

Montana State Legislature

2013 Session

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS MAY INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- **Business Report**
- **Roll Call - Attendance**
- **Standing Committee Reports**
- **Tabled Bills**
- **Fiscal Reports etc.**
- **Roll Call Votes**
- **Informational Items**
- **Witness Statements**
- **Any Documents; such as;**
 - * **Petitions if any.**
 - * **Any and all material handed end after the meeting ends.**

**The original is on file at the
Montana Historical Society
and may be viewed there.**

**Montana Historical Society
Archives
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Helena MT 59620-1201
2013 Legislative Scanner Susie Hamilton**

BUSINESS REPORT
MONTANA SENATE
63rd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
SENATE FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE

Date: Thursday, April 18, 2013
Place: Capitol

Time: 3:00 PM
Room: 422

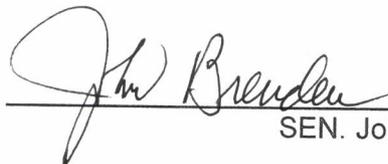
BILLS and RESOLUTIONS HEARD:

SR 69 - Confirmation of appointee to the FWP Commission - Sen. John Brenden
SR 68 - Confirmation of appointee to the FWP commission - Sen. John Brenden
SR 70 - Confirmation of appointee to the FWP Commission - Sen. Kendall Van Dyk

EXECUTIVE ACTION TAKEN:

SJ 28 - Tabled

Comments:



SEN. John Brenden, Chair

MONTANA STATE SENATE
Roll Call
FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE

DATE: 4-18-13

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT/ EXCUSED</u>
SENATOR JOHN BRENDEN, CHAIRMAN	✓	
SENATOR RICK RIPLEY, VICE CHAIRMAN	✓	
SENATOR DEBBY BARRETT	✓	
SENATOR TOM FACEY	✓	
SENATOR JENNIFER FIELDER	✓	
SENATOR BRAD HAMLETT	✓	
SENATOR LARRY JENT	✓	
SENATOR JIM PETERSON	✓	
SENATOR FRED THOMAS	✓	
SENATOR KENDALL VAN DYK	✓	

MONTANA STATE SENATE
Roll Call Vote
FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE

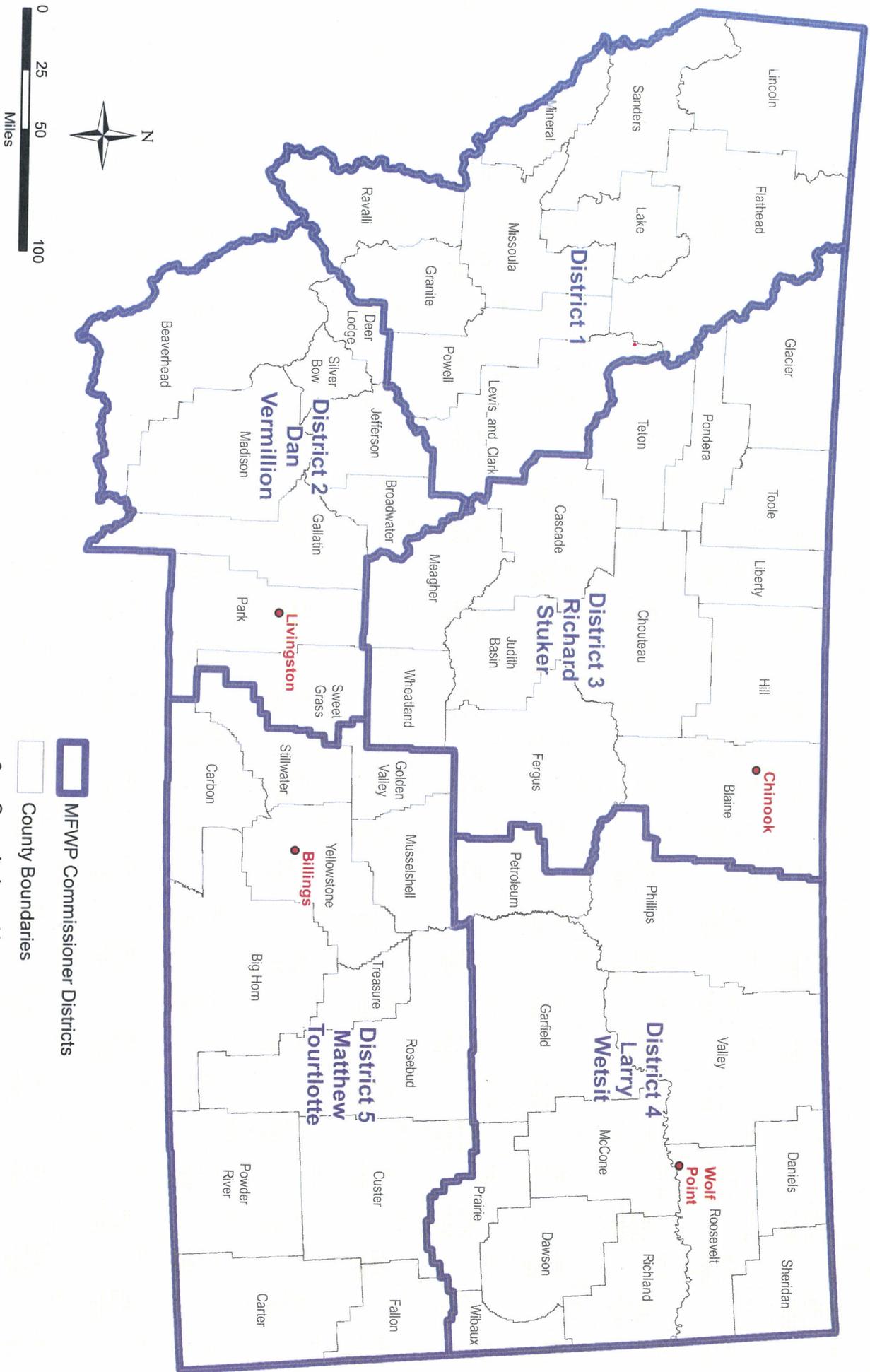
DATE 4-18-13 BILL NO ST 28 MOTION NO. _____
MOTION: _____

DP - Failed

NAME	AYE	NO	If Proxy Vote, check here & include signed Proxy Form with minutes
SENATOR RICK RIPLEY, VICE CHAIR		✓	
SENATOR DEBBY BARRETT		✓	
SENATOR TOM FACEY	✓		
SENATOR JENNIFER FIELDER		✓	
SENATOR BRADLEY MAXON HAMLETT		✓	
SENATOR LARRY JENT		✓	
SENATOR JIM PETERSON		✓	
SENATOR FRED THOMAS		✓	
SENATOR KENDALL VAN DYK		✓	
SENATOR JOHN BRENDEN, CHAIR		✓	

1-9
Failed

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS



W:\Annual_Projects\Web_Images\CommDist2013.mxd
 MFWP-SPDS MAM - 4/18/2013



- MFWP Commissioner Districts
- County Boundaries
- Commissioner Hometown

DOOR
1951

My name is Dale Gilbert
PO Box 91, Ulm MT
Phone: 406-788-3824
Email: dgilbert.montanawalleye@gmx.com



RE: SR70 Confirmation of Appointee to FWP Commission – Lawrence Wetsit from Wolf Point

I am from Ulm, MT and moved and lived in this area for the past 30+ years. I moved here because of my passion for hunting and fishing.

Although I do not represent any specific sportsman group, I belong to several. And although I am likely in the minority of people who are willing to come forward and say anything, I can tell you that after spending most weekends over the past 3 ½ months at a booth at multiple sport and boat shows in Great Falls, Helena, Billings, Missoula, and Glasgow – my opinions are not in the minority and are shared by a lot of people. Unfortunately most, including some sportsman groups are reluctant to come forward and testify for fear of retaliation – which is sad.

I am opposed to this confirmation of SR 70 after reviewing the applicable MCA code and Mr. Wetsit's resume and background.

I am sorry, I could not attend the hearing as originally intended and I mean no dis-respect towards Mr. Wetsit. His resume is impressive, but it does not show that he is the best person for this position from what I see.

In review of the Montana Code outlining the requirements for appointments to the FWP Commission it would appear to be fairly explicit and logical. It specifically states a person CAN NOT BE APPOINTED... unless the person is **informed or interested AND experienced in the subject....** PLEASE SEE below, I underlined what seems to be very specific language regarding the qualifications and requirements.

MCA 2-15-3402. Fish, wildlife, and parks commission.

(3) Appointments must be made without regard to political affiliation and must be made solely for the wise management of fish, wildlife, and state parks and other outdoor recreational resources of this state. A person may not be appointed to the commission unless the person is informed or interested and experienced in the subject of fish, wildlife, parks, and outdoor recreation and the requirements for the conservation and protection of fish, wildlife, parks, and outdoor recreational resources.

I have also attached is Mr. Lawrence Wetsit's resume that was submitted and what was apparently reviewed and considered when Governor Bullock made his recommendation for your review.

In reviewing Mr. Wetsit's resume **nothing** in it would suggest that he is "**informed or interested and experienced**" as the MCA requires.

I have been told by 2 separate sources that the last time Mr. Wetsit bought a Montana Conservation License was 2009 and that the last time he had a Montana hunting license was either 2004 or 2006?

Since he doesn't need a Montana license to hunt or fish on the reservation, maybe that doesn't matter, however, I guess then if that is his only interest then I have to really ask why the Governor would suggest appointing someone to the FWP Commission when the Commission has absolutely no jurisdiction over any of the reservation/tribal lands.

ADDITIONAL
DOCUMENTS

But then in all fairness, then I would have to ask why the Governor would want someone from the tribe to represent all the other public and private lands and sportsman in that district? Especially when the resume and background would suggest that they have no interest or any experience in dealing with the issues of fisheries or wildlife management on lands under the jurisdiction of the FWP.

Although the Montana Code says the appointments must be made without regard to political affiliation, it appears that is the only reason Mr. Wetsit has been nominated.

I can tell you, if I lived in this District I would be very unhappy with the confirmation of this appointment. If Mr. Wetsit's appointment is confirmed, all of the other sportsman and women, private landowners, etc. have no representation of their interests.

And frankly, I believe the public perception in general is that there are only two reasons for this appointment. Number 1 is to "stack the deck" if you will for the tribe who wants to get the buffalo relocated from the park and Number 2 is to sway the Native American votes in the next election. This seems too political for me.

I did also get the copies of all of the other applicants who expressed an interest in this appointment and I think it would be best to look at the other applicants who would better represent the people of this District.

Bottom line, I think this entire process needs to be re-evaluated and possibly changed. The Montana Code is clear, but it certainly appears it is not being followed – at least in my opinion.

Frankly, I am to the point that the process as it is needs to be changed. These appointments should not be made by the Governor as the law now requires. I would suggest the following as something to look at and consider in the future:

1. Revise the MCA Code to allow the FWP Commission appointments to be made by the local Citizens Advisory Committees in each region. Since the position is a volunteer position it doesn't make sense to make it a political election – but if each local Citizens Advisory Committee in each District or Region appointed a person from their areas, I would have faith that they would ensure that the best possible person from the area was appointed. And it would not be the political animal it now seems to be.
2. Then I would also suggest that an additional FWP Commissioner position be designated so that the tribes in the state could appoint a tribal representative and that potentially this position would serve in an advisory capacity only. It doesn't make a lot of sense to me to have a tribal representative have the power or jurisdiction as a voting member when the rules and regulations dealing with fisheries and wildlife management on the public and private lands in Montana – do not have anything to do with each tribes management of its own tribal lands.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Dale R. Gilbert

RESUME OF LAWRENCE D. WETSIT

ADDITIONAL
DOCUMENTS

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Residence: 121 East Indian Street
Wolf Point, MT 59201
Lifelong Montana resident
Cell Phone (406) 650-7071

Office: 605 Indian Avenue
PO Box 398
Poplar, MT 59255
Phone (406) 768-6311
E-mail lwetsit@fpcc.edu

EDUCATION

Candidate for MBA
Executive Management
Anticipated Graduation May 2013

University of Mary
Bismarck, ND

BA - Community Education

Antioch University/NAES College
Yellow Springs, OH

Experience

2010 – Present
Vice President, Community Services

Fort Peck Community College
Poplar, MT

A member of the Senior Management Team of Fort Peck Community College, a land grant accredited two-year institution established in 1978 to serve the Fort Peck Reservation and surrounding communities. FPCC offers occupational training and academic programs designed to transfer to other higher educational institutions.

Responsible for community out-reach programs/courses such as law enforcement, hazardous materials, OSHA training courses, CNA courses and other short term offerings. Other responsibilities include short term occupational programs in welding, building trades, truck driving, heavy equipment, and electrical line workers. Community outreach responsibilities include operations of two community health and wellness programs.

Responsible for the programs and partnership offered as a 1984 Land Grant Institution which include agricultural and extension programs, technical assistance and land and natural resource management services. Administered the partnership with the Fort Peck Natural Resource Office to develop an Integrated Resource Management Plan for the Fort Peck Reservation. Partnerships include the Fort Peck Tribal Ranch operations, an 800 irrigated acre, 900 head cattle and feed

operation. Through the partnership the Agriculture staff provides technical assistance in ranch management and land improvement strategies.

Responsible for all facility construction and maintenance which includes 18 facilities in two communities. Oversaw the construction in 2012 of the \$3.9 million James E. Shanley Tribal Library, and am overseeing the construction of \$1.9 million expansion to include and information technology and archives additions scheduled for completion in 2013.

Responsible for all information technology and network facilities for all 18 facilities of the institution. In 2012 oversaw the construction of a fiber optic cable networking linking the main administrative office to five other facilities.

1992 – 2010
Marketing & PR Manager

Nemont Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Scobey, MT

Member of the Senior Management Team of a Local Telephone Company. Nemont Telephone Cooperative is parent company to two subsidiary telephone companies, Project Telephone Company and Missouri Valley Communications, Inc., one cellular operation, Sagebrush Cellular, one Internet Company, Nemont Communication Inc. and affiliated interest in a publishing company and an interactive television company. Responsible for marketing, advertising, corporate donations, economic development, governmental affairs, customer satisfaction, key accounts, and public image of companies. Involved as team member in corporate expansions. Supervised staff in four separate office locations in Montana and North Dakota.

Was instrumental in the expansion that started in 1994 that resulted in a growth of 3500 customers to over 17,000 by 2000 through of the acquisition of property, launching of a cellular and internet companies and expansion of services.

Was responsible for the all land and rights-of-way acquisition on Indian lands and customer relations with land owners and public bodies.

1989-1991
Tribal Chairman

Fort Peck Tribes
Poplar, MT

Elected to the Office of Chairman of the Fort Peck Tribes, at the time, the youngest tribal member to attain the honor. The Fort Peck Tribes are resident to a 2.2 million acre reservation located in northeast Montana with over 12,000 Members.

Was responsible for management of daily operation a staff of over 600 employees. As head of the Tribal government, I was responsible for relationships with city, county and statewide and federal elected officials. Under my administration successes include the adoption of 1+ million acre-foot water rights compact with the State of Montana, and the funding of new facilities to

improve the irrigation system which serves all the farming and ranching operations north of the Missouri River.

1981 – 1989

Mineral Director / Tax Administrator

**Fort Peck Tribes
Poplar, MT**

Responsible for management of Tribal owned minerals and oil and gas resources of 2.2 million acre Indian Reservation in northeast Montana. Was also responsible for implementation and collection of Tribal Utility and Mineral Leasing Taxes, leasing and management of oil and gas lands, approval of all rights-of-ways and easements on the reservation, and management of other exploratory operations on the reservation lands.

OTHER RELATED ACTIVITIES

2001-2006

Chairman

**Fort Peck Inc.
Board of Directors
Poplar, MT**

Responsible for the two operations for the Fort Peck Tribes, an 800 head cow and calf ranch and farm operation called the Fort Peck Tribal Ranch and a convenience store in Poplar called Tribal Express. Was responsible for the selection and supervision of the Ranch Manager in the daily activities of the ranch, irrigated feed, hay and dry land farm operations. The ranch operated over 800 acres of irrigated land in alfalfa, wheat, oats, and barley for feed stock. The operation employed 6 full-time staff and 8 season employees for the daily operations. Was successful in the expansion of the ranch operations through acquisitions of irrigated lands, increased feedstock, increased the cattle herd by 200 head with positive financial returns.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

2011 to Present	Appointed to Fort Peck Tribes Tax Commission
2001 to 2010	Chairman, Fort Peck Community College Board of Directors
2004-2007	Appointed to Statewide Interoperability Executive Council, State of Montana Department of Information Technology Services
1990 to 2004	President, Board of Directors of A&S Tribal Industries / Mitakuye Inc.
1995-2003	Appointed to National Telephone Cooperative Association Marketing Committee
1985 to 2010	Member, Fort Peck Community College Board of Directors
1986-1988	Chairman, Frazer School Board of Trustees, School District 2 & 2B
1982-1995	Northeast Montana Land and Minerals Owners Association

REFERENCES

Honorable Richard Jackson,
Cell 406-650-6041
Work 406-768-2401
Email: wldhors52@yahoo.com

Dr. Kenneth Ryan
Home 406-653-1688
Work 406-768-2377
Email: kryan@fortpecktribes.org

Kathy Greenwood
Home 406-724-3425
Work 406-768-2300
Email: kgreenwood@fortpecktribes.org

Dr. James Shanley
Home 406-768-3259
Cell 406-650-0017