

MINUTES OF THE Senate COMMITTEE ON Energy and Natural Resources

The meeting was called to order by Senator Charlie L. Angell at  
Chairperson

8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 7, 1984 in room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:  
Senator Tom Rehorn (Excused)

Committee staff present:

Ramon Powers, Research Department  
Raney Gilliland, Research Department  
Chris Stanfield, Research Department  
Don Hayward, Revisor's Office  
LaVonne Mumert, Secretary to the Committee

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Bill Morris  
Bill Hanzlick, Kansas Fish and Game Commission  
Ted Cunningham, Kansas Outdoors Unlimited  
Senator Ron Hein  
Don Craig, U. S. Rowing Association  
Chris Mitchell, Washburn Rowing Crew  
Kent Jackson, Kansas Fish and Game Commission

Senator Gordon moved that the minutes of the February 3, 1984 meeting be approved. Senator Werts seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

S.B. 580 - Purchase of fish hatchery stamp not required of lifetime license holder

Senator Bill Morris explained that the bill would exempt holders of lifetime fishing licenses and combination fishing-hunting licenses from being required to purchase hatchery stamps. He said that each year he has to fill out a form and buy a hatchery stamp and it is really a nuisance. Senator Morris said if the bill were passed in its present form, there could be a problem with violation of bond covenants. He suggested some possible solutions to this problem: selling a lifetime hatchery permit or doing away with the requirement for a hatchery permit once those bonds are refunded and refinanced. Senator Werts asked if any of the bond covenants would be violated if the lifetime licenses that were issued before the hatchery permit went into effect were grandfathered in. Senator Morris said it appears that he might not even be required to buy a hatchery permit because his license was issued six months before the hatchery permit went into effect. He said the hatchery fee is \$3.00 a year.

Bill Hanzlick testified that the Commission does support the concept in S.B. 580. He mentioned that they have received adverse comments from lifetime license holders about the requirement to purchase the hatchery stamp. He said the fees paid by the lifetime license holders for the hatchery stamp are less than \$1,000 annually and that the interest on the lifetime accounts is far greater than the \$1,000. Mr. Hanzlick told the Committee that the bond market is very favorable right now and they are seriously considering refinancing the bonds. If this occurs, they would take out the prohibitive language in the new bond issue. He added they would probably know within six weeks whether they are going to refinance.

Ted Cunningham stated that if lifetime license holders are exempted from paying fees for the hatchery, it seems to create two classes of license holders. He suggested that at the time a lifetime fishing or lifetime combination license is purchased, the hatchery stamp fee also be paid for the remaining number of years on the bond issue.

S.B. 569 - Personal flotation devices not required on racing shells or kayaks or rowing sculls

Senator Ron Hein said he was requested to introduce the bill by the Washburn Rowing Crew. He explained that the current law requires that people in watercraft use life jackets and this presents problems of restraint and weight for competition. There are plans to have a major national or international competition in this area in 1988 and this law would be very prohibitive to such an event. Senator Hein said the oars used are safety devices.

Don Craig testified in favor of the bill. He said that the U. S. Coast Guard has approved the rowing oars as flotation devices. He explained that the life jackets can be a hazard whether the belt is left dangling or tied down.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate COMMITTEE ON Energy and Natural Resources,  
room 123-S, Statehouse, at 8:00 a.m./~~p.m.~~ on Tuesday, February 7, 1984.

Chris Mitchell testified in support of the bill. He told the Committee that during a competition there are three referee boats directly behind the rowing teams and these boats would be on the spot in case of any type of accident. Senator Vidricksen asked how often the shells or sculls capsize. Mr. Mitchell said in his three years' experience in the sport, he has never seen one. Responding to a question from Senator Kerr, Mr. Mitchell said there are seven rowing teams in Kansas.

Ted Cunningham testified in opposition to the bill. He raised concerns about safety. Mr. Cunningham said perhaps the bill should be amended to exempt racing shells and rowing sculls during competition, but he opposes any exemption for practicing, etc. He mentioned that the newer life jackets are not bulky and are not that prohibitive to movement.

Kent Jackson spoke in opposition to the bill. He also talked about safety concerns. Mr. Jackson said the Commission has made an accommodation to alleviate the problem by allowing the life preservers to be carried on a pilot boat.

The Committee discussed the fact that the Coast Guard has recognized the racing oars as approved flotation devices and the Kansas statutes require that vessels carry at least one "coast guard approved lifesaving device of the sort prescribed by regulations of the commission...". It was agreed that the Fish and Game Commission would take up the matter at its next meeting and notify the Committee on or before February 24 of its decision. Senator Hess advised that Senator Hein has no objection to removing kayaks from the bill.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m. by the Chairman. The next meeting of the Committee will be at 8:00 a.m. on February 8, 1984.

Senate Energy & Natural Resources

Feb. 7, 1984

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Ted Cunningham	Kansas Outdoors Unlimited, Inc.
Kent Jackson	Ks Fish & Game
Bill HANZlick	"
DON CRAIG	U.S. Rowing Assn
Chris Mitchell	WV Rowing crew
LOW STANTON	NORTHERN NATURAL GAS Co
Della Wray Blythe	
Glenn Sewell	Sen. Rehan