

MINUTES - WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE - 56th SESSION - MARCH 25, 1971

Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 11:20 A.M.

Present: R. Young, Howard, Mello, Schofield, Swackhamer

Absent: Capurro, Hafen, F. Young, Brookman, Hilbrecht,
Lingenfelter

Guests: Earl Oliver, Fiscal Analyst; Assemblyman Swallow;
Assemblyman Prince; Mike Medema, Legislative Auditor;
John Buckwater, Roy Huxtable, John Connley

A.B. 506 - Makes general fund appropriation to state soil
committee for watershed planning.

Assemblyman Swallow and Prince, Messrs. Buckwater,
Huxtable and Connley were present to testify in favor
of A. B. 506.

Refer to handout on Small Watershed Projects in Nevada.

Assemblyman Prince testified that \$100,000 appropriation
is being requested for employing additional personnel
for engineering work for watershed planning.

Chairman Young questioned whether federal funds were
available for this engineering work. Mr. Buckwater
replied that in order to get federal funds they must
present a plan for each watershed project and that this
takes an engineer to make the necessary plans. This
is the reason they are requesting the appropriation
so they can submit plans to Washington for funding.

Mr. Huxtable remarked that the first priority is for
the watershed in White Pine County. There are 67
potential projects under the proposed program.

Mr. Huxtable remarked that if all watershed projects
were completed, annual benefits in the sum of \$40 million
dollars would be realized by the state. A return of
\$2.00 would be realized for every dollar invested.

Mr. Huxtable discussed and reviewed the tentative watershed
planning schedule for Committee members. Proposed plan
is to complete one project per year and all 67 projects
would be completed by the year 2035.

Discussion on Watershed staffing. 7.5 positions for staff plus other expenses would cost \$140,000. In present fiscal year \$72,500 is available from federal funding for this. They are requesting \$50,000 from State for each part of biennium.

Assemblyman Swallow was present to testify in passage of A. B. 506.

Mr. John Connley, a rancher from Mason Valley, spoke on project for Pumpkin Hollow. He stated that ditches were built in this area in the 1800's and are not efficient at the present time. He remarked that water in the State is a number one resource; a high efficiency use of water is imperative. He proposed that to get a higher efficiency rate that 5 ditches be consolidated into one canal. He stated that Pumpkin Hollow had a low priority rate in 1975 and asked that money be appropriated this year to get engineering plans completed for project. He stated that the ranchers in this area were willing to assess themselves \$10.00 per acre to put this project into being.

Mr. Buckwalter remarked that funds could be handled by Conservation and Natural Resources of by the Department of Administration. The State Committee would control the priorities of the funds.

In answer to Mr. Mello's question if they were working with BLM on this, Mr. Buckwalter remarked that they would work with all agencies on this.

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Bob Davenport testified that they are short in payroll costs. He remarked that they are going to have to pick up employee-employer contributions from 1965 to date for one judge (Judge Sundane). They are \$3,073 short. He remarked that two additional judges will also be retiring and they will need \$4,331 for this. An additional cost of \$7909 needed for group insurance.

He remarked that pending legislation, if new judges are appointed, money will have to be provided for their retirement system and salaries.

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A. B. 154 - Revises provisions pertaining to supreme court officers, employees and fees.

Chairman Young remarked that they are not asking for a deputy now but are asking that the provision be there.

Mr. Swackhamer remarked that many people will be deprived from due process if filing fee is doubled from \$25 to \$50.

Mr. Hilbrecht remarked that people file an appeal when they do not agree with judge's decision; it costs \$25 to file an appeal with the Supreme Court.

HOLD

Discussion on Committee increases to Executive Budget.

S. B. 144 - Provides salary ranges, increases and adjustments for state officers, employees in unclassified and classified service.

Refer to handout from Assemblyman Howard on Unclassified Salaries. Mr. Howard read a list of proposed unclassified salary adjustments to Committee members. He remarked that in his study on this, most of the increases in unclassified salaries ranged from 3½ to 7½%.

He proposed that S. B. 144 be amended to read that when the cost of living increase is given to classified employees that this should also be considered for unclassified employees.

Mr. Hilbrecht moved to approve the unclassified salary increases as presented by Mr. Howard.

Mr. Schofield Seconded the motion.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 P.M.