

F I N A L R E P O R T

OUTDOOR RECREATION FUNDING STUDY COMMITTEE

March, 1988

The Legislative Council created an Outdoor Recreation Funding Study Committee in 1987 to study and make recommendations to develop a consolidated and consistent funding source for outdoor recreation projects which improve the quality of life for all Iowans. The legislative members of the Study Committee were as follows:

Senator Hurley W. Hall, Co-Chairman
 Representative Dennis H. Black, Co-Chairman
 Senator Emil J. Husak
 Senator James R. Riordan
 Senator Forrest V. Schwengels
 Senator Jack W. Hester
 Representative Josephine Gruhn
 Representative David Schrader
 Representative Clifford Branstad
 Representative Marvin Diemer

MEETING DATES

The Legislative Council granted the Outdoor Recreation Funding Study Committee three meeting days. The meetings were held on September 18, 1987, October 23, 1987, and December 4, 1987.

STUDY COMMITTEE CHARGE

The charge of the Outdoor Recreation Funding Study Committee was to "study and make recommendations to develop a consolidated and consistent funding source for outdoor recreation projects which improve the quality of life for Iowans".

TESTIMONY RECEIVED

During its three meetings, the Outdoor Recreation Funding Study Committee received information relating to outdoor recreation funding needs at the state and local governmental levels, outdoor recreation funding sources used by other states, recommendations of groups and individuals for funding the outdoor recreation, and related tourism projects and programs for Iowa.

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At its first meeting, David Dahlquist, former Project Director of the Recreation, Tourism, and Leisure Study Committee, reviewed the recommendations of the Study Committee and Study Committee proposals adopted by the General Assembly. The Legislative Fiscal Bureau presented data on current revenue sources for support of the budget of the Department of Natural Resources including revenue for the lottery. Representative Diemer presented the Study Committee with a potential revenue source used in Arkansas, an excise tax on wine sales for off-premise consumption.

At its second meeting, the Study Committee received comparative budgeting data as to source and amount on selected other states located in the Midwest. The Committee was also updated on the Western Historic Trails proposal for the Council Bluffs area and the work of the Iowa Travel Council. The Study Committee also discussed the concept of a central pool for beverage container mandatory deposit and handling fees. The concept would allow the state to keep the deposits and handling fees for beverage containers which are not returned by consumers. The central pool would also receive one-half of the salvage value of nonrefillable beverage containers. The Study Committee directed the staff to draft the concept into bill form for further consideration of the Study Committee.

At the third meeting, the Study Committee received testimony from a representative of the Iowa Wholesale Beer Distributors Association, the Iowa Soft Drink Association, and the Iowa Wholesale Wine Distributors Association concerning the proposed central pool concept for beverage containers. The Study Committee received invited testimony from the Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa State Historical Society, the Department of Economic Development, and the Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards concerning programs and projects that could be implemented in outdoor recreation and tourism if additional funds were available. Also, representatives of the Iowa REP Conservation Alliance outlined program needs in the area of water and soil conservation and related natural resource conservation.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

Copies of the minutes of the Outdoor Recreation Funding Study Committee are filed with the Legislative Service Bureau.

STUDY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Due to a lack of a quorum of Senate members at its last meeting, the Outdoor Recreation Funding Study Committee makes no recommendations to the Legislative Council and the General Assembly.

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