

Review

MINUTES

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE - 60th SESSION

February 1, 1979

Chairman Mello called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Mello, Vice-Chairman Bremner, Mr. Barengo, Mrs. Cavnar, Mr. Glover, Mr. Hickey, Mr. Mann, Mr. Rhoads, Mr. Vergiels, Mrs. Wagner, and Mr. Webb.

ALSO PRESENT: Bill Bible, Fiscal Analyst; Judy Matteucci, Deputy Fiscal Analyst; Mike Alastuey, Deputy Budget Director; Jean Ross, Management Analyst; Mimi Rodden, Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology.

Chairman Mello introduced Mimi Rodden, Administrator of Historic Preservation and Archeology, and directed the Committee's attention to the budget of this Division.

Ms. Rodden gave a brief presentation of the functions of the Division -- that is, to provide assistance, encouragement, planning, and coordination of historic preservation and archeological activities to political subdivisions and the private sector within the State; to administer the Federal grant-in-aid; and to administer the historical marker program. She stated that additional responsibilities included the establishment of an advisory board; the preparation of statewide surveys of historical, archeological, and architectural resources; participation in the National Register of Historic Places Program; the development, implementation, and maintenance of a review procedure for publicly funded, assisted, and licensed undertakings; assistance to Federal agencies in fulfilling their historic preservation responsibilities; development and expansion of a public education program; and the preparation and maintenance of a comprehensive statewide historic preservation plan.

Mrs. Wagner inquired as to the makeup of the advisory board. Ms. Rodden replied that the Board is made up of five members who are chosen from the Historical Society, the university system, the Nevada State Museum, the Lost City Museum, and one member at-large. Meetings are held three times a year, as set by law, and the members are compensated for travel and per diem only.

Ms. Rodden pointed out that the difference between the agency's request and the Governor's recommendation was due largely to the agency request for three new positions which were not recommended.

In discussing the various revenue items in the budget, Ms. Rodden pointed out that the Federal flow-through revenue reflects monies that are passed through the State office to benefit the people of the State.

Mr. Bremner asked for clarification of how flow-through monies are used to benefit the people of the State. Ms. Rodden replied that the Division received acquisition and development grant funds from the Federal government for disbursement to preservation projects around the State. These projects included the Eureka Sentinel Building, two projects in Washoe County, one project in Nye County, one in Clark County, two in Carson City, one project in Douglas County, one in Lander County, one in Lyon County, and one in Storey County. The planning projects included projects in such agencies as the University of Nevada Las Vegas, Nevada State Museum, and the Nevada Historical Society in Carson City.

Mr. Hickey inquired as to the match percentage for the Federal historic preservation funds. Ms. Rodden replied that in theory, the match is 50%; however, it currently is about 45%, and has been less in the past. She predicted that as the Division becomes more active, it will become more involved in the Federal program.

Mr. Barengo asked if funds from this Division could be used in the effort to refurbish the Governor's mansion. Ms. Rodden referred the question to Mr. Robert Fink. Mr. Fink stated that it would be possible to use Division funds for the interior restoration project if the items being restored were period items previously used in the Governor's mansion. He pointed out that Federal guidelines make interior restoration projects less attractive than the regular interior historic preservation projects.

Mr. Rhoads asked how it is possible to project Federal revenue amounts so far in advance. Ms. Rodden explained that these amounts are predicated on projects the Division has completed, as well as those projects that are tentatively approved for funding at the current time. Mr. Fink clarified that these allocations, which come from the Department of the Interior, are awarded to each State on a yearly basis. He pointed out that there are numerous proposed projects for each annual allocation.

Mr. Rhoads questioned why the Department of Interior was the Federal granting agency. Mr. Fink explained that the Department of Interior is the Federal agency that controls Federal historic preservation funds that are made available to the states for preservation projects.

In further description of budget items, Ms. Rodden went on to say that the historic bibliography revenue was a one-shot, federally funded project, and has been completed. She added that the Division hopes to make some additions to the bibliography in the future, although these additions are not projected for this biennium.

In explaining the existing position in the Division's budget, Ms. Rodden stated that the Historical Architect position is currently unfilled, but that the Personnel Division is currently recruiting for the position.

Ms. Rodden explained that the requested increase for out-of-state travel is to allow the Administrator to take two trips per year -- one to Washington, D.C. and one to a closer location for the purpose of attending historic preservation conferences. She stated that the in-state travel recommendation primarily provides for on-site inspections and for short, one-day trips to historic sites.

Under the operating category, Ms. Rodden explained that the contractual services expense was to compensate judges for the state-wide poster contest to promote historic preservation.

Concerning the historical marker category, Ms. Rodden stated that the present markers are in need of refurbishing, and it is projected that ten markers will be needed for fiscal year 1979-80, and five will be required the following year. She added that the markers are made by the Department of Prisons.

Mrs. Wagner asked for an explanation of the survey and planning request by the agency which was not recommended by the Governor. Ms. Rodden said the request was to provide for surveys of historic preservation sites around the State and that, in light of the Governor's recommendation, some Federal funds would probably be available -- although not enough to do a comprehensive job. Mr. Fink added that the current survey and planning work done by the Division was done on a gratuitous basis and that the Division was not able to choose the areas it wanted to survey. Rather, they must be requested to do surveys by other agencies.

Mr. Rhoads observed that the current program was comprised of a

five-to-one ratio of Federal to State dollars. He inquired as to the ramifications of a Federal cutback in the program, particularly in the need for the current staff. Ms. Rodden replied that the Federal funds are anticipated to continue, but that perhaps staff could be cut should a curtailment of Federal funds occur, thereby necessitating a State program cutback.

Mr. Glover asked how priority of projects was determined. Ms. Rodden replied that priority is based on need, the area, the dedication of the people in the area to the project, and the monies available. She also stated that over \$775,500 in Federal funds had been brought into Nevada for historic preservation since the program's inception in 1970. In response to Mr. Glover's question concerning the priority for assisting the Highway Department, Ms. Rodden stated that although the Highway Department has their own archeologist, assistance to the Highway Department and other State agencies is the prime responsibility of the Division.

Chairman Mello thanked Ms. Rodden for her presentation and then stated that the budget presentations for the entire Department of Conservation had been excellent. He attributed this excellence in large part to Jean Ross of the Budget Division, and thanked her for her efforts.

Mr. Bible then passed out copies of the Legislative Fiscal Report to the Committee members. He explained that the Report was a summary of the entire Executive Budget and pointed out various charts in the document which may be particularly helpful to the Committee members.

Chairman Mello directed the Committee's attention to the Minutes of January 23. Motion to adopt by Mr. Bremner; seconded by Mr. Hickey. Motion carried unanimously. Motion to adopt the Minutes of January 24, 25, and 26 by Mr. Webb; seconded by Mr. Bremner. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.