

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.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER POLICY

January 15, 1991Hearing Room D 1:00 p.m.Tapes 1 - 3

MEMBERS PRESENT:REP. CHUCK NORRIS, CHAIR REP. BILL DWYER, VICE-CHAIR
REP. BILL MARKHAM REP. WALT SCHROEDER REP. LARRY SOWA

STAFF PRESENT: BETH PATRINO, COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATOR PAT ZWICK,
COMMITTEE ASSISTANT

MEASURES CONSIDERED: ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE RULES - ORG
OREGON WATER RESOURCES PRESENTATION - INF

WITNESSES:BILL YOUNG, WATER RESOURCES DEPT. BECKY KREAG, WATER RESOURCES
DEPT. JOHN BORDEN, WATER RESOURCES DEPT.

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TAPE 1, SIDE A

010 CHAIR NORRIS: Calls the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Asks members to introduce themselves and comment on their hopes for the Water Committee.

Asks staff to introduce themselves and give their background, and audience to introduce themselves.

036 CHAIR NORRIS: Gives the background of his district.

ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE RULES

115 MOTION: REP. DWYER: Moves adoption of committee rules as proposed (EXHIBIT A).

VOTE: There being no objection, motion passed on a roll call vote. All members are present.

WATER RESOURCES DEPT. PRESENTATION

140 BILL YOUNG, WRD: Introduces Becky Kreag, Deputy Director, Resource

Management Division of Water Resources Department which developed the Biennial Water Program.

141 BECKY KREAG: Submits and reads written testimony concerning the Biennial Water Management Program (EXHIBIT B).

Submits 1991-93 Biennial Water Management Program Summary (EXHIBIT C), A Guide to Water Management Agencies in Oregon (EXHIBIT D), and 1991-93 Biennial Water Management Program (EXHIBIT E).

200 BILL YOUNG: There is nothing of an immediate sense that is developing in the area of major interbasin transfer of water.

225 REP. DWYER Reminds committee that reapportionment will give California a tremendous Congressional influence and the threat should be considered seriously.

230 MS. KREAG: Continues review of (EXHIBIT B).

TAPE 2, SIDE A

020 CHAIR NORRIS: How much are we dependent on dollars to do the work we are talking about?

025 MS. KREAG: Explains how the information can be found in the exhibits provided.

042 REP. DWYER: Where will the agencies get the money for plan implementation?

046 MS. KREAG: Refers to information in exhibits.

047 REP. DWYER: Are specific funds identified?

050 MS. KREAG: No, only listed as "other funds".

052 REP. DWYER: Ask agencies to identify where "other funds" will come from.

056 MR. YOUNG: Agencies will be able to identify the sources.

All agencies who participated in this program would have reflected a budgetary health better than it is now because the program was put together prior to the passage of Measure 5.

070 REP. DWYER: We need to ask agencies which portions of this program are still reflected in their budgets.

085 MS. KREAG: The report indicates whether the funds already exist or whether new legislation would be required.

118 REP. MARKHAM: Would you like to see the number of agencies involved in water management reduced?

125 YOUNG: There is potential for amalgamation of activities, although some compelling arguments have prevented that from happening, including the confidence that Oregonians place in Boards and Commissions who are the policy makers after the legislation is passed. More important than the number is the way the activity is coordinated.

150 REP. MARKHAM: What can the legislature or WRD do to stop the California water grab?

155 YOUNG: Speaks of 1989 legislation and the possibility of a Columbia River Compact.

200 REP. MARKHAM: Will the final decision be made at the federal level?

205 YOUNG: If the Compact works like the one between Oregon and California on the Klamath River, it would be approved by Congress.

220 REP. NORRIS: Asks for clarification of current moratoriums.

220 YOUNG: Believes that federal law now says that federal agencies can study diversions of water from one state to another, but have to have the approval of all the governors of affected states.

260 CHAIR NORRIS: Calls for five minute recess at 1:48 p.m.

Reconvenes at 1:54 p.m.

WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES 89-91 BIENNIUM

265 YOUNG: Gives summary of activities of WRD.

Describes activities completed, activities in progress and on schedule, and activities not done as thoroughly or completely or quickly as desired.

Completed: Prepared a biennial work program Regionalized watermaster offices and put five water managers in each of the five regional offices at Salem, Grants Pass, Bend, Pendleton, Baker City.

321 REP. MARKHAM: Is there a watermaster in each county?

325 YOUNG: No. We have 17 watermasters, 5 regional managers, and some technical people in the field. Counties previously funded and provided assistant watermasters for WRD. With passage of Measure 5, we expect further reductions.

338 REP. MARKHAM: Who pays the salaries of 17 watermasters?

355 YOUNG: The state.

Continues listing completed activities: Computerization of backlog of water rights and streamflow measurements Commission adoption of six statewide policies having to do with water management in the state of Oregon. We anticipate a couple of additional policies in the 91-93 biennium Presented and received approval from LCDC for our land use coordination plan Near completion of rulemaking based on 1989 laws.

TAPE 1, SIDE B

YOUNG: WRD had substantial public response raising concern and expressing support at rulemaking hearings.

In progress issues: Making judgments on flow needs in designated state scenic waterway areas (Diack findings). It is included in our current budget and is not a position that we have earmarked, to date, as one that we must sacrifice for our budget reduction. Trying to develop a

capability to evaluate water availability in Oregon, working on basins where we have gauged information. Basin plan updates for the Sandy and Willamette Basins. Working on the backlog of water permit evaluation and judgment, in preparation for certificates. Expects the ability to work on the backlogs will be impacted by the budget impacts of Measure 5. Requiring pump/well tests from wells under permit to WRD.

210 REP. DWYER: When the legislature mandated well tests, the price to obtain the service increased.

215 CHAIR NORRIS: The Federal Safe Drinking Water Act creates an even bigger specter.

225 YOUNG: Continues with in-progress activities: Entering well log data into computers

280 JOHN BORDEN, WRD: Explains the technologies WRD is looking at for well data.

350 CHAIR NORRIS: Asks WRD to prepare a demonstration of data retrieval for a future committee meeting.

375 REP. DWYER: Asks for short and long-term goals as they relate to using best available technology to bring WRD in line with the availability that other departments have.

390 YOUNG: Will provide that.

Lists work delayed: Updating water right information and keeping current

485 REP. DWYER: How does Bend comply with water reporting requirements since they do not meter water to their customers?

TAPE 2, SIDE B

025 YOUNG: Bend makes measurements at the point of diversion.

060 REP. MARKHAM: What percentage of water use in the state is for human consumption versus agriculture and other uses?

066 YOUNG: 80% plus of diverted water is for agricultural purposes. Another fairly substantial block is for industrial and commercial activities. A relatively small fraction is for municipal water and industrial and commercial purposes within cities.

090 REP. DWYER: Why has there been so much opposition to reporting?

095 YOUNG: People are concerned that when that much is known about water usage, a fee associated with water use will follow.

120 YOUNG: Continues, listing projects in progress but behind schedule: Gathering information in serious water management areas Processing of out-of-stream water applications submitted to WRD Working with the Strategic Water Management group

260 REP. SCHROEDER: Have you received many seeps and springs registrations?

300 JOHN BORDEN, WRD: WRD has dealt with a total of three springs and seeps requests. Explains conclusions which have been reached by

applicants.

410 REP. DWYER: Wants committee book kept by staff.

435 BETH PATRINO, COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATOR: The Committee Office would like legislators' personal staff to maintain members' bill folders, using materials supplied by committee staff, and be responsible for getting the files to meetings and back to the legislator's office.

450 REP. DWYER: Does not want to use that system.

TAPE 3, SIDE A

040 CHAIR NORRIS: Is committee agreeable to starting committee meetings at 1:30 p.m. rather than 1:00 p.m.? Committee agreed.

055 CHAIR NORRIS: Adjourns meeting at 3:04 p.m.

Submitted by: Reviewed by:

Pat Zwick, Beth Patrino, Assistant Administrator

EXHIBIT LOG:

A - Proposed Committee Rules - Staff - 2 pages B - Testimony
on Biennial Water Management Program - Becky Kreag, WRD - 4 pages
C - "1991-93 Biennial Water Management Program Summary" and Insert
- WRD - 32 pages D - "A Guide to Water Management in Oregon" - WRD -
38 pages E - "1991-93 Biennial Water Management Program" - WRD - 139
pages