

MINUTES

Assembly

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE - NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE - 57th SESSION

February 14, 1973

Meeting called to order by Chairman Mello at 8:04 AM in the Ways and Means Committee Room.

Present: Chairman Mello, Vice-Chairman Schofield, Messrs. Dreyer, Robinson, Howard, Smith, Hafen and Capurro. Mr. Prince had an excused absence.

Also Present: John Dolan, Randy Webb, Ron Sparks and Jean Ross.

Present from Department of Conservation:

- Elmo DeRicco, Director, Dept. of Conservation
- Ray Knisley, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
- Roland D. Westergard, State Engineer
- Eric Cronkhite, Administrator, Div. of State Parks
- George Zappettini, State Forester, Div. of Forestry
- Ed Stokke, Accountant, Dept. of Conservation
- Bob Carroll, Deputy State Forester
- John Richardson, State Parks
- Allan Scott, State Parks
- Fred Settlemeyer, Self; for Dept. of Conservation

Also Present:

- Dick Whitney, Pete Gregory, Bill Hancpol, Rod Nafie, Fred McNeil and Bill Fulton, representing Explorer Post 168, Zephyr Cove. Mr. Richard Whitney, Post Advisor.

Motion accept the Minutes of the meeting of February 12, 1973, was made by Mr. Howard. Second by Mr. Dreyer. Motion passed.

Introduction of Mr. Elmo DeRicco on behalf of the Department of Conservation, (beginning at page 441 - 450). General explanation given as outlined. Three positions under existing positions not recommended for funding have been moved to other divisions of the budget. Request has been made for an Environment Information Officer. This would establish a position that would have an overall view of the department and who would be able in turn to disseminate information to other agencies, federal and local, and the general public. The legal steno position requested would provide secretarial service to the agency's attorney. The original agency request for \$10,600 in contractual service was for payment of a historical review of the agency by Mr. Settlemeyer. The request for funding under Tahoe Regional Planning is for payment of travel and per diem for Raymond Knisley (support services).

Committee on Federal Land Laws, page 443: General explanation as outlined.

Oil and Gas Conservation Committee, page 444: General explanation as outlined.

Tahoe Regional Planning, page 445: Explanation given by Mr. DeRicco and Mr. Knisley. Bi-State compact created by California and Nevada and approved by Congress to protect and preserve the environment and natural setting and beauty of Lake Tahoe. Surrounding counties contribute \$150,000 with matching funds from each State.

State Commission of Environmental Protection, page 446: General explanation as outlined, changing title of new position requested from Research Analyst to Environmental Research Analyst.

Division of Soil Conservation Districts, page 447 and 448: General explanation as outlined. This Division will be created upon passage of A.B. 267.

Land Use Planning Division, page 449-450: General explanation as outlined. Noting that the two new positions requested are transfers from the administrative budget.

Division of Water Resources, pages 451, 452 and 453: Explanation given by Roland Westergard, State Engineer. New position of Draftsman III, needed to draft maps to be included in the State water plan. This will be funded from Federal moneys and not a general fund draft. The Water Commissioner is presently being funded by general funds for 1/2 position. The request would be for the remaining 1/2 position to be picked up by the State creating one position.

One-Shot Appropriations: \$75,000 would be not only for consultants but for legal preparation and witnesses in defense of cases presently pending over water rights in the State. These cases, would hopefully, determine Nevada's rights to authority of their natural resources.

\$50,000 for investigation for the two projects mentioned would be in addition to Federal investigations.

\$50,000 would be non-Federal moneys contributed by the State as their portion of the total project cost. Since the project cost figures on based on 1960 costs the figure now would be around \$700,000.

California Nevada Compact Commission, page 454: General explanation as outlined by Mr. Westergard.

Division of Forestry, One-Shot Appropriations: Page A20.

\$90,000 for buying acreage (60 acres at \$2.50/acre) and for buildings and other necessities. Purchase of land from BLM. Part of the property will be used by the University and by the Intermountain Forestry and Range Experiment Station. The greatest useage for trees is mainly for subdivisions for windbreaks and shelter belts around lots. This is the same program run by the Department of Agriculture and the Division receives \$12,000 annually.

\$76,000 for the purchase of a new aircraft. This would replace a 1954 twin Beech by a current model Beechcraft or Cessna. Aircraft used also by the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service.

\$2,500 to increase revolving fund to \$5,000 for payments made for firefighting operations.

Division of Forestry, pages 455, 456, 457 and 458: There has been one position added administratively since approval of the last budget. Senior Clerk Typist for the Carson City office which replaces the present senior clerk typist who has moved into an accounting position. Forester II, a man currently funded under the EEA fund. Would like position funded so that position would be under the State. Position located in Las Vegas. Forestry Foreman I, would be used for dispatching. Forestry Foreman II would be stationed in Las Vegas. Contractual Services, fund used for aircraft operations during fire season and to compensate for the contracting of aircraft either early or later in the season. A fire station had been requested but since the U.S. Forest Service took over the area it is now under their control. Washoe Nursery Funding would be for the operation of the existing nursery until the new one is ready.

Forest Fire Suppression, page 459: General explanation as outlined.

Forest Pest Control, page 460: General explanation as outlined.

Forest & Water Shed Rehabilitation, page 461: General explanation as outlined.

Honor Camp Fund, page 462: General explanation as outlined.

One-Shot Appropriation: \$250,000 for construction of bicycle paths. Explanation given by Mr. Cronkhite. Presentation by Explorer Post 168 of a proposed bicycle path from Round Hill to Skyland at Lake Tahoe.

Division of State Parks, page 463: General explanation as outlined. Seven existing positions carried over to other portions of the budget. All new positions requested are due to the increase in park areas in the State and the maintenance required on same. Remainder of budget to be heard at a later date.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30.