

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 COLUMBIA RIVER RESOURCE TASK FORCE

Hearing Room 137 May 6, 1991 5:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Joan Dukes, Chair Sen. Scott Duff, Vice-Chair
Sen. Dick Springer Sen. Eugene Timms Sen. Larry Hill MEMBER EXCUSED:

VISITING MEMBER: Rep. Chuck Norris

STAFF PRESENT: Ruth Larson, Committee Administrator Shannon
Gossack, Committee Assistant

WITNESSES: Dave Riley, Oregon's Salmon Summit John S.
Robertson, Bonneville Power Administration Jack Donaldson Andy Brunelle,
Staff, Governor Cecil Andrus Fred Ziari, IRZ Consulting Glenn Vanselow,
Pacific NW Waterway Assoc. Johnathan Sleeter, Pacific NW Grain & Feed
Bruce Lovelin, NW Irrigation Utilities Frank Lamb, Eastern Oregon
Farming Co. Clifford Simmons, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Mike Passmore,
U.S. Army Corp of Engineers F.K. Starrett, Port of Umatilla Susan
Daggett, Port of Umatilla Gary Neal, Port of Portland Ralph Hodge, Oil,
Chemical & Atomic Workers Ron Baker, C & B Livestock Richard Earnhart,
Citizen Gary Reed, Oregon State University Don Beets, Citizen Joyce
Hart, Oregon Wheat Growers League

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TAPE 8, SIDE A

10CHAIR DUKES: Calls the meeting to order at 5:20.

15RUTH LARSON: Explains the agenda for today's meeting.

17

20JACK DONALDSON, COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY: Explains what the cbf&a is. history. Business is done by consensus. the power act allowed for the assessment of the damage on the fish population. It is no longer a natural flowing river. The dams cessed the flooding tendencies during Spring. Eight major dams that intercept the fish coming down form Idaho. 95% thaqt leave the Snake River System experience mortality. Losing the prodigy.

25DUKES: good proof for this data?

27DONALDSON: yes. The problem is you make more a lake than a river - trip takes a min. of 30 days. Turbine loss is very high. CONflict between survival of fish and production of electricity. two ways to protect - spill them thru the spill ways, put in by pass facilities(each facility creates its own problems////the cost - dams put cost on the fisheries, traditions of native americans. If we transfer that power to sw, than in the winter time they couls ship back us power. we have began to do some of this.

30DUFF: What is the natural martality?

33DON: Normally, to get a static level you must get only one male and one female from the two who mated.

35DUFF: the natural mortality for those that travel down the river

40DON: 15-20%. The early life history presents a high mortality rate. Hatcheries are successful because they avoid the river mortality. That number is fairly standard. reservoir water is slower so that ///

45TIMMS: waht about chubs?

47DON: the loss is high, but I couldn't give any numbers.

50NORRIS:

55DUFF: I would be interested in some numbers.

60DON: The harvest is a large take on the fish. We tried to restrict that, and now have a full management system. 3 pieces of legislation - US vs Oregon, /// management act, fisheries council, and the canadians - 1985 Pacific Salmon Treaty. We have cut the harvest back, but even if we cut all harvest we couldn't replace the natural run.

tape 10, side a

10DON: cites Alaska example dealing with harvest

15DUFF: How many did the tribes catch?

20DON: not sure, they do keep track.

25TIMMS: CBF&WA is staffed to what extent?

30DON: the staff is very small - 6. But taken together, we have 1000s working with us.

35TIMMS: Who are your number one sources of information?

40DON: the passage is served by a fish passage center who counts those fish making the trip downstream.

45DUKES:

50DON: trying ot increase the flow. there are costs in irrigation.

55DUKES:

60DON: we literally need more water- thru storage or something. the solution is more water in the peak in april and may. must look at energy exchange. there are solutions-we still have the habitat for the fish, without the fish. By having the flow with the bypass, we can restore the fish population. The cost would be less than a light bulb bill for a

month on the consumer.

70dukes: and the bypass would

75DON: the april-may peak period is our major concern

80SEN. DUFF: the vol. of the bypass facility info

85DON: we have a study

90REP. NORRIS: What is the

96DON: Its a creature of those parties willingness to sit down and work these problems.

100 REP. NORRIS: Could we use the locks?

105 DONALDSON: Its not very effective. The fish go with current. With the screens the majority if the fish will be diverted down the spills.

110 DAVID HANSEN, PACIFIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION: Reviews history of this commission. -The commission is not taking a stance on the number of reported fish counts. Since we have seen a huge reduction in the number of fish. Failing of the fishery agencies is at fault. The ocaen harvest is very low. the weakest stock level sets the level of harvest for other stock. Most of the ports will testify to the losses due to the low nubers of fish.

115 CHAIR DUKES:

120 HANSEN: the lack of protection by our agencies. I'm trying to set the stage for what needs to be done. We deal primarily with the federal agencies. They need toi be forced be responsible for these facilities. Its far too easy to polarize people, using rhetoric. The solutions are out there in a balanced format. The state should not restrict the sportsman. state should look at

tape 8, side b

10HANSEN: suggests protecting the fish resources so that they dont end up on welfare. The fish markst is already saturated.

15CHAIR DUKES: any suggestions?

20HANSEN: We have not takem a stance. I have spent a lot of time trying to get the fish back up the river. The bottleneck is in the early life stage. There is a very short period of time

25SEN. DUFF: Is there any relation between the size of the fish and the location along the river?

30HANSEN: The larger fish generally spend a longer time int the ocean and lay many more eggs than those in hte lower sections of the river.

35 SEN. DUFF: The larger the fidh the more eggs that fish will lay?

40HANSEN: Yes, but we need a cross-section

45SCHAFER, COLUMBIA RIVER TOWBOAT ASSOCIATION: Submits and reviews testimony and booklet.(EXHIBIT A and B)

50CHAIR DUKES: What would it take to maintian a 14 foot channel?

55SCHAFER: with what we have in place it cant be below 14 feet.

60 DUKES: Do you know

65SCHAFFER: if you go below that I cant get through

70DUKES: during that 2 month period

75SCHAFFER: we would have to pull aside

80MICHEAL RANKIN, : everything is predicated on pool size.

85SCHAFFER: most are not aware of the impact of bringing it down to a minimum pool level. It would be very large.

90DUKES:

95SCHAFFER: if htey drew the McNary pool down, yes. Charges will have to be increased and it will effect the market price of our agricultural products.

100 RANKIN; we basically have a tariff.

105 HILL: LIght loading, altouhg less desirable, is an option.

tape 9, side b

110 SCHAFFER:

115 HILL: since the feds are involves in these, the agencies can work more together. In part the cost can be amortized.

120 SCHAFFER: with the resistance against trade barriers it would be difficult. We want to be sur that no wrong signals are sent. We want ot make the 14 foot channels permitable.

MOTION: SEN. LARRY HILL MOVES THAT A DRAFT BE SENT draft to be sent to congressional delegation - 14 foot channel, request governer no obj, so ordered

122 SEN. DUFF: Do you know how many Japanese trading com. are doing bus. here?

125 HANSEN: eight

127 SEN. DUFF: Is down river traffic linked to international trade?

130 SCHAFFER; yes

135 SEN. DUFF: International trade linkage?

140 HANSEN: I think so.

143 JACK MILLS, BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION: Submits written testimony (EXHIBIT C). -Discusses the administrations ties with various groups. -No agency spends more money on fish and wildlife than Bonneville. -Reviews testimony.

150 CHAIR DUKES: What determines the variance?

152 MILLS: qoutes survival rates of fish going through the hydro syatem

155 DUKES: For the fish that 157 MILLS: in 1986 a study on transopr

benefit ratio, for every adult fish that was transported

158 NORRIS: is there a more efficient way of producing electricity

160 MILLS: two points of efficiency - turbines, decrease in mortality, at 100 % efficiency there will be a reduction in pro

165 NORRIS:

170 MILLS: doesnt increase ability to // to increase turbine efficiency

175 NORRIS: effect on energy is of utmost importance as it concerns the economy

180 TIMMS: what would

be the losses -

185 MILLS:

190 TIMMS: I believe // what have we done in screening

195 mills; its a 200 million project

200 TIMMS: How effective have we been in getting the other dams to screen?

205 MILLS: its a congressional issue. Theyre doing bypass on many

210 TIMMS: 10 years and a billion and we still have a problem.

215 MILLS: oregon is way ahead of other states, comprehensive legislation in place. In 1987 transfer of water rights, the information we need is how the dams effect the survival, not on travel time, those are under the jurisdiction of fish and wildlife,

220 DUKES: 60% are getting lost

225 MILLS; fall chinook 58% were caught by the fisheries, there is a shared responsibility, we are doing our part. a whole combinations of tools

230 DUKES:

235 MILLS: we're looking at flows

240 DUKES: bonn has no flow policy

245 MILLS: no, we have not committed to a single flow level

250 DUKES: is that adequate?

255 MILLS: 20% improvement thats an average number,

260 DUKES: does bonn. believe the 1.1 will be sufficient tape 10, side b

265 MILLS: no, not on its own. must use other tools. there are many associations with qualified biologists, around 50 with bonn

NORRIS: probably will have a proposed 50

MILLS: we are gearing up for sect 4 and sect 7.

DAVE RILEY, GOVERNER'S OFFICE: The hatfield summit- 2 reprts - we have confirmed that the feet of river ect. MONTana had the opportunity to sign, didnt concerned about the cost represents some of the priliminary work , We are hoping the lower river goals can be reached gov. committed to habitat prot. and restoration., need to seek compensation for those impacted, htere is jprovate financing, increased fed. funding. (for screens), other public programs - FHA, special public works fund, water development fund, the big issue - state provides financing thru bonding. look at coming up with low interest loans. General obligation bonds - difficult, striaght revenue bonds - benefits whomever is selling bond, double barrel bond - state gaurantees if borrowers fail to pay, with regard to authority - constitutinal atricle 7, water resource dept. has the authorityt to loan money to distrcts. Needs - recovery and litigation, SB 5570 - ceiling on bond issue, want to be sure taht the ceiling existed

DUKES: suggestin that 5570 doesnt have a high enough ceiling?

RILEY: yes. The ceiling is currently 50.

TIMMS: the first strategy should be to work together with Washington. Lets get after the issue, not deal with bonds. We havent tried to lay down a line of comuincation with congress. I dont think the gov. doing a good job, we got to get sfter the people that are involved. Havent heard anything new since the last time.

DUKES: Is there anything that we can do to help from the gov. point of view. Should look at this as an option.

TIMMS: We need to make a bigger effort in regards endangered species, we are getting some pwer to mitigate what has happened to us this far.

DUKES: They've made progress, especially since Idaho.

TIMMS: If were ahead of Washington, thats not saying much. We should develop a plan of action. Then thru Northeast Economic/// to develop the best testimony we ahve

RILEY: these were not propsals from the governer, just options to look at. constitutional authority is with water policy. TIMMS: im just nervous. it effects all constituents.

NORRIS: have shared concern. the endangered species act is up for reaffirmation, it will probably be changed

RILEY: we are optimistic about what has come out of the salmon summit. it came to terms with alot of things not previously dealt with.

NORRIS: we need dtermine how much human suffering can be allowed without changing the current situation.

DUKES:

TIMMS:

DUKES:

TIMMS: there are none than deal with economic development,

BOB SCHAFFER, : we would take it down to a min. flow without impaoring navigation. CHAIR DUKES: adjourns at 8:25

