

Senate Committee on Water Policy
June 18, 1991 - Page

These minutes contain materials which paraphrase and/or summarize statements made during this session. Only text enclosed in quotation marks report a speaker's exact words. For complete contents of the proceedings, please refer to the tapes.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WATER POLICY

June 18, 1991Hearing Room 137
3:00 p.m. Tape 88

MEMBERS PRESENT:Sen. Larry Hill, Chair
Sen. Bob Kintigh
Sen. Dick Springer

MEMBER EXCUSED: Sen. Wayne Fawbush
Sen. Eugene Timms

STAFF PRESENT: Lisa Zavala, Committee Administrator
Bernadette Williams, Committee Assistant

MEASURES

CONSIDERED:Executive Reappointment:

Water Resources Commission, Michael D. Jewett

These minutes contain materials which paraphrase and/or summarize statements made during this session. Only text enclosed in quotation marks report a speaker's exact words. For complete contents of the proceedings, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE 88, SIDE A

002 CHAIR HILL: Calls the meeting to order 3:35 p.m.. Submits and summarizes the Executive Appointment of Michael D. Jewett to the Water Resources Commission. (EXHIBIT A)

Asks for a description of self, past participation in the Commission and how he sees his role on the Commission should his reappointment be confirmed.

009 MICHAEL D. JEWETT, WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION EXECUTIVE REAPPOINTEE:

Brief history of personal background. Has been on the Commission for 18 months. Potentially up for two more terms; this is the first full term upcoming.

Sees his role on the Commission as the swing vote; in the middle between

two camps. Has also
been the mediator between the two groups.

033 HILL: In looking towards the next term, what do you see as the
Commission's primary priority
needs and issues?

038 JEWETT: Instream water rights are important and have been taking up a
lot of time and
probably will continue to do so. The answer depends on what happens this
week in the House
and whether SB 1163 passes.

Part of our problem and our next big task is trying to find the resources
to enforce the water
laws. More than new policies, we need some implementation over the next
four years.

Would like to see the conservation policy get enforced more quickly than is
currently planned.
It is important to get that in place and working; this is a top personal
priority.

052 HILL: How would you describe the state of records and the problems of
adjudication of old
rights and the progress made there? My view is that the Legislative
Assembly hasn't adequately
funded WRD's activities, record keeping, updating rights and adjudicating
rights. Asks for an
opinion.

056 JEWETT: Completely agrees that more money is needed; that is the key.
We are understaffed
for what needs to be done.

061 HILL: Some people have suggested that part of the revenue necessary for
the management of
water, adjudication, record keeping and enforcement of the laws might be
obtained by some sort
of a fee or contribution by the user. Asks for observations on that kind
of a proposal.

066 JEWETT: Personally believes in pricing as a way to get allocation
decisions made. Politically
it comes back to the legislature. There is nothing wrong with user fees;
there are a lot of
externalities that need to be brought into the market system. In a decade
or so, would like to see
this on more of a market basis.

080 KINTIGH: Could user fees include a charge for boating down a river?

081 JEWETT: Yes, it could.

083 HILL: The recent proposed listing of the four Salmon species will cause
problems in Oregon.
We will be in a situation of having to respond and not being able to avoid
responding to proposed
listings; there will have to be a plan for mitigation of these problems in
an attempt to restore the

species. How do you see Commission contributing towards a response? What role would they play?

092 JEWETT: Hopes that the Commission could be a place where a lot of the acrimony would be diffused; doesn't want this to turn out like the spotted owl issue. The Commission is a place where different viewpoints should be aired.

Other aspects would have to be done legislatively. The Commission would try and lobby with the federal government and re-authorize some projects.

113 HILL: If part of the solution is to get more water into the streams, what kind of things could the Commission do or suggest be done that would help put more water into the streams?

119 JEWETT: Conservation would be important, if we could implement it. We must find out where waste is occurring and then do something about it.

120 HILL: What are the obstructions to implementing that conservation policy?

121 JEWETT: Money is one obstruction; having enough people on the ground to find out what practices are being used and how they can be improved.

There are also political obstructions, which are not palatable to a lot of people.

Conservation need not be coercive. Once it is in place and it starts working, people will realize there is an incentive for them to conserve.

132 HILL: What about stream restoration, replanting riparian zones and getting cattle away from streams, etc.? Do you see that as part of a comprehensive approach?

137 JEWETT: Yes, we have done a little bit of that to carve out some exceptions for stock watering. We should continue on with that; but that is again a matter of money.

142 HILL: Would the same observation go for the illegal uses going on; the uncertified, undocumented uses occurring?

145 JEWETT: There is a dispute about how much of that there is. Quantifying it is impossible, unless there are people on the ground doing so.

149 MOTION: SEN. SPRINGER moved to recommend to the full Senate the confirmation of the Governor's reappointment of Michael D. Jewett to the Water Resources Commission.

VOTE: In a roll call vote, the motion carried with all members present voting AYE. Senators

Fawbush and Timms were excused.

203 HILL: Adjourns the meeting at 3:50 p.m..

Submitted by: Reviewed by:

Bernadette Williams Lisa Zavala
Assistant Administrator

EXHIBIT LOG:

A - Executive Reappointment - Governor Roberts - 16 pages