

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
MARCH 10, 1975

287

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

Senator Floyd R. Lamb was in the Chair.

PRESENT: Senator Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman
Senator James I. Gibson, Vice-Chairman
Senator B. Mahlon Brown
Senator William J. Raggio
Senator Warren L. Monroe
Senator Clifton Young
Senator Lee E. Walker

OTHERS: Roger Trounday, Department of Human Resources
Ernie Gregory, Environmental Protection
Elmo Dericco, Department of Conservation
Ted Bendure, Division of Soil Conservation Districts
John Meder, Division of State Lands
Roland Westergard, Division of Water Resources
Don Paff, Division of Colorado River Resources
George Zappettini, Division of Forestry
Howard Barrett, Budget Director
Ron Sparks, Fiscal Analyst
Cy Ryan, UPI

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Mr. Roger Trounday said that this Division covers air pollution, water pollution, and solid waste.

Senator Lamb asked about Other Governmental Services. Mr. Ernie Gregory said this is to develop contracts between consumer services and environmental protection agency. Mr. Gregory added that Contractual Services is a contract with the DRI and University Department of Agriculture to study agricultural returns, quality and quantity of non-point sources of water pollution, and basin management plans.

Senator Lamb asked about the total agency request for last year, and 1975-76. Mr. Barrett said that the Actual for 1973-74 was \$688,000 (Page 291), and both budgets together, (Page 291 and 503), will be approximately \$902,000.

Senator Young asked about the program involving the Truckee River. Mr. Gregory said that an \$80,000 study by the Council of Governments has been completed, and will give the Division an idea of the land use controls needed. Mr. Gregory said that Reno and Sparks also have a phosphorus removal plant in operation, and the Division does sampling from the river.

Senator Raggio asked if the Division monitors the East Walker River, as he noticed some detergent residue. Mr. Gregory said that the natural runoff often appears foamy.

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
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PAGE TWO

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (Cont.)

Senator Lamb asked why the budget has increased. Mr. Gregory said that the Division has the same basic program, however, he noted increases in the following areas:

- a) Other Government Services -- \$46,600
- b) Legal and Court Expense -- \$29,793
(Deputy Attorney General)
- c) Contractual Services -- \$36,800
- d) Rent -- \$26,424

Senator Gibson asked how the rent can increase when the same amount of space is involved. Mr. Howard Barrett said that he did not know why the rent increased, but he would provide a breakdown of how the rent was budgeted.

Senator Young asked what is the salary of the Deputy Attorney General. Mr. Gregory said \$29,723. Mr. Elmo Dericco believes this includes compensation and retirement. Mr. Barrett added that the Attorney General's office is proposing \$22,600 actual salary, and \$17,366 is present salary.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Mr. Dericco made an opening comment on the Department and said that no new positions were recommended.

Senator Gibson remarked that on this budget the rent decreases. Mr. Dericco said that they will be using less space.

Senator Lamb addressed Mr. Dericco and told him that the Department's request concerning the Colorado River Commission will be considered along with all other requests under that heading.

Mr. Dericco said the \$2,500 for Nevada TRPA Support covers the per diem and travel expenses for the Governor's representative to the Agency.

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION DIVISION

Mr. Dericco said there are no new programs, only increased operational costs.

Senator Young asked if the quality of the air and water is improving in Nevada. Mr. Dericco said that in urban areas the air is probably degrading and currently there is not much stress where water is concerned. Mr. Gregory remarked that the Division of Motor Vehicles in Las Vegas conducts "Hot Idle" tests for pollution on used cars; and there are plans to expand this to the Carson City and Reno areas.

Mr. Roger Trounday and Mr. Barrett said that the amount for In-State

PAGE THREE

Travel should be \$3,500, not \$1,000.

DIVISION OF SOIL CONSERVATION

Mr. Ted Bendure gave an opening talk naming the Division's responsibilities towards the thirty-four districts. Mr. Bendure said there is an increase in travel expenses. Senator Lamb asked why there is an increase for Out-of-State. Mr. Bendure answered that the Division employees attend conferences such as the Western States Conservation Commission, to learn the programs of other states. Senator Raggio asked about In-State travel. Mr. Bendure said the Division provided leadership to the districts.

Senator Raggio inquired as to how many districts are not completing their plans. Mr. Bendure replied that seven in Elko County lack completion, as well as projects in Humboldt and Lincoln Counties..

Senator Young asked if the quarterly meetings do any good. Mr. DeRicco said that this allows private individuals to have a voice in setting priorities for federal funding.

Senator Walker asked if there are any federal funds involved in the canal projects. Mr. Bendure replied that this is a cost-sharing program that only requires State monies for Administrative costs.

DIVISION OF STATE LANDS

Senator Raggio asked if updating a title search on State lands is necessary. Mr. DeRicco said that old land titles are being listed and brought up to date. Senator Young suggested this could be done by a title company. Mr. DeRicco believed that there is too much involved, as this operation currently constitutes one-third of the Division's budget.

Senator Gibson thought the State Land Use Planning Agency was contingent on a Federal law that did not pass. Mr. John Meder said the program was only to be accelerated with federal funding.

Senator Lamb asked about Contractual Services. Mr. Meder said this is for survey and engineering services.

Senator Young felt that the plans and projections are too vague. Mr. Meder said that progress was delayed by lack of personnel, but felt that development will be expedient for the next two years.

PAGE FOUR

TRPA

Senator Lamb asked about the \$25,000 allocated by the 1973 Interim Finance Committee. Mr. DeRicco said if this is not used it will revert back to the General Fund.

Senator Raggio asked who is the attorney for TRPA. Mr. DeRicco said Gary Owens. Mr. Meder said the present attorney receives Nevada State benefits, and is not a Special Deputy.

DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

Mr. Roland Westergard said there are two new positions recommended for Elko and Carson City.

Senator Lamb asked about Contractual Services. Mr. Westergard said this is for the litigation costs involving the question of State jurisdiction of water resources.

Senator Raggio recalled that about \$100,000 was appropriated last session for the Truckee River litigation. Mr. Westergard said that about \$2,000 is left in the account, and most of the money was spent defending the State's position before the United States Supreme Court.

Senator Gibson asked who was working to obtain more water for Nevada. Mr. Westergard said that for all practical purposes the in-state surface water are developed and committed under existing water rights. Mr. Westergard said that import water is an issue of international scope, and felt that it will be a long time before this will happen in the northwestern states.

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA COMPACT COMMISSION

Mr. Westergard said this Compact is now threatened by litigation, and is pending on Congressional approval.

DIVISION OF COLORADO RIVER RESOURCES

Senator Raggio asked if the revenue from sales of power remains static. Mr. Don Paff said revenue is based on fixed price per kilowatt hour.

Senator Brown asked what are the costs of the second phase. Mr. Paff said \$120 million total in federal and State investments.

Senator Walker asked what lands the Division was responsible

PAGE FIVE

for. Mr. Paff said there are three areas statutorily designated, and those are the Fort Mojabe area, the Tri-State border area, and the El Dorado Valley.

Senator Brown asked if the airport plan had been abandoned for El Dorado Valley. Mr. Paff said this was contingent on the federal acceptance of Nevada's purpose for purchase.

DIVISION OF FORESTRY

Senator Raggio asked about the nursery income. Mr. George Zappettini answered approximately \$40,000 per year.

Senator Young asked if the Division had any input into the B.L.M. program. Mr. Zappettini said yes, as there are many various endangered areas, the joint committee prefers a multiple use plan.

Senator Walker asked if they had done any tree planting. Mr. Zappettini said that in burned areas, there is only a good "take" with grass and shrubs.

Senator Raggio asked if the Division will be fully reimbursed for the Mount Charleston program. Mr. Zappettini said yes, and the county will pay costs of two foresters.

Senator Gibson asked about the Communications increase. Mr. Zappettini said this is due to the radio and telephone system.

Senator Gibson asked about the rent. Mr. Zappettini said the State Owned is a Buildings and Grounds charge; and the Other is for a trailer in Elko, and one at Clear Creek.

Senator Gibson asked about Medical Expenses. Mr. Zappettini said this is to meet OSHA requirements for physicals.

In response to Senator Gibson, Mr. Zappettini said the Trucks and Office Furniture request is for replacements; the Other furniture is to upgrade equipment; and \$80,000 of the Specialized is for a bulldozer, and the balance for a radio system. Mr. Zappettini continued and said the Training is for the Boise, Utah, Nevada, and California training sites; the Inmate is money earned on forestry projects to purchase special clothing and equipment; and for Air Operations, the following breakdown was given for the Biennium:

PAGE SIX

- a) 1975-76: Insurance for helicopter and plane; Outside Department use; Modification to civilian standards; and fuel.
- b) 1976-77: Insurance for helicopter and plane; Overhaul of engines and propellers; operating expenses.

Senator Lamb asked about the Volunteer Fire Departments. Mr. Zappettini said this is for NIC and private insurance costs.

Senator Gibson asked about the \$100,000 for rural fire protection. Mr. Zappettini said there was a \$4 1/2 million loss in rural areas for 6,507 fires for which we provide equipment for the volunteers. Mr. Barrett said that in 1972 the matching provision was 50% - 50% which was to be paid by the counties.

Senator Young asked how the volunteers are paid. Mr. Zappettini said the Department's receipts are for \$30 for truck rental the first two hours, and \$12 each hour from the third hour forward.

FORESTRY NURSERIES

Mr. Barrett said to Senator Raggio that \$69,500 is recommended for the Las Vegas nursery capital improvement, and was given to the Division rather than the Planning Board because it was felt the Division had more experience in nurseries.

FOREST FIRE SUPPRESSION

Mr. Zappettini said there is no way of predicting emergency costs, and the Division had to go to the Board of Examiners for a reimbursement amount, (Governor recommended \$100,000).

Mr. Zappettini said that there is some problem in collecting from Storey County as they claim they have no funds with which to pay reimbursements.

FORESTRY PEST CONTROL

Mr. Zappettini said this did not involve any State money.

FOREST AND WATERSHED REHABILITATION

Mr. Zappettini said if the fire rehabilitation requires more

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
MARCH 10, 1975

273

PAGE SEVEN

than \$5,000, the Division goes to the Department of Soil Conservation.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:


SHEBA L. WOOLLEY, SECRETARY

APPROVED:


FLOYD R. LAMB, CHAIRMAN