

MINUTES

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE - NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE - 58th SESSION

April 1, 1975

363

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Mello at 8:00 A.M. in the Ways and Means Committee Room.

PRESENT: Chairman Mello, Mrs. Brookman, Mr. Dreyer, Mr. Glover, Mr. Howard, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Wittenberg. Mr. Weise was excused for a Government Affairs Meeting from 8:00 until 9:00. Mr. Bremner was excused.

ALSO PRESENT: John Dolan, Bill Bible, Jean Ross, Glen Griffin, Fred Wright, Jonn Humphrey, Joe Miner, Matt Benson, Elias Goicoechea and Clarence Cassady.

Glen Griffin stated that the initial development of this budget several months ago was predicated upon an average annual increase in basic income of 7-8% and in the second year, additional funds generated by proposed legislation. No growth in the form of new programs are planned. It appears that basic income from licenses and tags now being sold and deposited for use in 1975-76 will not come up to the estimated 7-8% increase forecast. Therefore, the projected increase of \$350,000 estimated to be available for fiscal year 76 pending passage of AB 142, may not be fully realized. He also felt there would be a reduction in the nonresident deer quota this year which will also reduce income. Even in light of this conservative forecast, he stated, they are recommending upon concurrence of the budget office that the \$65,565 in general funds for 1975-76 be reduced by \$42,565 leaving \$18,000 to support the non-game program. The rationale here is that AB 165 would provide for a transfer from the general fund to the fish and game fund of an amount equivalent to the previous years money collected for violations of fish and game, watercraft and littering statutes. They have also proposed in AB 141 that the pheasant stamp requirements be deleted as an unnecessary additional burden on a small segment of the hunting population and to reduce the burden on license agents encumbered with issuing the stamp. Sales for the fall season of 1973 were 2,850 stamps and the fall of 1974, a total of 2,951 was sold. This proposal would then eliminate the estimated \$6,000 income in the second year of the biennium and eliminate the need for line item budgeting of the upland game program. Programwise there would be no change, as the upland game program of necessity has consisted of raising and introducing exotic game birds as a Federal aid supported activity. Pittman-Robertson, Hunter Safety and Dingell-Johnson Federal aid funds are apportioned to the states and the states determine their use within the few constraints of the acts. At the suggestion of the budget office, they have asked for legislative relief in SB 113 which was in the Committee on Finance. This bill, with certain constraints, would have permitted in effect the temporary transfer from the general fund to the fish and game fund an amount equal to that vouchered for reimbursement and in transit during the latter part of a fiscal year. The Committee on Finance has amended SB 113 to permit the temporary transfer from fish and game revenue on deposit to the fish and game fund. Other pressures upon the dollar that are reducing program productivity in addition to increases in salary, fringe benefit and travel are the dictates of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Chairman Mello stated that he felt that the **deer population is down and** wondered how they could keep track of the number of deer when people do not send in their tags. Mr. Griffin stated that they get most of the tags returned which show that only 25% of the people are getting deer. He stated that they also have 4000 nonresident tags and their is a great success by those from out of state. Chairman Mello asked if they ever discussed a moritorium on hunting in Nevada as Nevadans are getting fed up because they are not getting deer. Mr. Griffin stated they have never considered it because they do not feel it is necessary. Success is down and they do not feel that a moritorium would increase the population of deer. He also stated that they would lose \$90 from each of the out of state hunters.

Mr. Robinson felt that the sale of licenses was this department's first priority and the concern for deer was second. He stated that if this was a general fund budget their attitude would be different. He felt there aren't any deer where they use to be. He felt that if this was under the general fund they could get away from overselling deer tags to get

revenue. Mr. Griffin stated that they do not sell tags just to get money. They have decreased the nonresident tags from 16,000 to 4000. They have also discussed regulating hunting in the areas where deer are scarce and they are trying to manage the problem.

Mr. Griffin stated that the Commission might not want their budget under the general fund because they might be overly apprehensive of political acts. He would like to see the department designed properly to protect the Federal acts if this were done. Chairman Mello stated that it seemed they were getting further and further into General Fund money.

The Dues and Registration are membership in the International Association of State Fish and Game officers. This provides a cross-exchange of information gained by the states. Also, the Western Association of State Fish and Game Officers and the Pacific Flyway Council dues are in this part of the budget and the periodicals.

Contractual Services provide contracts with the University on research programs and blood diseases in deer or big horn sheep. Also water analysis contract and the study of Whirling disease in fish.

There has been an increase in food due to the Lake Mead Hatchery and the increased cost in fish food and bird food.

Chairman Mello stated that there are two Capital Improvement Programs. Page 654, 75-26 provides for a recirculation system at the Verdi Hatchery. The water temperature varies and they would like to recirculate these waters to keep them at a constant temperature. This would have a slight increase in the pumping cost. It would provide more cut-throat fish and a better control of the Whirling disease and would also decrease the antibiotic cost. They also need to meet the Environmental Protection Agency requirements.

75-42, page 657 would provide shades for the outside ponds at the newly constructed Lake Mead Hatchery. These shades would reduce the temperature of the water and also reduce the algae problems. At present, the temperature gets so hot they have to reduce the number of fish in the tanks. Mr. Robinson stated that if it was such a simple type of construction, why the need for so much in Architectural and Engineering costs. Mr. Griffin stated these shades would be comparable to what **is already up**. **They also** need a sound constructed shade.

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Mr. Griffin stated they have two pilots, two airplanes and one heli-copter which is not owned by Fish and Game.

The Fish and Game Nevada Boat Act was explained by Mr. Griffin. He stated they have ten patrol boats which operate under the motor boat safety act. There are about 26,000 registered boats in the state and they anticipate an increase. The registration fee will also go up about \$2. They also receive revenue from boat fuel tax and qualify for as much of the Coast Guard money as they can. This money is used to maintain the boats and equipment. It is not used for people in case the money is deleted.

Mr. Joe Miner explained the Predatory Animal and Rodent Control budget. He stated there will be an increase in salaries and In-State travel which they are requesting an increase of \$25,000. The 21 employees drive their own vehicles at 14¢ per mile and the people in the field receive a per diem rate of \$8 per day. Those employees with horses also receive an increase for keeping their horses.

Chairman Mello asked what success they have had in killing the coyote. Mr. Miner stated that the coyote population has had little change and they confine their efforts to the areas that have the problem. They have taken roughly 11,000 coyotes last year.

Mr. Goicoechea of the Woolgrowers Association stated that they have had approximately 9,249 mature sheep killed and 16,317 lambs killed by coyotes.

Matt Benson of the Cattleman's Association stated that the ranchers feel there has been an increase in coyotes and presented to the committee a list of concerned ranchers. He stated that this is not only a problem in Nevada, but in all the Western states and stated that they lost 16 cows in one morning.

Mr. Miner stated that predatory animal furs are turned over to the

Woolgrowers budget.

The Woolgrowers Predatory Animal Control Commission was explained by Mr. Miner. The funds for this program are derived from a 20¢ per head tax on sheep. They also have 21 trappers in the field.

Mr. John Humphrey explained the Sheep Inspection Fund. They are concerned with the health of Nevada sheep and are supported entirely from tax on sheep. The work done under this program is done as a service to the industry. Sheep population has decreased so revenues have gone down and they have a small carryover balance each year.

Clarence Cassady explained the Dairy Commission which is concerned with economic problems in the dairy industry. They have asked for increases in salaries and out of state travel. They are requesting \$1000 per year in case they have to travel and if they do not it will not be used. A bill is being introduced to reduce the Commission from 9 members to 8. It would have a change in the salaries, but there is also a bill to increase the salaries of the Commission, and neither of these will present any problems.

Predatory Animal and Rodent Control - Mr. Glover made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass" as recommended by the Governor. Mr. Howard seconded. Motion passed.

Woolgrowers Predatory Animal Control Commission. Mr. Dreyer made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass" as recommended by the Governor. Mrs. Brookman seconded. Motion passed.

Sheep Inspection Fund - Mr. Glover made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass" as recommended by the Governor. Mr. Wittenberg seconded. Motion passed.

Dairy Commission - Mrs. Brookman made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass" as recommended by the Governor. Mr. Wittenberg seconded. Motion passed.

Commission on Crime Delinquency and Correction - Mr. Howard made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass" as recommended by the Governor. Mr. Glover seconded. Motion passed.

P.O.S.T. - Mr. Wittenberg made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass" as recommended by the Governor. Mr. Robinson seconded. Motion passed.

Small County and Indian Justice Planner - Mrs. Brookman made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass" as recommended by the Governor. **Mr. Dreyer seconded.** Motion passed.

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Crime Commission - Federal Grants - Mr. Robinson made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass" as recommended by the Governor. Mr. Wittenberg seconded. Motion passed.

Crime Commission Identification and Communications Division - Mrs. Brookman made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass" as recommended by the Governor. Mr. Glover seconded. Motion passed.

I D and Communications - Federal - Mr. Howard made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass" as recommended by the Governor. Mr. Dreyer seconded. Motion passed.

Crime Commission Investigation and Narcotic Division - Mr. Weise made a motion to amend this budget to include four additional Narco Agent III for a total of eight agents in 1975-76 and no additional agents to be added in the second year. Mr. Dreyer seconded. Motion passed. Mr. Dreyer made a motion to recommend a "Do-pass" as recommended by the Governor and as amended. Mr. Weise seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 A.M.