

SENATE COLUMBIA RIVER RESOURCE TASK FORCE

April 9, 1991 Port of Portland Board Room 2:00 p.m. Tapes
5 - 7 MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Joan Dukes, Chair Sen. Scott Duff,
Vice-Chair Sen. Dick Springer Sen. Eugene Timms Sen. Larry Hill VISITING
MEMBER: Rep. Dave McTeague

STAFF PRESENT: Ruth Larson, Committee Administrator Shannon Gossack,
Committee Assistant WITNESSES: Angus Duncan, Salmon Summit Mike
Thorne, Port of Portland Charles Burley, NW Forest Resource Council Tom
Winn, Oregon Wheat Commission Ray Guimary, GRATRON Don Goddard, Canby
Utility Board Whitney Olson, Brix Maritime Company Skip Hart, Tidewater
Mycelle Dean, Boatmans Union Rick Latham, Oil, Chemical & Atomic
Worker's Union Michael Rike, Columbia River Towboat Association

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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 5, SIDE A

010 CHAIR DUKES: Explains intent of task force.

020 RUTH LARSON, COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATOR: Submits testimony of Dave
Riley. (EXHIBIT A)

025 ANGUS DUNCAN, SALMON SUMMIT: Gives overviews of the Salmon Summit.
-Discusses some of the proposals made in regard to recovery. 1)
Upstream/downstream on the Snake River regarding Fall Chinook. 2) Water
availability. 3) Movement of fish. Senate Committee on Transportation
April 9, 1991 - Page 2

-Discusses flows and in river harvest in regard to 1991 package.
-Explains the importance of life cycle of the fish and habitat
rebuilding. -Discusses the hatchery issue. -The region needs to think
long term on this issue, and how we manage the Columbia River System.
-Reviews possible impacts on the state of Oregon. -Suggests where
financial help might come from. -Discusses the issue of bonding in
regard to additional authority.

310 SEN. TIMMS: Asks about ocean fishing.

315 DUNCAN: There aren't enough fish anywhere. -Discusses the meetings
that took place by the Pacific Coastal Fisheries Commission in regard to
ocean fishing. -Explains the habitat pattern of the Fall Chinook.

337 SEN. TIMMS: Do we have any control over the drift net?

340 DUNCAN: Yes, through the Congressional Delegation. -I am still
unclear on the level of effect that drift nets have on these particular
runs.

360 SEN. TIMMS: What is the situation with the tribal harvests?

361 DUNCAN: Discusses the in river harvest and how it is managed.

380 SEN. TIMMS: What group should be the one to solve this whole issue?

390 DUNCAN: Explains the Power Planning Council's statutory authority.

415 SEN. TIMMS: What do you envision as a draw down and what is the minimum operating level?

420 DUNCAN: The only draw down anyone has discussed is the John Day Pool to minimum operating level. I think the pool is operated at about 268, but has been operated in the 265 foot range. We are talking about drawing down to 257 ' in a dry year. It won't be this year and I don't think it will be next year.

450 SEN. DUFF: Discusses tracking the time frame of the fish in regard to the draw down issue.

451 DUNCAN: We have teams of experts on this issue and they still can not agree on the Fall Chinook issue. -Explains the Spring, Summer and Fall Chinook cycle.

510 SEN. DUFF: Are we looking for an optimum flow philosophy?

512 DUNCAN: We are looking for a reduction in travel time and a higher level of juvenile survival. Discusses the issue of velocity.

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521 SEN. DUFF: Asks about velocity needed during the specific time frame and how that is going to be achieved. I 527 DUNCAN: The water flow issues are very delicate negotiations. -Explains the proposals talked about in regard to the issue of water flow and velocity. | 1 -Reviews the possible scenarios in regard to draw downs. | 618 SEN. DUFF: It is hard for a business person to plan for this if they don't really know when it | is going to happen or how far the draw down might be. | 626 DUNCAN: Discusses concerns of the irrigators. | . 1 657 SEN. DUFF: What is the investment in the broodstock recovery program? !

660 DUNCAN: Explains broodstocks. Discusses Lyonsferry hatchery.

689 SEN. DUFF: Asks about costs in regard to habitat.

694 DUNCAN: We are probably talking about 1 million short term, and up into multiple of millions in the next five years.

TAPE 5, SIDE B

003 SEN. DUFF: What about the region responsibility issue? 005 DUNCAN: Discusses the region responsibility in regard to cost.

025 SEN. HILL: What about the Columbia River Compact?

030 DUNCAN: Expresses personal opinion on the Columbia River Compact.

056 SEN. HILL: In the Idaho recommendations one of their points is to obtain uncontracted, uncommitted storage space in reservoirs and use it to achieve the adequate flow issue. -Asks about the access issue in

regard to storage.

066 DUNCAN: It is one of the few potential win-win situations. Because that water is best used in the summer when that water can be sold at a premium. -Discusses Bonneville and their agreement with Southern California Ed. -Explains the issue of additional water in regard to storage in the upper Snake river. -Suggests that Oregon look at their water bank mechanism.

120 REP. MCTEAGUE: Refers to testimony submitted by staff regarding the draw down issue and Senator Hatfield's response to that issue. (EXHIBIT A)

131 DUNCAN: Explains Oregon's position on the issue of the draw down.

167 REP. MCTEAGUE: What drives the decision making process? ~'

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172 DUNCAN: Clarifies his personal view on what entity should proceed with this issue.

190 REP. MCTEAGUE: Do we need to do something that would formalize the group's authority so things start moving

209 DUNCAN: I think if the Governor felt there wasn't sufficient progress then the group would be dismantled. -Clarifies the objectives of the Salmon Summit.

Discussion on the Northwest Power Planning Council's ability to represent the entire region in regard to a fair recovery plan. 115 SEN. SPRINGER: Asks about advice as to applications for further withdrawal on the Columbia River.

125 DUNCAN: We need to look at all arrangements prior to the Salmon Summit to see if the water is being used appropriately. We don't want to single out one group of users.

157 SEN. HILL: Asks about money issues within written testimony, (EXHIBIT A)

170 DUNCAN: Discusses impacts on Oregon users and the money that would be required for transitional needs.

199 SEN. HILL: Discusses the user investment issue.

212 DUNCAN: My personal opinion is that they should share in the cost.

238 SEN. HILL: Could we apply bonding capacity in Article 11D of the Oregon State Constitution?

243 DUNCAN: Discusses general obligation bonding authority in regard to agriculture. We are looking for revenue bonding authority.

268 SEN. HILL: Discusses revenue bonds versus general obligation bonds.

285 DUNCAN: Discusses revenue bonds in regard to a contract.

309 MIKE THORNE, PORT OF PORTLAND: Submits and reviews written testimony.(EXHIBIT B) -Refers to map outlining the Port of Portland.

419 SEN. HILL: Asks about rail as a replacement to barge traffic.

425 THORNE: Explains the coordination of barge and rail activity in regard to cost. Discusses the issue of balancing all interested groups and regions. -A key issue will be spreading out the cost equitably to solve this problem.

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TAPE 6, SIDE A 060 CHARLES BURLEY, NW FOREST RESOURCE COUNCIL: Sumbits written testimony.(EXHIBIT C)

179 SEN. DUFF: Asks about the various ports used up and down the Columbia River.

181 BURLEY: Explains various ports along Columbia River. 193SEN. HILL: Asks about the issue of getting the young fish down past dams and the adults up through the dams. 206 BURLEY: Discusses the experimental draw lowns and their lack of biological evidence to prove this would be effective. 210 SEN. HILL: Do you agree that increased velocity is needed to bring fish down stream? 212 BURLEY: I don't think I could answer that. 215 SEN. HILL: Asks about biological just)fication in regard to velocity. 223CHAIR DUKES: Do you think there is any advantage to increasing the flow? 231 BURLEY: Discusses the nature of the fish.

240 CHAIR DUKES: Discusses the studies done on the flowing timing issue.

249 BURLEY: Expresses concern about the proposals to draw down below the minimum operating pool of the lower Snake reservoirs.

261 CHAIR DUKES: Discusses biological versus economical impacts.

286 SEN. TIMMS: It seems there aren't any biological statistics on this issue.

302 SEN. HILL: Have you looked at railroads as an alternative? Why couldn't we buy or lease some box cars? We need to research all options. There will be river impact and the people who will be effected by that need to start researching options.

326 CHAIR DUKES: Asks about management of fish hatcheries.

327 BURLEY: Explains the way hatcheries are operated and the problems that exist.

345 REP. MCTEAGUE: Discussion on Oregon Forest Council's stream side policy.

390 TOM WINN, OREGON WHEAT COMMISSION: Submits written

testimony. (EXHIBIT D)

470 RAY GUIMARY, GRATRON: Submits written testimony. (EXHIBIT E:)

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603 CHAIR DUKES: Discusses the proposal from Idaho.

614 WINN: Explains what impact some of Idaho's proposals may have on Oregonians.

Discussion on barging in relation to wheat and how the railroads might be incorporated into the exporting of that crop.

TAPE 6, SIDE B

022 GUIMARY: Continues discussion of rail cars in regard to shipping wheat.

041 SEN. HILL: The market sets the rates for the railroads and we have no jurisdiction over those rates. The issue is how do we mitigate the difficulties. People are going to have some impact put upon them and you need to research all solutions.

080 GUIMARY: The more notice we have the more time we can get our systems in place.

084 CHAIR DUKES: If we are stuck with a lower level from April 15 through June 15 with minimal barge capacity, what other options would you like to see the state of Oregon help you with? Also, how many barges do you run up or down the river during that time period? -Discusses the issue of storage in regard to the wheat growers. 108 WINN: We need capacity of approximately 76 million bushels to meet the demand for a two month period. 112 SEN. HILL: Is that equally spread throughout the year? 117 WINN: Generally, there will be a slack time in the late spring months but that isn't a given. 120 SEN. HILL: Discusses alternative transportation for the two month period. 123 WINN: Explains the difference between hard wheat and soft wheat. 138 CHAIR DUKES: Asks why wheat is shipped by barge. 142 WINN: Explains prices and availability in regard to motor transportation. 150 SEN. HILL: Discusses the state of Idaho's proposals in regard to a draw down. 185 DON GODDARD, CANBY UTILITY BOARD: Discusses utilities and what their customers want. (EXHIBIT F) 217 SEN. SPRINGER: What have we gotten for the billion dollars you've spent on trying to fix this? 219 GODDARD: Discusses two areas where they have achieved success. -Discusses importance of hatcheries, habitat and harvest in regard to the salmon issue. -Suggests that the Committee promote a comprehensive solution, support implementation of any actions and help with adjustments that will be necessary because of the changes that we will all

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need to make to save the fish. -Explains three competing uses for new power resources.

325 CHAIR DUKES: Which group should take the lead on this issue?

326 GODDARD: Expresses concern with various turf battles that go on. -Discusses the National Marine Fishery Service and the Columbia River Basin Commission.

335 SEN. HILL: What if the Power Planning Council were assigned additional responsibilities in regard to setting forth planning goals?

343 GODDARD: There are so many things to consider.

348 SEN. HILL: Discusses the enforcement authority of the Power Planning Council. 380 GODDARD: Explains what role legislators could play in this issue. 388 SEN. DUFF: How much power would we lose?

390 GODDARD: Explains proposals for the Snake and what it would cost.

433 SEN. HILL: What are you basing your costs on? Is it based on the Andrus plan? 435GODDARD: No, this would be our proposal which would take significant amounts of water out of the several reservoirs and reduce the lower Snake projects to minimum operating pool. -Discusses resources needed to meet new growth. 463SEN. HILL: Discusses direct service industries in regard to megawatts used and the fee paid for the megawatts. I 494 GODDARD: Discusses the present data in regard to increasing flows. | -Discusses the impact on power and generation in relation to the pool levels. 517SEN. TIMMS: Discusses how

legislation can interface with whatever group is designated to work on the salmon issues. 534 GODDARD: Clarifies his three comprehensive solutions discussed earlier. 556RICK LATHAM, OIL, CHEMICAL & ATOMIC WORKERS INTERNATIONAL: Explains who he represents. -Expresses concern about the lowering of pools on the Snake River to minimum operating levels. -Discusses the 14 foot channel needed for barging. -Explains ports which can barely function currently because of the dredging that hasn't been done. 626 CHAIR DUKES: Are you talking about the ports on the lower Snake River? 629 LATHAM: Names several ports that are concerned about the minimum operating pool level.

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647 CHAIR DUKES: Does Tidewater visit ports up and down the river?

647 LATHAM: Yes they do. -My major concern is for the workers that we represent. -Mentions Dr. James Lannon of Oregon State University in regard to his study concerning flows.

698 CHAIR DUKES: How do your concerns relate to the economy of Oregon?

714 LATHAM: Discusses concerns of navigation and the people that could be displaced because of this.

TAPE 7, SIDE A

002 LATHAM: Suggests looking at areas below Iceharbor in regard to the dredging issue.

013 SEN. DUFF: How many people are you representing?

016 LATHAM: We have about 200 families.

020 CHAIR DUKES: What do your people do?

023 LATHAM: Load and unload cargo and maintain the Tidewater fleets.

032 SEN. HILL: Discusses the importance of dredging. -There needs to be a solution to the problem with the least impact.

055 LATHAM: We are willing to talk to anyone and work with people. Discusses the spotted owl issue in regard to displaced workers and the course of action some of them might take.

090 MICHAEL RIKE, COLUMBIA RIVER TOWBOAT ASSOCIATION: Submits written testimony. (EXHIBIT G)

153 SEN. HILL: Is the federally authorized 14 foot channel guaranteed?

155 RIKE: That is my understanding.

169 CHAIR DUKES: What is your definition of drastic and prolonged draw downs?

170 RIKE: Anything over two weeks. Right now we are out about two weeks. Explains who determines the time frame on the draw downs.

180 SEN. DUFF: How many barges are currently on the river?

182 RIKE: Approximately 80 grain and about 40 other types of barges.

185 SEN. DUFF: What would be the impact if you couldn't service the Lewiston port?

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187 RIKE: It would be severe.

189 WHITNEY OLSON, BRIX MARITIME CO.: Lewiston is a major exporter of containers.

198 SKIP HART, TIDEWATER: Discusses the issue of grain in regard to storage and transportation by rail cars.

242 SEN. HILL: How much of your traffic come from the area of the Snake River dams?

251 RIKE: Explains the amount that are shipped and what areas they are coming from.

257 OLSON: Explains analysis done on the issue of amount of tonnage moved out of the Snake River last year. 267 SEN. HILL: If there is a drawdown what will you do? 270 RIKE: Discusses recovery of revenue in regard to increased costs. 278 HART: Gives examples of how a draw

down would effect barge loads. 300 CHAIR DUKES: Discusses impacts and how that relates to the economy of Oregon. 320 OLSON: Discusses navigation on the Columbia versus the Snake River. 338 CHAIR DUKES: What Oregon ports have this problem? What percentage of Oregon's wheat come out of the Port of Morrow? 345 RIKE: I'm not sure. 349 CHAIR DUKES: We need to look at all alternatives in regard to the storage, barging and rail transporting of wheat. 359 OLSON: Discusses how this could affect jobs in Oregon. 364 CHAIR DUKES: Whatever we do, we take back to the Oregon Legislative Assembly, the Governor and the U.S. Senator. It is more difficult to get the people from Oregon to back some of these issues that are originating in Montana or Canada. -This is a regional issue not just an Oregon issue. -What are truly the impacts to Oregon? Beyond that what are the other impacts and what is our responsibility as a region? 387 RIKE: About 60% or better is exported out of Portland. 391 SEN. TIMMS: Andy Brunelle never mentioned the Port of Lewiston. 407 SEN. DUFF: At what point will we lose our competitive advantage? 415 RIKE: We don't know that answer.

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425 SEN. HILL: There are a lot of things we don't know. One thing we might do is devote some state money into an in-depth economic review.

425 CHAIR DUKES: The Governor's office is looking into the fiscal pieces of this issue.

430 OLSON: We will lose our advantage quickly.

435 HART: Explains the attitudes of some of the foreign markets they deal with.

456 SEN. HILL: Will one barge fill up an elevator?

460 RIKE: I'm not sure about that but it will fill more than one elevator.

485 MYCELLE DEAN, BOATMANS UNION: Suggests building a pipeline for the fish to be flushed down.

536 CHAIR DUKES: Adjourns hearing at 6:00 p.m.

Submitted by, Reviewed by, Shannon Gossack Ruth Larson
Assistant Administrator

EXHIBIT LOG:

A- Staff, 7 pas. B - Mike Thorne, Director Port of Portland, 3 pas. C - Charles Burley, NW Forest Resource Council, 5 pas. D - Tom Winn, Oregon Wheat Commission, 3 pas. E - Ray Guimary, GRATRON, 2 pas. F - Don Goddard, Canby Utility Board, 9 pas. G - Michael Rike, Shaver Transportation Company, 2 pas.

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