

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Minutes of the 8/9/91 Meeting
of the Physical Resources Committee

The Physical Resources Committee of the Special Commission on Governmental Restructuring met on Friday, August 9, 1991 at 9:30 a.m. in room 438 of the State House in Augusta. Members of the Committee present were the Honorable Patrick McGowan, Mr. Robert Cope and Mr. Richard Anderson. No Committee members were absent. The meeting was staffed by Patrick Norton, from the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis, and Mark Dawson, from the State Planning Office.

The members reviewed and approved the minutes from the meeting on August 5th.

The members recieved a memo from Richard Silkman indicating that none of the Commissioners would be able to attend the meeting. After some discussion, the Committee decided to invite the Executive Director of the Maine Waste Management Agency and the Director of Health Engineering to the next meeting of the Committee, scheduled for Thursday, August 15, 1991. The Committee also decided to invite the Executive Director of the Maine State Employees Association and several members of the Joint Standing Committees of the Legislature with jurisdiction over physical resource matters to that meeting as well. The Committee also decided to send an open invitation to all members of those legislative committees to attend any of the future meetings of the Committee. The Commissioners of the other natural resource agencies were invited to attend the meeting of the Committee scheduled for Friday, September 6, 1991. Since 2 of the 3 members of the Committee will not be attending the meeting on August 23rd, the Committee declined to schedule any specific activities on that date.

The Committee decided to hold public hearings on preliminary findings and recommendations from 7 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, October 9, 1991 at EMVTI in Bangor and from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, October 10, 1991 at USM in Portland.

The Committee has requested several products from the staff for up-coming meetings. New and outstanding staff requests are listed below, along with the name of the staff with primary responsibility for completion of the task:

Norton Draft memo from Committee co-chairs to commissioners of natural resource agencies requesting attendance at meetings on 8/15 and 9/6.

Draft letter to members of legislative committees on Energy and Natural Resources, Fisheries and Wildlife, Marine Resources and State and Local Government extending open invitation for future meetings.

Prepare analysis of staffing levels and expenditures of natural resources agencies from 1980-1990 by meeting on 9/6.

Dawson 5 copies of the "Trafton" report on DEP, and 5 copies of Hank Warren's 1980 management study of the DEP by the meeting on the 15th.

Follow-up memo from co-chairs to commissioners by lining up specific times slots for the 8/15 meeting and the 9/6 meeting.

Continue drafting a "checklist" of functions carried out by all natural resources agencies for review by the Committee.

Arrange for hearing spaces at EMVTI and USM on October 9th and 10th and prepare press release for review by the Committee.

Addendum. On 8/13/91 the Committee decided to cancel its meeting on 8/15/91 after learning that the Executive Director of the Maine Waste Management Agency and the Director of Health Engineering would be unable to attend.

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July 30, 1991

MEMO TO: Files, Physical Resources Committee
FROM: Patrick Norton, Legislative Analyst
RE: Minutes, Committee meeting on 7/29/91

The Physical Resources Committee of the Restructuring Commission met on Monday, July 29, 1991, in room 438 of the State House. Mr. Robert Cope was the only Committee member present. Mr. Roland Caron was absent and Mr. Richard Anderson was appointed a member of the Committee late in the day as the replacement for Mr. Laverty.

Mr. Cope reviewed the draft study objectives for the Physical Resources Committee outlined in the July 23, 1991 memo from Mr. Mert Henry and Mr. Don Nicoll to the membership of the Commission. As a result of that review, Mr. Cope proposed several revisions to the Committee's function statement and developed several study hypotheses. Mr. Cope stated that the revised function statement and hypotheses developed at this meeting were to be distributed to the other members of Committee for discussion and revision prior to the next scheduled meeting of the Committee on August 9, 1991. Mr. Cope's proposed revisions to the Committee's function statement were as follows:

It is the responsibility of State government to protect and improve the quality of its natural resources through the effective and efficient management of natural resource programs. State government must also, as steward, ensure and promote the management and utilization of those resources for the long term interest of the citizenry.

After some discussion with staff about the time available for the Committee's review of issues pertaining to the physical resources of the State, Mr. Cope suggested a list of the physical resource issues that may be reviewed by the Committee during the study. In addition, several problem areas and problem questions were identified for each issue. Those issues and problem areas are listed below, in the order of priority proposed by Mr. Cope.

1. Environmental Protection.

- Duplication and overlap in environmental permitting procedures;*
- Lack of coordination among various levels of government;*
- Lack of clarity in permitting requirements--public education is needed;*
- More assistance to applicants is needed.*

2. Waste management.

- Cost effectiveness of the siting process.*
- Centralization of the siting process--has an adequate balance been struck between local and statewide interests in siting?*
- Public input--Is it sufficient?*

3. Access and use of land and water resources.

- Is the public assured adequate access?*
- Are the resources protected from over use?*

4. Fisheries and wildlife management.

- Are fisheries and wildlife resources being managed efficiently and effectively?*
- Does placing both resource regulatory authority and resource promotion responsibility within the same department create internal conflicts?*

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