

Conference Call

March 4, 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
Becky Kreag

Others:

Doug Myers

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.

Bev Hayes reviewed for the Commission the activity of the Legislature from the past week.

Hayes reported that three members of the House Water Policy Committee visited the Department to see a demonstration of the Department's computer capabilities.

On Thursday, Hayes said, the House Committee will consider Rep. Chuck Norris' bill, HB 2677. The bill attempts in the permitting process to provide a preference for human and livestock consumption in and above scenic waterways.

At Thursday's meeting, the agency described for the committee the dilemma involved with livestock watering out of the riparian areas.

(Jim Howland entered the call at this point.)

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Next Thursday, said Hayes, the committee will hear from Bill Hutchison, Environmental Quality Commission chair, on the Diack decision. After lengthy discussion on HB 2677, the Commission asked the Department to represent its views to the committee at Thursday's meeting. The Commission recommended that permits should not be issued if the cumulative total exceeds one cubic foot per second until the Department makes findings on how much water is available.

The Senate, Hayes reported, had an interesting week. On Tuesday, the plumbing fixtures bill passed out of the committee and was to have been considered on the floor today. However, Senator Hill decided to pull the bill back to committee to further amend it. The state Building Codes Department officials testified in opposition to the bill, arguing that they could accomplish the same result by rulemaking.

The water-use reporting bill, SB 201, is to be heard on Tuesday. It was to have been passed out on Tuesday but did not do so.

On Thursday, the Senate committee heard the Department's two hydro bills. They heard testimony from a Portland attorney who described this bill as a "state giveaway" because the agency was not complying with 543.540, a law from the 1930's. The committee instructed the Department to consult the attorney general to see if the agency could implement the statute and how it would go about it.

The Department's hydro fee bill was considered at the same session but the discussion was inconclusive.

Next Tuesday, Hayes said, the House committee will hear the Department's springs bill. At Thursday's work session, the committee will consider SB 202, the Department's critical groundwater bill and Rep. Norris' bill. The Department has scheduled a work session on the critical groundwater bill for late on March 4 with the committee administrator and staff so that the bill might be ready to pass out Thursday.

On March 5, the Senate will hear a report on Oregon's drought status and, on Thursday, will deal with wetlands bills.

No conference call was scheduled for March 11 because of the March 7-8 Commission meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Jan Shaw
Commission Assistant

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