

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARKS

May 5, 1997 Hearing Room E

1:00 P.M. Tapes 22 - 23

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. Mark Simmons, Chair

Rep. Michael Fahey, Vice-Chair

Rep. Mike Lehman

Rep. Leslie Lewis

Rep. Jim Welsh

STAFF PRESENT:

Pat Zwick, Policy Analyst

Marjorie Taylor, Administrative Support

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:

HB 3345 - Public Hearing and Work Session

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

Tape/#	Speaker	Comments
TAPE 22, A		
003	Chair Simmons	Calls the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m. and opens a work session on HB 3345.
<u>HB 3345 - WORK SESSION</u>		
005	Chair Simmons	Discusses amendments to HB 3345 (EXHIBIT A). Discusses amending -1 amendments into bill to begin working on bill. Not planning to move to full committee today.
021	Pat Zwick	Policy Analyst. Summarizes provisions of the -1 amendments.
083	Rep. Lehman	MOTION: Moves to ADOPT HB 3345-1 amendments dated 5/5/97 (EXHIBIT A).

084	Chair Simmons	Hearing no objection, the motion CARRIES.
089	Rep. Lehman	Asks if some sections are easier to discuss, and if there are controversial sections.
091	Chair Simmons	The funding package would be easy. Discusses closing the trip permit loophole and the possibility of using marine board funds for parks. More controversial will be parks siting and setting up a master plan process.
		Explains that new state parks have not been created since Land Conservation and Development Commission rules became standard procedure. States that a master plan has many opportunities for public involvement.
121	Chair Simmons	Closes the work session on HB 3345 and opens a public hearing on HB 3345.
<u>HB 3345 - PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
124	Chair Simmons	Asks Mr. Meinen to respond to questions submitted to him previously. (EXHIBIT B)
133	Bob Meinen	Director, Oregon State Parks and Recreation and Department (OPRD). Discusses questions centering on efficiencies in management, organization resources, reservation system, use of prison inmate labor, privatization, and park closure questions.
		Explains that the organizational structure was built on an older model of one manager to six employees. After reorganization the ratio is now 1 manager to 12 employees. OPRD has 669 positions; 427 are full time equivalencies. Discusses a lack of business efficiency and an outdated park infrastructure system. Discusses pushing for improvement in all areas.
192	Meinen	Discusses increasing revenues by increasing user fees, volunteer participation, and prison help. Discusses private and public contracts indicating that they work best as partnership-based, win-win opportunities.
		Discusses previously asked questions. Reservations are almost the same as last year.
		Indicates that prison labor provides a 30% percent savings by using behind-the-wall work and in some cases out-in-the-park work.
264	Meinen	The proposal put forward lays out what is needed for a strong parks system. States that the first priority is to restore park operations and program services; second, repair and rebuild; third, improve communication tools; fourth, leaving a legacy for future; fifth, improve recreational and natural resource programs; sixth, reduce or keep rates stable.
		Explains the development of an Internet home page.
TAPE 23, A		

005	Meinen	Indicates that the Internet site must conform with state standards. Discusses the Arizona homepage, which is great. OPRD does not have the in-house staff to do that type of work.
		Discusses the question of making reservations over the Internet, indicating that technical problems need to be resolved.
		Explains that the phone reservation system is an Oregon-based operation, but the state of Washington contracts their reservations through the system.
049	Chair Simmons	Asks what surcharge a regular contractor gets for a reservation.
051	Meinen	Oregon and Washington charge \$6 for reservations, but Washington pays an additional one dollar charge.
056	Nan Evans	Representative, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. Explains that as a contractor, OPRD simply provides hardware and operators for Washington.
067	Meinen	Explains that the goal is to cover costs and indicates that the system will be improved.
070	Rep. Fahey	Asks what percentage of reservations are no-shows.
078	Meinen	Discusses users' frustration with not being able to make site-specific reservations. Indicates that users can now make site-specific reservations.
		Discusses things that need improvement; software upgrades, a back-up reservation system, and more operators for 1-800 numbers.
122	Rep. Simmons	Asks what percentage of callers get through, and how long the wait is.
142	Meinen	Discusses deferred maintenance in the parks system. The life of many buildings is 20-30 years and many were built in the 50's and 60's. States that many sewer and water systems are not up to code.
		Explains that general fund monies go into operation of programs, master planning, and support administration. Discusses funds received from the emergency board in 1996 to keep parks open.
		Discusses federal government not reimbursing states for ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) expenditures.
		Discusses the privatization of Goose Lake State Park. Discusses operation of free areas.
221	Chair Simmons	Privatization opportunities are of interest to the committee. Asks when is the ending date on Oregon Public Employees Union contracts.
229	Meinen	They expire in June, state-wide.
235	Rep. Simmons	Asks for specifics of new hires and contractual obligations.
237	Meinen	Discusses who markets and promotes OPRD. Indicates that \$100,000 was spent for advertising. Discusses working with private enterprise to distribute advertising and charging fees for publications.

261	Chair Simmons	Asks if a program used to promote off-season use was successful.
263	Meinen	This is the third season.
		Discusses benefits to parks and businesses in the area. Discusses the parks budget.
TAPE 22, B		
005	Evans	Chart includes a number of government service charges
008	Chair Simmons	Asks for breakout of that.
009	Meinen	Discusses being fee-funded under Department of Administrative Services.
024	Rep. Lewis	Asks about salaries and benefits over the last 10 years.
032	Meinen	Information will be provided if it can be found.
042	Rep. Lewis	Asks for data back to 1990 for managers only.
053	Meinen	Explains that full time employees generally live in the community where they work. About one third of the seasonal core turn over on an annual basis. There are no dormitories or special living accommodations.
086	Rep. Simmons	Asks if there are overriding personnel policies to address these situations.
088	Meinen	Indicates that employee housing has not been an issue and that there are policies for employees living in park housing. Discusses having host sites in campgrounds.
114	Rep Simmons	Asks if OPRD has considered a personnel policy manual to address guidelines for managers dealing with seasonal employees.
118	Meinen	That is a possibility. Discusses standard criteria for closing parks.
		Explains that any closings would be looked at from the significance of the mission of state parks - how does the parks fit with the local area management, what is the cost-benefit ratio, are there statutory mandates for the park, are there resource protection issues, and are there possibilities for transferring operation to public entities.
187	Chair Simmons	Asks the source of surpluses in 1987-89. (EXHIBIT C)
188	Meinen	Fees were being raised at that time, and as they were being raised, OPRD was able to retain some cash flow. Also, 87-89 had the highest percentage of budget support from the general fund.
		Discusses the master planning process required by state statute. Discusses what resource evaluations include.
224	Chair Simmons	Asks Mr. Meinen to come back to respond to questions about naturalist programs; how many exist within state park system, how many parks use the programs, what funding is allocated for that program, and what evidence there is for the need.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Marjorie Taylor, Pat Zwick,

Administrative Support Policy Analyst

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A - HB 3345, -1 Amendments, Rep. Simmons, 30 pp.

B - HB 3345, Answers to Questions from Committees, Bob Meinen, 31 pp.

C - HB 3345, OPRD Ending Cash Balance Chart, 1 pg.