

Conference call

February 11, 1991

MINUTES

Commission members present:

Lorna Stickel  
Cliff Bentz  
Hadley Akins  
Jim Howland  
Mike Jewett  
Roger Bachman

Staff members present:

Bill Young  
Bev Hayes  
Jan Shaw  
John Borden  
Becky Kreag

Others:

Jan Boettcher  
Audrey Simmons

Any staff reports presented at this meeting, which contain the director's recommendations mentioned in these minutes, are on file in the Office of the Director of the Water Resources Department, 3850 Portland Road, NE, Salem, Oregon. Written information submitted at this meeting is hereby made a part of this record and is on file at the above address. Audiocassette recording tapes of the meeting are also on file in the Water Resources Department office.

Correspondence with legislators: Chair Lorna Stickel determined that everyone had received the agency's draft response to a recent letter to the Department from Sen. Dick Springer and the draft prepared by her and Roger Bachman to another letter addressed to the Commission. During discussion, the Commission decided that a common reply prepared for the Commission's signature would be agreeable to most commissioners.

The Director said that Sen. Springer hoped that by the time the committee returned to the instream flow discussions in about two weeks, they will have received the Department's response to his letter. The Commission members decided to forward their proposed modifications to Bev Hayes and let the letter go out when the changes had been incorporated in the letter. Some members said they might send individual responses, as well.

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Budget: The Director reported that the agency's budget hearings were to begin on Wednesday, February 13. He invited the chair and vice-chair to attend since they had expressed interest in doing so. The hearings are expected to last five days, two hours each morning.

Legislation: Bev Hayes reported on the activities of the Legislature for the past week. She said that the Senate Water Policy Committee spent both meeting days reviewing Department programs. Fees and basin planning were discussed on Tuesday and the Department's progress in processing instream water rights applications on Thursday. In discussions on planning, Becky Kreag said that she had talked with the Senate committee, Senators Larry Hill, Kintigh, Fawbush and Timms. Kreag said that she reviewed the planning process in a broad context and described how planning activities might affect salmon issues and total maximum daily loadings (TMDLs).

In discussions on fishery protection, the Department was asked about its budget on fish, specifically dollar amounts from other funds compared to those from the general fund. Sen. Hill looked at broadening that fee activity but offered no specifics.

On the House side the week before, two fish bills had been up for consideration, one a fish stamp bill. The Department of Fish and Wildlife opposed that bill because it would impose too great an expense on anglers.

The Department was also discussing amendments to a hydro bill which would propose higher application fees but would not leave the bill as wide-ranging as it currently was.

On HB 2191, Hayes described some amendments which had been proposed. The Commission agreed with the recommended changes.

On the Senate side, Hayes said, a work session was planned on two bills on which a hearing had already been held. They were the reporting bill (SB 201) and the springs bill (SB 202) and were expected out of committee without a problem. On Thursday, the committee was to consider the plumbing fixture bill (SB 203). Little trouble is expected in passing it out of the Senate committee.

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The House Water Policy Committee asked for an update on February 12 on the Columbia River Compact and the "Salmon Summit."

Jim Howland asked about WaterWatch of Oregon's draft bill, LC 3151. Audrey Simmons, WaterWatch, said it was in Sen. Hill's committee now but had not yet been assigned a bill number.

Roger Bachman said that the agency has not done a very good job of illustrating what watermasters do. He recommended trying to describe the demands on watermasters' time in relation to the territory they must cover. Bachman said their other tasks should be clearly characterized, especially those during the irrigation season, such as disputes among water users.

There being no further business, the conference meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Jan Shaw  
Commission Assistant

c:wrccalls