirs. Describes the need for site banking.

130 Chair Tarno Questions if there is an agenda coming up during this session.

132 Probst Replies that AOC has no bills and says the testimony read is the adopted position from AOC and they will be looking to support bills that will be addressing those policies.

145 Martha Pagel Director of Water Resources Department Presents (EXHIBIT B). Introduces Tom Byler, Legislative Coordinator. States she would like the committee to be aware of Geoff Huntington, Deputy Director. Says that Geoff, Tom, and she will be the key contacts. Describes details of EXHIBIT B).

315 Pagel Continues to discuss recommendations and bills to be addressed. (EXHIBIT B).

364 Chair Tarno Welcomes Senator Wilde.

365 Sen. Wilde Senate District 8. Introduces himself as Thomas Wilde representing Northeast Portland.

366 Pagel Witness continues.

401 Langdon Marsh Director of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Introduces Mike Llewellyn, Administrator of Board of Quality Division and Lauri Aunan, who is the legislative representative. Marsh presents (EXHIBIT C). Describes the responsibility of the DEQ including the drinking water issues and the Willamette River.

TAPE 2, A

037 Marsh States the water quality has improved considerably since 1938, with the State's Sanitary

Control and since the Clean Water Act in 1972. States that more than 90% of suspended support solids from soil erosion are basically from nonpoint sources.

068 Sen. Wilde Questions how that 90% figure was determined and if it is a naturally occurring situation.

076 Mike Llewellyn Water Quality Division Administrator responds.

095 Sen. George Questions the changes now being seen due to governmental decisions.

115 Llewellyn Agrees this is a big issue and discusses the need to determine the water quality standard as to what is natural and what is man-caused.

164 Llewellyn Continues discussion. States that joint studies done by DEQ and EPA have found that river sediments in the most industrialized portion of the river in Portland have been contaminated due to ship building, manufacturing, and other industrial activities.

192 Chair Tarno Asks how clean is the water in this state.

200 Dave Leland Drinking Water Program Manager. Presents (EXHIBIT D). States he worked on the steering committee on the Willamette Basin. Discusses contaminants in the river as low according to health standards. States they do not know the cause of fish deformities. Acknowledges that if the Willamette River is to be used for drinking water, newer and better systems will need to be used.

296 Sen. Corcoran Asks how he would respond to a statement that the Willamette Basin was reported to generally have typical, or better, water quality compared to other comparable areas in the country.

305 Leland States he thinks the statement is true and the water quality in the Northwest is very good.

319 Sen. Corcoran Requests a list of contaminants that the department does not have a predetermined plan for.

350 Sen. George Asks if there are standards to follow to know the water is safe.

355 Leland Replies that there are established standards and more coming.

372 Sen. Wilde States that chlorine is known to be very dangerous and carcinogenic for various cancers but we use it regularly in our water supplies. Asks for a definition of bromine as opposed to chlorine and if the toxic side effects are known. Asks why chlorine is used and not bromine.

388 Leland States that many chemicals can be used to kill bugs, chlorine is one of them, which is why chlorine is used in public drinking water. Explains that over the years chlorine has been the compound of choice because it has the least negative side effects.

424 Jan Lee Oregon Water Resources Congress (OWRC). Presents (EXHIBIT E). Agrees that there is a need to look at the resources in the Willamette River. States the OWRC represents water suppliers, (mostly irrigation districts), but also local governments.

TAPE 1, B

002 Lee Continues discussing Oregon Water Resources.

061 Pete Test Associate Director of Governmental Affairs, Oregon Farm Bureau Federation. States the Bureau supports anything that relates to agriculture and benefits agriculture.

114 Jean Underhill-Wilkinson Oregon Cattlemen's Association. Discusses issues the Association will be addressing this session.

160 Underhill-Wilkinson Continues to discuss issues.

214 Glen Stonebrink Oregon Cattlemen's Association. Discusses navigability and water resource issues they will be involved in this session.

250 Chair Tarno States sea lion control will be an issue for the Joint Salmon Task Force.

257 Jim Myron Oregon Trout. Presents (EXJ:HBIT F). States they have no legislative ideas dealing directly with water.

294 Sen George Asks what he thinks of the issues of the Cattlemen's Association.

301 Myron States the Cattlemen's Association was the primary proponent of Ballet Measure 66, the use of these funds was in favor of the purchase of land and conservation.

315 Todd Heigerkind Executive Director, Water for Life. States it is a non-profit, producerbased organization that seeks to represent agriculture and water issues, specializing in water.

330 Heigerkind Introduces Richard Kosesan, lobbyist for Water for Life. States they specialize in water and are a nonprofit organization. Continues with issues.

409 Jerry Schmidt Oregon Ground Water Association. Describes the Oregon Ground Water Association as the technical, well constructors and the consulting hydrogeologists.

TAPE 2, B

045 Schmidt Continues to discuss other committees involved. Discusses Oregon Association of Realtors' issues regarding drilling of wells.

078 Doug Myers Water Watch of Oregon. Introduces Reed Benson, Executive Director of Water Watch. Presents (EXHIBIT G).

088 Reed Benson States that water supply is a crisis all over the state and that they have other priorities, as in measuring water use and prospectively eliminating groundwater loopholes.

150 Benson Continues with issues to be addressed.

233 Hilary Abraham Oregon Environmental Council (OEC). Presents and reads (EXHIBIT H).

274 Abraham States that the OEC encourages pollution prevention and is proposing legislation to restructure the permit fees of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).

309 Scott Aschcom Oregon Nurserymen's Association. Discusses issues that pertain to water supply and storage.

375 Bob Ehmann City Councilor for Pendleton. Introduces Willie Tiffany. States their position and presents (EXHIBIT 1).

400 Willie Tiffany League of Oregon Cities. States he will be the League's contact on water issues.

424 Chair Tarno Closing comments and adjourns meeting at 2:58 P.M.

Submitted By,

Diana Bronson,

Admin. Support

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A - Senate Committee Rules, staff, 2 pp

B - Written testimony and pamphlets, Martha Pagel, 35 pp SB 299, 300, 301,

C - Written testimony - Langdon Marsh, 5 pp

D - Written testimony Dave Leland, 22 pp

E - Written testimony, Jan Lee, 5 pp

F - Written testimony Jim Myron, 1 p

G - Written testimony Doug Myers, 6 pp

H - Written testimony Hilary Abraham, 2 pp

I - Written testimony Bob Ehmann, 6 pp

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