

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETINGS
MARCH 1, 1973

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. Senator Lamb was in the chair.

PRESENT: Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman
Warren L. Monroe
B. Mahlon Brown
James I. Gibson
William J. Raggio
Clifton Young

Earl Oliver, LCB Fiscal Analyst
Jean Ross, Budget Analyst, Budget Division
Ron Sparks, " "
Elmo DiRicco, Director, Department of Conservation
Roland D. Westergard, State Engineer, "
Allan Trott, State Parks
John Richardson, "
Eric Cronkhite, "
Ray Knisley, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
Bob Carroll, Division of Forestry
George Zappettini, "
Cappie Kightlinger, Dept. of Conservation
Ed Stokke, "
Dr. Juanita White, WICHE
Dr. Fred Anderson, "
Dr. Tucher, "
Chancellor Neil Humphrey, Univ. of Nevada, WICHE

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION - Pages 441-442:

The department is requesting a one-time appropriation to update state land records. An analysis by the deputy state land registrar shows a need for a complete audit of land records to be done through a computer program which will provide a replacement for the currently used patent index books and will provide immediate reference. The cost for the program will be \$4,468 for EDP, micro-filming will cost \$325, and a calculator will cost \$800. For instance, they have encountered 1300 acres of land patented by the state to certain individuals. They have learned these lands were patented before the department had authority to patent them, so now they will have to see about clearing the title.

The deputy state land registrar and the principal clerk typist have been transferred to the land planning budget. They have not lost these positions, just transferred them. They are asking for an environmental public information officer and a legal stenographer. Mr. DeRicco said, "I don't want a public information officer to glorify me or

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or anyone else in the department. We need a professional writer to gather information that is in the department and put it in readable form that is easily understood. We have several major programs in the department and it is important to have someone in a role to pull program efforts together, put it in reports and lay it out. When we have to use administrators to do this this is not good use of an administrator, and besides they don't do as well as a professional writer."

The committee heard the budgets for the COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LAND LAWS (see comments on page 443 of the budget), and the OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION (see page 444).

TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING - Page 445:

Mr. DeRicco said that the governor's representative has been left out in the cold as far as office space and supplies and Mr. Knisley, the representative, has been sponging off the Dept. of Conservation's budget! This budget would go for telephone, office space and supplies.

Senator Gibson asked Mr. Knisley if he thought the compact is fulfilling the purpose for which it was created. Mr. Knisley said, "Yes, its the perfect media for getting the job done."

STATE COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION - Page 446:

Mr. DeRicco said this program was created by the last session of the legislature, but it was unfunded. The research analyst requested has been working as an emergency employment act employee for the past year. This commission will set water and air pollution standards and hold hearings. These standards will be enforced by the environmental health staff in the health division so that one agency won't be both the judge and policeman.

DIVISION OF SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS - Page 447-448:

AB 267 relates to this. Mr. DeRicco said that for several years they have tried to get staff and funding for this but were unsuccessful. He said with the help of Ray Knisley and Fred Settlemyer they have been able to get a workable program, which will be presented in AB 267.

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There are 37 soil conservation districts in the state. Interested farmers or people get together and establish district boundaries as they form districts. Mr. DeRicco said that the soil districts were enthusiastically supporting AB 267 and this program. He said they were looking for centralized leadership. Senator Monroe said he had attended a soil conservation district meeting when they approved the program worked out by Fred Settlemyer and Ray Knisley. He said they were really enthusiastic about it.

LAND USE PLANNING DIVISION - Pages 449-450:

See explanation on page 450.

DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES - Pages 451-453:

They are requesting a draftsman III which will be defrayed by federal funding. With regard to the requested water commissioner, they already pay half his salary and are requesting that it become a full-time position.

There is an increase in printing and duplicating which will provide for an increase in the number of printed reports. However, there is a decrease of \$3,000 in other contract services because the division will no longer do their own printing but will turn it over to the state printing office.

With regard to the last four items (U.S. Geological Survey, etc.) Mr. Westergard said they were completing the inventory stage and are into projections of water resources in the state. They are starting on alternative water plans (such as how many people the state's water resources could support if resources were diverted to population or agriculture or recreation uses, etc.). This is scheduled to be completed in 1975.

The federal government has spent \$3 million in Nevada since 1950 in the area of geological survey to study water resources.

Under federal grant on page 451 at the top, the federal government now plans to cut funds to water resources by one third. This would mean that rather than the \$65,000 figure they would receive probably \$43,000 for the next two years. They will have to cut back on some of the contract services.

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CALIFORNIA NEVADA COMPACT COMMISSION - Page 454:

These funds will be used by the commission to go to Washington, D. C. to testify before Congress about the compact. They expect them to begin hearings sometime in the next fiscal year.

DIVISION OF FORESTRY - Page 455:

The division received notification in January, 1973, that their federal allotment for fiscal year 1973 had been reduced by \$43,200. To compound this recently a legislative audit report recommended a reversion of \$73,250, the balance remaining at the close of 1971-72, to the general fund. This sum represents federal reimbursement monies applicable to previous years. If the division had been allowed to carry these monies forward into fiscal year 1973, the work program level could have been maintained. The division requests a \$43,000 supplemental appropriation for fiscal year 1972-73 so they can continue, and any remaining balance at the end of the year will revert to the general fund.

They are requesting a forester II which is currently an emergency education act position, for Las Vegas as they would like to make him a permanent state employee. The forestry foreman II is for Southern Nevada. Both these positions would work in Clark County in the Mt. Charleston area and would also work in Lincoln and Nye Counties. They will do windbreak and tree work and service forestry throughout Southern Nevada. Until they got the EEA position they had no foresters in Southern Nevada. Also the term foreman is a misnomer, as he doesn't supervise but does have more skill and knowledge than the forester II. They are also requesting a forestry foreman I position for Reno to work as dispatcher when the present dispatcher is off.

During the summer months while they are faced with fire hazards they put the employees on a six-day week. The \$16,000 for 1972-73 is for existing employees, and the \$30,000 requested for each year of the biennium is due to the added request of 3 foresters. Senator Monroe said, "It seems your agency is an ideal one where you can take compensatory time off in the winter." Mr. Zappetinni said they used to be able to do this seven to ten years ago, but with the influx of people who have moved onto state watersheds and outlying areas, they have to give these people year-round protection. He said if their homes caught fire it would cause brush

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The special equipment at \$36,000 on page 457, is for nursery tools \$1,500, tools for tractors \$2,000, a new tractor \$8,000, a heating unit for the third greenhouse \$3,500, among other items.

The \$35,000 income toward the top of page 455 is for charges for the use of inmates on various projects at Lake Tahoe. There are usually twenty to thirty inmates working on projects.

The raw materials at the top of page 457 is for tree seeds, fertilizers, and to buy trees from out of state when they can't produce them such as for Southern Nevada where they have no nursery.

The \$3,500 other furniture and equipment is for tools for the Reno shop and having to send mechanics to school for training to work on the trucks.

FOREST FIRE SUPPRESSION - Page 459:

This fund is only used for fire fighting, and none of it goes toward agency administration. Mr. Zappetini said that they went broke during last summer and had to get additional funds from the Board of Examiners.

FOREST PEST CONTROL - Page 460:

See explanation on that page.

The committee also heard the budgets for FOREST & WATER SHED REHABILITATION on page 461 (which provides for reseeding after fires) and the HONOR CAMP FUND on page 462.

WESTERN INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION - Page 178:

Senator Brown asked what criteria was used for paying tuition. Dr. Anderson said none of the thirteen states in the commission had ever set a means test. He said that a student has a 15% better chance of being accepted by a university if he had been accepted by WICHE. He also said that he had noticed two students whose parents were wealthy and he looked at this with a jaundiced eye.

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Senator Brown said he couldn't understand why the state should subsidize a student's education in instances where the parents could well afford to do so and wondered if there were some way for the states to be reimbursed by the parents in those instances.

Dr. White said that the stipend is not so much support of the student but support of the receiving institution. She said that this contribution is more from one state to another state facility and a means for states to reimburse one another.


Senator Brown said that the \$5,000 should be paid by the rich parent rather than the State of Nevada.

Dr. Anderson said that there is no way a man could buy his son's way into medical school even if he were rich. He mentioned again that the student has a 15% better chance of being accepted if he were supported by WICHE.

The committee discussed the fact that law students weren't being admitted under WICHE. Dr. White said that they could do this if the committee showed legislative intent to do so, and it would cost about \$2,500 a year for fee to participate.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Ellen Hocker, Secretary

APPROVED:


Lloyd R. Lamb, Chairman

WICHE
NEW STUDENTS ADMITTED

<u>Field of Study</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>Total</u>
Medicine	4	11	4	12	4	2	37
Dentistry	5	8	10	6	12	10	51
Vet. Medicine	1	3	4	4	4	2	18
Dental Hygiene	2	5	0	1	2	11	21
Physical Therapy	5	0	3	3	3	3	17
Optometry	-	-	-	-	13	3	16
Occ. Therapy	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
	<u>17</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>162</u>