

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

April 19, 1999

Original Minutes with Attachments

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Sen. William Crismore, Chair
Rep. Kim Gillan, Vice Chair
Rep. Paul Clark
Sen. Mack Cole
Rep. Monica Lindeen
Senator Bea McCarthy
Senator Ken Mesaros

Rep. Doug Mood
Ms. Julia Page, via phone
Mr. Jerry Sorensen, via phone
Sen. Spook Stang
Mr. Howard Strause, via phone
Rep. Bill Tash
Sen. John Tester
Rep. Cindy Younkin

COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED

Mr. Tom Ebzery
Ms. Julie Lapeyre

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Todd Everts
Mr. Larry Mitchell
Ms. Mary Vandenbosch

VISITOR LIST

Attachment #1

COUNCIL ACTION

- * Elected Sen. Bill Crismore Chair and Rep. Kim Gillan Vice Chair.
- * Appointed an EQC Montana-Crow Water Compact Subcommittee
- * Set next meeting date for May 24 and 25, 1999 in Helena

I. CALL TO ORDER

Senior Senator Bill Crismore called the meeting to order. Roll call was noted; Mr. Ebzery was excused.

II. COUNCIL MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

Each Council Member introduced themselves.

III. STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Everts introduced the staff.

IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

SEN. CRISMORE asked that Mr. Everts explain to the Council the history of EQC officer elections

MR. EVERTS noted that traditionally the EQC has elected a chair and vice chair, one from each house and one from each party. The position of chair has traditionally rotated back and forth between each house and each party. There have been exceptions to this tradition. Last interim the EQC elected Co-Chairs. The decision of Chair/Vice Chair or Co-Chairs is a decision that each new Council can make.

SEN. MESAROS said that the Co-Chair format worked well last interim, but much of it depends on the personalities of the Co-Chairs. The Co-Chair format could lead to problems if there were personality conflicts. Sen. Mesaros noted that he would prefer that the EQC go back to the traditional Chair/Vice Chair format.

REP. TASH concurred with Sen. Mesaros. The EQC and subcommittee coordination would be easier if there were a Chair/Vice Chair format.

SENATOR COLE made a motion to have the EQC go back to a Chair/Vice Chair Format

MR. SORENSEN concurs.

MR. STRAUSE asked if the party of the Chair switched every year?

SEN. CRISMORE noted that the Chair position switches every interim between parties.

MR. STRAUSE asked if the EQC would look back to the party of the Chair one interim ago?

MR. EVERTS replied that the Chair one interim ago was Jerry Noble, a public member and Republican appointment out of the Senate. However, at the beginning of that interim, in which tradition would have held that a Republican in the Senate have the Chair, former Senator Bill Yellowtail beat Jerry Noble on a flip of a coin. Tradition is usually dispositive, but the slate is kind of clean here at the moment and each Council must make its own decision.

SEN. TESTER asked Sen. Mesaros whether there were any problems in getting work done during the last interim?

SEN. MESAROS replied that there were not any tangible problems other than coordination between two people and staff. Conducting the meetings was not any problem. It would be more efficient going with a Chair/Vice Chair format especially given the work this interim.

SEN. TESTER asked whether the Co-Chairs attended the subcommittees meetings last interim.

SEN. MESAROS replied that Rep. Cocchiarella attended the Growth Subcommittee meetings and that he attended the Water Policy Subcommittee meetings. It is anticipated, given the potential issues that the EQC is faced with, that there will be more subcommittees this interim.

SEN. TESTER noted that if the anticipated work load is greater this interim, it makes sense to share the load through a Co-Chair format that would actually improve the efficiency of the Council.

MR. SORENSEN asked Mr. Everts whether using the use of Co-Chairs imposed any additional work load in terms of coordination and logistics?

MR. EVERTS replied that because of the individuals involved, there wasn't much in terms of an extra work-load. It gets down to dynamics between the two individuals.

SEN. STANG noted that the Co-Chair format worked smoothly and in a non-partisan manner last interim. The EQC has a better record than any other interim committee in the legislative process because of the Council's ability to stay non-partisan and work through these contentious problems. He noted that he would like to see the Co-Chair format be tried again.

SEN. MCCARTHY noted that she was one of the Co-Chairs on the Water Policy Committee and she thought that it went very well.

REP. TASH noted that the Co-Chair format worked well in terms of the Water Policy Committee.

SEN. MESAROS noted that it was his experience that historically, the EQC is one of the most balanced, non-political, non-partisan committees and that it has worked on its problems and issues through consensus regardless of the leadership format. It is one of the strengths of the EQC.

REP. GILLAN noted that the switching between Co-Chairs during the meetings last interim interrupted the continuity of the meeting sometimes, but for all other matters it seemed to work well.

Motion/Vote: SEN. MESAROS MOVED THAT THE EQC ELECT A CHAIR AND A VICE CHAIR FOR THIS INTERIM. THE MOTION CARRIED 8 TO 7.

SEN. MESAROS nominated Sen. Crismore for Chair.

SEN. STANG nominated Sen. McCarthy for Chair.

SEN. MCCARTHY stated she was honored to be nominated especially given the immense workload of the interim. She would look on it as a challenge.

SEN. CRISMORE stated he was honored to be nominated and looked forward to the opportunity to serve. He noted that if he were elected he would make the commitment to do the work that it takes to get the job done.

Motion/Vote: SENATOR CRISMORE WAS VOTED IN AS CHAIR 10 TO 5.

SEN. MCCARTHY moved that Rep. Gillan be nominated for Vice Chair by acclamation.

Motion/Vote: REP. GILLAN WAS VOTED IN AS VICE-CHAIR BY ACCLAMATION.

V. EQC MONTANA-CROW COMPACT SUBCOMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The Council appointed the following EQC Montana Crow Compact Subcommittee Members:

Sen. Mack Cole, Chair
Sen. Spook Stang
Rep. Paul Clark
Rep. Kim Gillan
Rep. Monica Lindeen
Rep. Cindy Younkin
Mr. Tom Ebzery

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

VII. CONFIRMATION OF MAY EQC MEETING

The Council set May 24 and 25, 1999 for the next EQC Meeting.

VIII. INSTRUCTIONS TO STAFF

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Senator Crismore, Chair