

Oregon Water Resources Commission Teleconference

June 7, 1999

Salem

Members

Nancy Leonard
Jim Nakano
Tyler Hansell

Staff

Martha Pagel
Geoff Huntington
Tom Byler
Barry Norris
Tom Paul
Dick Bailey
Bruce Moyer
Fred Lissner
Bonnie King

Others

Fred Ziari
Bob Hoeffel

Tom Byler updated the Commission on legislative activity over the last three weeks. Legislative activity is slowing down; most committees have shut down. The Legislature is mostly working on some of the larger agency budgets.

There are some GPID bills remaining — SB 987 (requires legislative approval before removing a dam), and HB 3346 (requires a sediment study before removing a dam), are out of Committee and have passed the House floor with a 31 to 29 vote. The Governor's Office has indicated that the Governor will not sign the bills. The Senate Public Affairs Committee held hearings on HB 3065 (legislatively grants a water right to GPID), which was passed out of Committee, and HB 2600 (relating to irrigation seepage water/forfeiture) which was not passed as the Committee felt it was duplicative of HB 3065.

Hearings were also held on SB 1245 relating to access of state agency personnel on private property. The Oregon Association of Realtors opted to consolidate five or six issues into one bill (SB 1245) instead of having a separate bill for each natural resources agency. There were some problems when the bill was drafted and it most likely will not be passed out of Committee this session. The WRD hydroelectric bill, HB 2162, passed the House floor last week, and now goes to the Senate. It will go to the Senate with a small technical amendment to clarify language, but has not yet been scheduled.

There are hearings scheduled with the Senate Rules and Elections Committee on June 8 on HB 2833, which relates to district transfers, and HB 3280 which originally related to water availability and is now a narrow-focused bill relating to exempt uses for non-emergency firefighting training. Amendments to HB 3280, bill amendments brought forward by Water for Life may have significant ramifications on the Klamath adjudication, and WRD may not support the bill if the amendments are added.

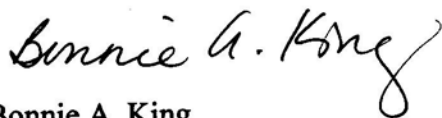
A hearing is scheduled for June 15 on SB 299 (relating to changes of pre-1909 water uses prior to adjudication). This is a bill that is complicated by a condemnation issue involving a landowner and the City of Springfield. WRD sees this bill as a useful tool for changes to pre-1909 water uses.

The WRD budget work session is scheduled for June 10. The Department is hopeful to receive full or some funding for the following: Klamath adjudication, water rights program, Tillamook watermaster, hydroelectric package, well inspection and maintenance, a package to include cooperative agreements with the federal government, and gaging station funding through OWEB. HB 3225 creates the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and would remove GWEB from WRD's budget. OWEB may, however, contract with WRD to handle its administrative functions. OWEB will be enhanced to have 11 voting members, with 17 members on the board. Watershed funding will be handled through an OWEB grant program as previously done, but decisions will be made by a different board.

Pagel mentioned a correction to the WRC June 24-25 meeting agenda — Item H needs to be removed as it was heard at the April meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Bonnie A. King
Legislative Assistant