

April 29, 1991

CONFERENCE CALL

MINUTES

Commission members present:

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

Staff present:

Bill Young
Becky Kreag
Jan Shaw
John Borden
Bev Hayes
Lonnie Leinenbach
Tom Paul
Steve Applegate
Mike Ladd
Kent Searles
Randy Moore
Bob Main
Fred Lissner

Others:

Jan Boettcher
Doug Meyers

The 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.

1. Legislation: Bev Hayes reported on the latest activity at the Legislature.

Hayes said that the Senate Water Policy Committee on Tuesday passed out of committee a number of bills that deal with the Klamath River as a wild and scenic river and with hydroelectric development on the river. The committee conducted a hearing on SB 1164 which requires the Commission to withdraw waters that are a natural habitat of species that are threatened and endangered. The hearing will be continued later because the committee lost its quorum.

(MORE)

On the Senate side on Thursday, the committee heard SB 1023, which allows tax credits for drip irrigation.

The House Water Policy Committee on Tuesday passed out HJR 61, which was amended to allow the Commission to decide the membership of the Hoodland Water Supply Commission. That bill will be on the floor this week.

The committee also heard three bills dealing with water rights--HB 3136, 3389 and 3390. Representative Johnson from Roseburg sponsored two of the bills and attended the meeting. WRD opposed both bills. John Borden described for the Commission the amendments that the Department would propose.

On Thursday, the House committee heard two bills of interest to the Department--HB 3425 and 3465. Much testimony was offered on both bills, and a number of questions were posed to Oregon Trout and WRD. Some testimony was in favor of the bill, and there was much discussion of the Department's public notice process.

Next week, Hayes said, will be a busy one. The Senate will consider SJM 15 and SB 906. They expect to meet from 3:15 to 9 pm when they will consider SB 742, SB 1163, 1095 and 1080, and SB 1129 and 1183 are up again for hearing and work session. Only invited testimony will be accepted.

On the House side, Hayes reported that on Tuesday the committee will again hear HB 2677, which allows certain water uses in scenic waterways. The Department has suggested some amendments. They will also hear HB 3404 on Tuesday, the bill which would have Agriculture collecting fees from nursery operations.

On Thursday, the House committee will deal with HB 3338, 3366 and 3390. HB 3390 would allow the owner of a water right certificate to use water on new lands owned by him.

Fred Lissner talked to the Commission about current mining issues and heap-leaching methods of mining. Oregon is undergoing a gold mining boom, he said, with a number of groups requesting permits to mine using a heap-leach operation which uses cyanide. Lissner described in more detail the methods and the impacts of such a mining operation.

(Roger Bachman joined the conference call at this point.)

(MORE)

2. Statewide policy advisory committees: At the Commission's last meeting, the Department provided the Commission with a preliminary list of advisory committee candidates for the statewide policies on water allocation and storage.

The staff recommended that the Commission endorse the committee memberships as outlined in the report distributed to them.

The Commission agreed with the proposed make-up of the committees.

Jim Howland and Lorna Stickel suggested that the regional managers feel free to contribute at any time during these conference calls.