

University of Montana

## ScholarWorks at University of Montana

---

The Montana Constitution Collection

Mansfield Center

---

1-25-1972

### Minutes of the fifth meeting of the Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee

Montana. Constitutional Convention (1971-1972). Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/montanaconstitution>

**Let us know how access to this document benefits you.**

---

#### Recommended Citation

Montana. Constitutional Convention (1971-1972). Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee, "Minutes of the fifth meeting of the Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee" (1972). *The Montana Constitution Collection*. 332.

<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/montanaconstitution/332>

This Committee Minutes and Testimony is brought to you for free and open access by the Mansfield Center at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Montana Constitution Collection by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@mso.umt.edu](mailto:scholarworks@mso.umt.edu).



**MONTANA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION**  
STATE CAPITOL • HELENA, MONTANA 59601 • TELEPHONE 406/449-3750

NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

Place of Meeting: Room 402

Date Meeting Held: 1/25/72  
Hour Meeting Held: 10:30 a.m. &  
1:30 p.m.

Committee Chairman: Louise Cross

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES  
AND AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

SUBJECT OF MEETING:

Roll Call:

Louise Cross, Chairman	Present
E. S. "Erv" Gysler, Vice Chairman	Present
John H. Anderson, Jr.	Present
Geoffrey L. Brazier	Present
Douglas Delaney	Present
A. W. Kamhoot	Present
Charles B. McNeil	Present
Donald Rebal	Present
Henry L. Siderius	Present

INTERESTED PERSONS TESTIFYING:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Occupation or Title</u>
Jack Rehberg	Billings	Representing Montana Petroleum Producers
Art Hutchinson	Helena	Lee Newspapers
Dennis Shea	Butte, Montana	Representing Anaconda Co.
P. R. McDonald	" "	" " "
Perry Weidler	Billings	Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
Dionne Cummins	Helena	Helena Senior High School Monitor

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Ted Schwinden was first called upon by the committee for his testimony on the duties of his department in regards to minerals and mining. In reply to questions by Mr. Kamhoot in regard to the pitch of land left after strip mining, he said he did not believe this a matter for the Constitution. Mr. Kamhoot stated that he felt if the pitch of the land was not more than 1 to 4 it would grow grass as it would be more able to retain moisture than a steeper slope.

Mr. John Goers, geologist with the Department of Public Lands, described the two laws they have in their department governing mining and minerals.

Mr. Jack Rehberg, representing the Montana Petroleum Producers answered questions of the committee on the pollution of underground waters by oil and gas producers. He stated that they also were much concerned about the pollution and were working to find means to correct it.

Mr. P. R. McDonald of the Anaconda Company commented briefly on some points previously brought during this meeting, answered questions of committee members, and also stated that their company is very much concerned about the environment in Montana. He further told the committee that he would not oppose a broad environmental statement being put in the Constitution.

At this time, the guests were thanked for their testimonies and excused.

There being no further business at this time, the committee recessed until 1:30 p.m. this day.

Time of recess: 12:10 p.m.

AFTERNOON MEETING

Pursuant to recess, the committee resumed at 1:30 p.m.

Mr. Doug Smith, Agriculture Coordinator with the Governor's office, outlined the details of his office and answered questions by committee members. He works with the agencies of the United States Department of Agriculture. He has the responsibility to get the reaction of the governor and the state to their proposals and to coordinate with farm organizations. He also has to coordinate and work together with farm groups and actually be the "eyes and ears" for agriculture in the Governor's office.

Mr. Smith told the committee that agriculture is the state's largest industry.

Montana has a department of Agriculture and a department of Livestock. This is a compromise under Executive Reorganization. The head of the Livestock Department serves at the pleasure of the Governor, while the head of the Department of Agriculture is appointed by the Governor for a four year term with the advice and consent of the Senate. Mr. Smith said for a strong department of Agriculture, it should be kept in the Constitution; but under Executive Reorganization, it should be at the pleasure of the Governor.

Mr. Smith told the committee he would get some diagrams of the departments as now under Executive Reorganization for them.

In regard to pesticides, he suggested the committee ask Mr. Gary Gingery of the department of Agriculture appear. He also suggested that Mike Jackson, Executive Secretary to Montana Weed Control Assn. at Montana State University be contacted.

He told the committee that the Board of Health was drawing up some guidelines in regard to feed lots. He believes that they should

The Chairman then thanked Mr. Smith and excused him.

The committee recessed at 3:15 p.m. for a half hour.

At 3:45 p.m., the committee resumed to view a picture which Mr. Gysler has purchased on Norman Borlaug: Revolutionary. This covers the fields of wheat, farming and environment. Mr. Gysler informed the committee that there is now a bill in Congress on the use of pesticides.

After viewing the picture, there being no further business, the committee adjourned.

Time of adjournment: 4:20 p.m.

C. Louise Cross  
Chairman

Clair L. Rung  
Secretary