

Oregon Water Resources Commission Teleconference  
May 17, 1999  
Salem

Members

Nancy Leonard  
Ron Nelson  
John Frewing  
Jim Nakano

Staff

Martha Pagel  
Tom Byler  
Tom Paul  
Dave Jarrett  
Bonnie King

Others

Larry Tuttle

Tom Byler updated the Commission on legislative activity over the last two weeks. Five GPID bills appear to be headed toward the Governor's desk. The House floor is expected to pass three of the bills (HB 3065, 3075, and 2600) with a party-line vote. HB 3065 and 3075 are similar and would grant a water right to GPID. HB 2600 would allow GPID and some other irrigation districts to have an exempt water use for the purpose of conveying water through their system.

HB 3346 which would require sediment study for removal of dams, was passed out of Committee last week, and there will likely be a House floor vote on it next week. SB 987, which would prohibit removal of dams without legislative approval, has received Senate approval and is awaiting a hearing with the House Water and Environment Committee. Another GPID-related bill, SB 804 relating to appeal rights notice for final orders in other than contested cases for WRC and WRD, was passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee last week and moves next to the Senate floor. Martha Pagel said although WRD initially opposed the bill, she was able to work with the Attorney General's Office and Laura Schroeder to find some common ground to put together a bill that the Department can now support.

Byler then gave an update on the Department's bills.

- HB 2163, relating to incentives for use of the Water Development Loan Fund, has passed out of both the House and the Senate, and moves next to the Governor for signature.
- HB 2165 which changes the definition of well, and clarifies the requirements regarding well construction, alteration, abandonment, and conversion also passed out of both Houses and will next be routed to the Governor.
- SB 301 which exempts certain changes on industrial use from the transfer process had a hearing last week and passed out of the Senate Committee on Water and Land Use, with two new amendments which the Department approved — one involves the surface water to ground water statute, and the second is part of SB 93 and would allow for substitution of primary and supplemental water rights. Pagel said this is a mechanism for restoring streamflow; the Department has authority to require mitigation.

- SB 299, relating to pre-1909 water rights, is still in the Senate Committee on Water and Land Use. SB 300 which would eliminate the one-year start of construction requirement for new water right permits, passed out of the Senate and is awaiting hearing in the House Water and Environment Committee.
- HB 2162, the hydro task force bill, passed out of the House Water and Environment Committee. The amendments have not been printed, but the Department is hopeful to see the amendments soon and that it will be passed out of the House soon and move on to the Senate side.

The Department has one bill scheduled for this week in the Senate Rules Committee — SB 1245, which requires the Director to give personal notice before entering private property. This bill was sponsored by the Oregon Realtors Association and Oregonians in Action. Similar bills were written for other natural resource agencies and they may eventually all be combined into one bill.

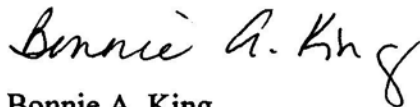
Other bills moving through the system are:

- HB 2649, HB 2833, and SB 1098 sponsored by the Oregon Water Resources Congress; and
- HB 3356 and HB 3357 sponsored by the Oregon Farm Bureau.

Martha Pagel gave an update on the Department's budget. The Committees need to decide on the Education budget first, then other agencies can be decided. There may not be any money for new program packages including Stewardship and Supply and the Deschutes Basin.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonnie A. King  
Legislative Assistant