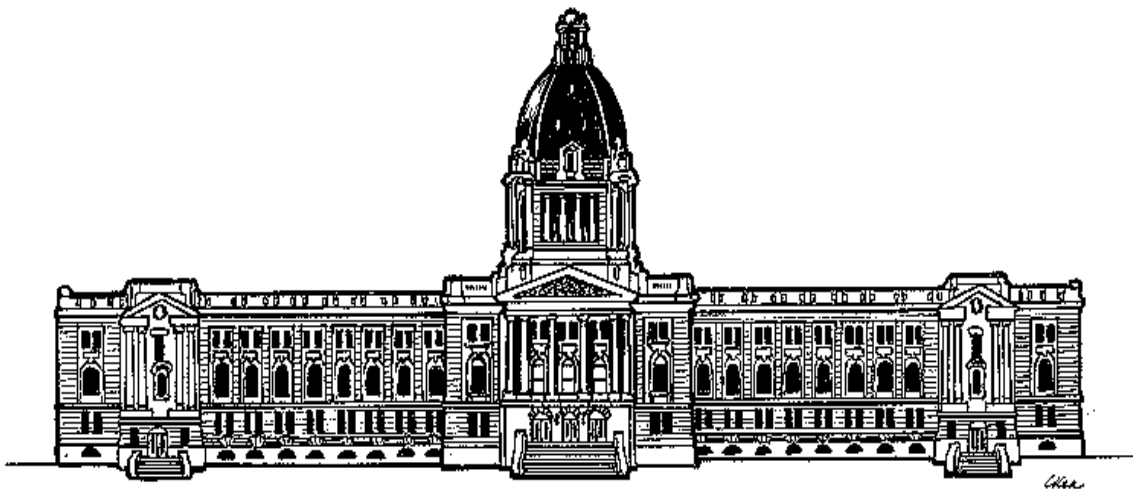




STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE ECONOMY

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE ECONOMY

Mr. Lyle Stewart, Chair
Thunder Creek

Mr. Len Taylor, Deputy Chair
The Battlefords

Mr. Rod Gantefer
Melfort

Ms. Nancy Heppner
Martensville

Hon. Darryl Hickie
Prince Albert Carlton

Ms. Sandra Morin
Regina Walsh Acres

Ms. Nadine Wilson
Saskatchewan Rivers

[The committee met at 19:00.]

The Chair: — Welcome. Seeing as though it's now 7 o'clock, the chosen hour for the committee to begin its meeting, I will call the committee to order. Good evening, everyone, I'd like to welcome you all to the deliberations of the Standing Committee on the Economy.

This evening we have on the government side Ms. Heppner, Ms. Wilson, Mr. Hickie, and Mr. Gantfoer, and on the opposition side, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Yates.

Tonight we will be considering Bill 157, *The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act, 2010*; Bill 144, *The Litter Control Amendment Act, 2010*; and Bill 155, *The Natural Resources Amendment Act, 2010*.

Bill No. 157 — *The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act, 2010*

The Chair: — Committee members, we'll now be considering Bill No. 157, *The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act, 2010*. By practice, the committee normally holds a general debate during consideration of clause 1. Mr. Minister, could you please introduce your officials to the committee.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Chair, committee members. Good evening. Seated to my right is Ed Dancsok, assistant deputy minister, oil and gas division. I think that's something like that. And to my left is Laurie Pushor, my chief of staff. Good evening.

The Chair: — We will now consider clause 1, short title, *The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act, 2010*. Mr. Minister, if you have any opening remarks, you may proceed.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — No opening remarks, Mr. Chair. We can just go directly to questions if you like.

The Chair: — Thank you very much, Mr. Minister. Could I ask officials, other than the minister, to introduce themselves the first time you speak for the benefit of the people at Hansard. Are there any comments or questions on the Bill? Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much. Simply to indicate to the Chair and the minister we have no questions on this Bill.

The Chair: — I should note at this time that we've been joined on the opposition side by Ms. Morin.

If there are no more questions or comments from any . . . are there any questions or comments from any committee members? Seeing none, clause 1, short title, *The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act, 2010*, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

[Clauses 1 to 52 inclusive agreed to.]

The Chair: — Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts as follows: Bill No. 157, *The Oil and Gas Conservation*

Amendment Act, 2010. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Agreed. I would ask a member to move that we report Bill No. 157, *The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act, 2010* without amendment. Do I have a mover? Mr. Gantfoer.

Thank you, Mr. Minister, and officials. Any final comments from the minister?

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Chair, thank you, committee members. And thank you to the officials for this evening.

The Chair: — Any final comments from other committee members? Do we need a recess to change officials, or can we go straight into the Bill which will be 144? We'll take a five-minute recess. Thank you very much, Mr. Minister and officials.

[The committee recessed for a period of time.]

Bill No. 144 — *The Litter Control Amendment Act, 2010*

The Chair: — Committee members, we will now be considering Bill No. 144, *The Litter Control Amendment Act, 2010*. By practice, the committee normally holds a general debate during consideration of clause 1. Mr. Minister, would you please introduce your officials to the committee.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and good evening, committee members. We're pleased to be here this evening. To my right is the deputy minister, Liz Quarshie. To her right is Sam Ferris, the executive director of the municipal branch. To my left is Mark Wittrup, the ADM [assistant deputy minister] for environmental protection and audit division, and seated behind the bar is Leanne Lang, the legal counsel in Justice.

Clause 1

The Chair: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. We will now consider clause 1, short title, *The Litter Control Amendment Act, 2010*. Mr. Minister, if you have any opening remarks, you may proceed. Before you do, I'll just mention that the committee members are all the same as they were in the previous Bill.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just have some brief comments. More detailed comments would be found in my second reading speech, but I would just add this evening that amendments to *The Litter Control Act* that are being made with this amendment address a lawsuit related to environmental handling charges. The lawsuit claims that the client should not be subject to environmental handling charges because the client does not meet the definition of a purchaser.

The lawsuit seeks restitution of \$2,200 and associated damages for one claimant over the 2006 to 2009 time period. If successful, similar class action lawsuits could cost up to \$1.4 million in restitution and jeopardize the financial viability of the beverage container collection and recycling program. The

proposed amendments retroactively negate the lawsuit and any future lawsuits. And, Mr. Chair, we'd be pleased to answer any questions.

The Chair: — Thank you very much, Mr. Minister. Could I ask officials, other than the minister, to introduce yourself the first time you speak for the benefit of our folks at Hansard. Are there any comments or questions on the Bill? Ms. Morin.

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Minister, and officials, thank you for appearing before the committee this evening and answering some of the questions that we have. I understand that this Bill is being brought forward, as you have just said, to deal with a lawsuit that is currently before the courts. I'm wondering if you could please provide the opinion from the Ministry of Justice officials as to why this Bill needed to go forward in terms of negating the lawsuit.

Ms. Lang: — Leanne Lang from Ministry of Justice. I provide legal services to the Ministry of Environment. The context of this Bill was that we received a class action lawsuit by a local law firm with respect to these environmental handling fees.

We realized upon reviewing the legislation that there was a slight technical issue with respect to the existing legislation as to how we define purchaser and in relation to, you know, whether this fee is considered a fee in law or a tax. And it's based on a case called Eurig that was rendered in 1998.

So upon review, we recommended to Environment that we should fix this issue through a legislative amendment and to make it retroactive to 1998 when this Eurig case came forward in the courts.

We think that this is a frivolous lawsuit, that it would just be a windfall to bar owners, casino owners, just based on a very technical interpretation of what constitutes purchaser and that it would put the beverage container program in some jeopardy and that we recommended the legislative amendment to address it.

[19:15]

Ms. Morin: — Thank you. That's my understanding of why this is proceeding in terms of the legislation that we see before us today as well. I'm also wondering, though, there is another component to this. There's clearly the component that the lawsuit that's currently pending before the courts, if this legislation proceeds, it will be retroactive and will therefore negate that lawsuit from proceeding.

So I'm wondering if the ministry has fully looked at the case law with respect to legislation being brought forward by any particular government which would then negate a past suit that existed under the legislation that existed at that time because my concern is, is there going to be another suit proceeding, going forward out of this potentially because of the fact that it will negate the lawsuit that already exists before the courts?

Ms. Lang: — Well we certainly don't do this frequently. You know, a retroactive legislative fix is a fairly unique one. We think that it would withstand judicial scrutiny based on the fact that we're amending the Bill itself and Eurig was all about it

having to be done in the legislation, in the Act rather than the regulations. So we think that it could be defended and it would be very difficult for anyone to bring a lawsuit saying that this legislation was without authority or that it didn't actually address the issues raised in the litigation.

But I agree that it's a unique thing to retroactively amend to deal with a lawsuit. But that is what we're trying to do here and we think that it would be effective.

Ms. Morin: — So when the Eurig case came forward, did that also deal with an issue on a retroactive basis or was that on a go-forward basis?

Ms. Lang: — It was on a go forward. It was a challenge of probate piece.

Ms. Morin: — And that's my concern here with this legislation. Because it is of such a unique nature and because of the fact that the Eurig case was on a go-forward basis, it wasn't on a retroactive basis, this again becomes precedent setting legislation in terms of it being open to a further challenge.

Ms. Lang: — It's possible that we could be challenged on it. We did use the same language in this legislation or in this Bill that we used in a previous matter where we basically legislated away a lawsuit. And it was challenged in court and it was successful. So we mirrored that language because we knew that that would likely withstand judicial scrutiny but, you know, it's possible we could be challenged on it.

Ms. Morin: — That previous case that you're referring to, could you provide some details on that and when, what year that occurred and what that case was about.

Ms. Lang: — It was the GRIP [gross revenue insurance program] case, the insurance, crop insurance case. I can't recall exactly what year that was.

A Member: — 1993.

Ms. Lang: — Okay, thank you.

Ms. Morin: — Well I think I'll do the research on that and not rely on my colleague from across the way as to when that took place. But there was a challenge on that particular retroactive piece of legislation as well and that challenge was not successful. What case law was that challenge not successful based on?

Ms. Lang: — Based on the court accepted that the legislature has the authority to retroactively amend and that it was done with the proper legal authority. And the courts accepted that and found that the language that was used in that Bill that retroactively changed that insurance policy, that it was valid and constitutional. So that's the only one that I'm aware of that it's been challenged.

Ms. Morin: — Okay. And is there any other, any other case law that exists where there have been challenges made with this type of unique situation that were successful?

Ms. Lang: — Not that I'm aware of. I hadn't researched the

other jurisdictions that extensively. We kind of based it on what we knew was successful in this province.

Ms. Morin: — So potentially then, we know what's successful in this province, but we don't really have the information as to what might have been successful at the Supreme Court level though.

Ms. Lang: — Possibly. I did a quick search and I didn't see anything, but it's possible that there could be a case out there.

Ms. Morin: — Thank you for the questions on the judiciary side. I'm wondering what type of consultations took place around the decision-making process to go forward with proceeding with this legislation. I obviously know that we had some strong advice from the Ministry of Justice. What other type of consultations took place with respect to this Bill?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Ms. Morin. The ministry did consult with Sarcan to determine what the potential financial impact of not proceeding with the amendments and that's . . . So Sarcan was the main group that we consulted with.

Ms. Morin: — So then my understanding is then you consulted with the Ministry of Justice officials and with Sarcan, and Sarcan being the recipient of the proceeds from *The Litter Control Act*. Now worst-case scenario that the suit would have been successful, we were looking at, the government was looking at approximately . . . well, \$1.4 million is the number that you had used, Mr. Minister. Would one assume then that the government would have allowed the Sarcan program to collapse or that the government would have intervened in some way, shape, or form to assist with the program then?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Well I think it's fair to say that the government doesn't want to see the Sarcan program fail, in the member's words. Certainly we would have . . . It's difficult to speak hypothetically of what would have happened if the suit would have been successful. But we have a very good partnership. I think as government, we have a very good partnership with Sarcan. And so with not wanting to go too far down a hypothetical road, certainly we want to see a strong recycling system in the province.

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. And this claim that we are speaking of, the lawsuit that you have mentioned in your opening remarks, the claim of that lawsuit from your second reading speech is approximately \$2,200, is that correct?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — That's correct.

Ms. Morin: — And this is only a single lawsuit that is currently in process. There are no other persons that have filed suit against the government or have organized a class action suit or anything to that effect. Is that correct?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Just the one, correct.

Ms. Morin: — And from your second reading remarks, the financial liability of approximately \$350,000 per year that would be at risk every year the legislation is not changed is on a go-forward basis, based on the lawsuit that's currently before the courts in terms of the amount of vendors who would not

meet the definition of a purchaser. Is that correct as well?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — That's correct, up until the time that the EMPA Act [*The Environmental Management and Protection Act*] of 2010 is in force.

Ms. Morin: — So according to the comments that I've heard tonight, it appears that the minister and the government are fairly confident that this would alleviate any financial liability against the program and that it's fairly confident that there will be no further legal challenges coming out of this legislation. Would that be a fair statement, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — I think it's fair to say, Madam Member, that we don't do this lightly. We know that there is a potential that this could be challenged further, but we're confident that this is the proper course of action in this case.

Ms. Morin: — The reason I ask, Mr. Minister, for an encapsulated position is because obviously having any type of legislation come forward to the legislature that's retroactive and removing a person's rights to be able to file suit is of great concern. And it, you know, it speaks to the whole notion of civil liberties.

So one wants to ensure that, as you've said, things aren't being taken lightly and that there's a proper scrutiny that's been applied and that we've done a full review of the case law that exists, not just on a provincial level, but also at the Supreme Court level to ensure that this isn't going to open a different can of worms, so to speak. So I just want to make sure that the position of the minister and the government is clearly understood, so one understands what people can expect from this legislation, shall we say.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Yes, I think that those are very fair comments. We certainly took all of those different factors into consideration when making the decision and when I made the decision to move the legislation, the amendments forward.

Ms. Morin: — Thank you very much. That concludes my questions on Bill No. 144. I don't know if any of my colleagues have any questions. It appears not. Thank you very much for answering the questions, Mr. Minister and officials, appreciate that.

The Chair: — Any other comments or questions on this Bill? Seeing none, clause 1, short title, *The Litter Control Amendment Act, 2010*, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

[Clause 1 agreed to.]

[Clauses 2 to 6 inclusive agreed to.]

The Chair: — Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts as follows: Bill No. 144, *The Litter Control Amendment Act, 2010*. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. The Chair agreed. I would ask a member to move that we report Bill No. 144, *The Litter Control Amendment Act, 2010* without amendment.

Ms. Wilson: — I so move.

The Chair: — Ms. Wilson moves. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Thank you, Mr. Minister and officials. Any final comments from the minister on this Bill?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — No.

The Chair: — Any final comments from any committee members? Thank you very much, Mr. Minister and committee members. Do we need a recess to change officials? Or we're going with the same old, tired officials? That's great.

Bill No. 155 — *The Natural Resources Amendment Act, 2010*

The Chair: — Committee members we will now be considering Bill No. 155, *The Natural Resources Amendment Act, 2010*. By practice, the committee normally holds a general debate during consideration of clause 1.

Mr. Minister, could you please introduce your officials to the committee if any changes were made over the recess, and I don't believe any were.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Actually, Mr. Chair, if I could. Seated to the deputy minister's right is Lyle Saigeon, the executive director of fish and wildlife branch, and also we have with us Donna Johnson, the assistant deputy minister of environmental support division.

Clause 1

The Chair: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. We will now consider clause 1, short title, *The Natural Resources Amendment Act, 2010*. Mr. Minister, if you have any opening remarks, you may proceed.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just very briefly once again, the proposed amendments will recast the current Fish and Wildlife Development Fund steering committee as the Fish and Wildlife Development Advisory Council. The fund's mandate is to carry out fish and wildlife habitat conservation programming, including management of resource land purchased through the fund. This will provide the council with greater decision-making authority in directing expenditures on programs. And with that, we would be pleased to answer any questions.

The Chair: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any comments or questions on the Bill? Ms. Morin.

Ms. Morin: — Thank you. Thank you again, Mr. Minister, and officials, for answering the questions with respect to Bill 155. Mr. Minister, I'm just going to ask a quick question about your opening remarks, and that was with respect to the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund Advisory Council being named

now versus a steering committee. Can the minister describe what the problems were with the steering committee and why the minister has gone to an advisory council?

[19:30]

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. To the member, thank you for the question. One of the purposes of the amendments is to, as the member knows, to transform the existing steering committee into an advisory council. One of the things that the amendments does is states out very clearly in legislation the role and the expectations of the council. There was a desire by members and organizations that, until now, are normally members of the steering committee to have more of a leadership role in directing where the funds go, and so this was one of the manners in which we believe that we can provide that role for those stakeholder groups.

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Minister, you've just stated that members and organizations wanted to take on more of a leadership role. So again I guess I'm looking for clarification as to who was preventing them from accepting that role under the previous title of being a steering committee versus being an advisory council. I'm looking what the nuances are as to why we've gone from a steering committee to something called an advisory council and what they weren't able to do in terms of their mandate as a steering committee.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Well I think one of the changes that's being proposed by the amendments is to formalize in legislation the good work that, up until now, the steering committee has done in providing direction over the funds, providing advice to ministers, to the Minister of Environment. And so one of the changes that is contemplated by this amendment is that it will formally codify in the legislation the existence of this advisory council.

Ms. Morin: — Okay, I understand what you're saying, Mr. Minister, but it still begs the question as to what the title is going to change, shall we say. I mean I understand that the minister wants to give credence and look at, you know — how shall I say? — formalize the good work that's being done, but that can be done in various ways without changing a name and thereby . . . Like I said, I'm still not understanding what the difference is in terms of what it was called before, which was a steering committee, compared to what it is now, which is an advisory council. If there was great respect for what the stakeholders were doing, why does a name change mean anything? Why is it that they weren't . . . Why is it that that respect wasn't there before with the name being a steering committee? I'm not understanding that.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. To the member, one of the intents of the changes is to, as I've said, is to formalize within the legislation the work of the advisory council. And I don't think it's a question of not respecting the work that the steering committee has done to this point, and certainly that's not the case.

In fact with these changes, the expectation will be that the new advisory council will do more than they have done previously as a steering committee. As a steering committee, they've really acted as a review of the fund and of the plans of the ministry.

There will be additional work that the advisory council will do in terms of developing an annual work plan for the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund, as well as enhanced input into the management of land that is under the control of the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund.

So it's really two parts. One is formalizing the council in legislation and also increasing the work that the new council will be expected to do.

Ms. Morin: — Okay. Thank you, Mr. Minister. Let's talk about the funding source for the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund. Can the minister explain how the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund derives its funding, please?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thirty per cent of the revenue that's generated by the sale of hunting, angling, and trapping licences is directed into the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund. It's approximately \$3.5 million at current levels.

Ms. Morin: — And is it true, Mr. Minister, that the amount of money that goes into that fund then . . . obviously it fluctuates with the amount of licence sales, licences that are sold with respect to trapping and angling and hunting licences. Is that correct?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — It would fluctuate from year to year based on the number of licences that are sold.

Ms. Morin: — And over the past five years, could you give me the amounts of the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund for the past five years, just so I can see what kind of fluctuations we're talking about?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Chair, we'll work to get the specific numbers. What I have in front of me though, what I can tell the member and the members of the committee, over the last five years, for example, hunting licences, the number that have been sold in the province has fluctuated: going back to 2006, roughly 205,000 as a low number; as high as 224,000 in 2009; and approximately 220,000 in 2010. Now that's just hunting licences.

Fishing licences have been, going back to 2006, 181,000. That number goes as high as . . . Sorry, 2008 number is 191,000. The estimate for last year would've been about 170,000. And I don't believe we have the trapping licence numbers, but I'll endeavour to produce that for members of the committee.

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. I'd very interested in seeing those numbers, so I look forward to receiving that information. So we can see that both from the hunting and fishing licences that have been sold over the past five years, from the numbers that you've provided this evening, that we're looking at about a \$20,000 fluctuation for both the fishing licences and another \$20,000 fluctuation for the hunting licences.

So, Mr. Minister, when we look at the fluctuations that take place and how that affects the funding, how does that work and translate, I should say, in terms of the changes that are being proposed through this legislation? Because your comment was that the advisory council . . . the change from being called a

steering committee to an advisory council is to provide them the ability to do more. I'm surprised that we would call that, you know, something that they would be really happy with. And in terms of . . . An annual work plan is one example, and enhanced management of land was the other example that was provided. So here they're going to take the same amount of funds, and yet they're expected to do more with the same amount of funds.

So I have questions as to how that is supposed to come out in the wash. If the funds were — how should I say? — not a windfall for these organizations to begin with, how is it that these organizations are now going to do more with the same funds that are going to be fluctuating as we've just seen?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Just a couple of different points. One is I just want to . . . We're going to try to find the numbers from a budget book if we can track one down. I just want to be clear. The numbers that I gave you, those are not in dollar amounts. Those are the actual licences that would have been bought and sold in a given year, but I want to be able to provide a more accurate dollar figure that you're talking about.

As for the makeup of the advisory council, moving from a steering committee to an advisory council, while the dollars will fluctuate from year to year based on the sale of licences, I think that what our feedback has been is that our stakeholder groups in fact have wanted and have sought more authority to do the things with the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund dollars that their organizations have an interest in. And I wouldn't characterize it as we're asking them to do more with the same budget. This is work that already has to be done. It's just providing the stakeholder groups with an enhanced decision-making authority when it comes to how these funds are used and how the land is managed.

And certainly it doesn't remove all of the Ministry of Environment oversight in the fund dollars. Ultimately many of the decisions will still be made by the ministry or in fact by the minister. What it does do, though, is provides more input for these groups, more of the planning in a certain year, more of the ability to plan where the dollars should go rather than just reviewing what the ministry's plans have been, as the steering committee now operates. So again, I wouldn't necessarily characterize this as we're asking them to do more with less or fluctuating dollars. It's being able to provide more input prior to the decisions being made that normally get made from year to year.

[19:45]

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Again it's still somewhat perplexing why a change to the name of the group that is advising the government and the ministry from a steering committee to an advisory council was necessary to have them provide more input, more ability to plan, the ability to do more like the annual work plan and enhanced management of land. That's still not clear to me, to be honest with you, Mr. Minister. So I guess we'll ask a few more questions, and we'll see if it becomes clearer as we move along here.

Obviously one has the ability to track how the fund has been funded over the years from the trapping, angling, and hunting licences. So what are the projections for the fund going into the

future, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Chair, I'll have Lyle Saigeon answer that question.

Mr. Saigeon: — Thank you. It's difficult to predict very far in advance because you can't speculate what demand or opportunity is going to be, but current trends are that big game populations are doing well, so it's increased the opportunities available to hunters. And so we've seen an increasing number of licences sold over the last two years, for certain significantly more. And I would anticipate that for next year as well for a number of species.

And as far as angling licences, in the last several years there's been an increase in angling licences sold based on the demand of anglers. The number of people interested in angling in the province is increasing.

Ms. Morin: — And the trapping licences, what are we projecting with the trapping licences?

Mr. Saigeon: — Trapping licences have been pretty stable for quite a number of years and fairly low. I don't have the numbers in front of me, but the interest in trapping seems to be slowly declining. So I think that's the trend you would expect to see.

Ms. Morin: — And the trapping licences that are sold are primarily sold in what region of Saskatchewan?

Mr. Saigeon: — They're sold all across Saskatchewan. In the North, it's trapping blocks that are assigned to specific trappers, but in the South anyone can acquire a trapping licence and trap on land they have access to.

Ms. Morin: — I'm fairly familiar with the trapping licences and blocks from the North. What type of trapping is done in the South?

Mr. Saigeon: — Well it's not any different other than there's no allocated area. So you could have a number of people trapping fur-bearing species in the South potentially on the same block of land because there's no assigned trapline. So it's really open for whoever has interest in trapping.

Ms. Morin: — Okay, very interesting. Thank you. So, Mr. Minister, can you elaborate on some of the new areas that the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund will be responsible for that are currently not responsibilities of the fund or financially dependent upon the fund at this point?

Mr. Saigeon: — Given the proposed structure of the advisory council, because they have a shared, a stronger shared governance role with the ministry, they have the ability now to influence the annual work plan and set priorities. So even in the absence of increased revenue into the fund, the advisory council now has the ability to say land management is a priority for the fund, and we will reallocate money from other areas towards land management. So they have that decision.

In the past, they chiefly reviewed proposals that came in, and they didn't necessarily fit with any priorities that the fund had

or that the steering committee had. So there's a bit more ownership of work priorities and allocation of money.

Ms. Morin: — Thank you. So the reallocation, you've just in your comments said reallocation of money, that they could reallocate money from other areas to land management and that you gave that as an example. So where are the reallocations coming from, shall we say?

Mr. Saigeon: — Well right now the way the fund operates is a reasonable amount of it goes to proposals that are submitted to do lands, habitat securement with non-government agencies. A significant part of it goes towards fisheries enhancement work. And then there's a number of other . . . There's money left over that's left for others to put proposals through. They might be small research proposals. They might be grants to do some communication pieces around stewardship, those sort of activities. They tend to be smaller proposals, but they have currently left money sitting within the fund to allocate to some of these smaller projects. They don't necessarily clearly fit the mandate of the fund all the time, so they could choose to do fewer of these smaller proposals and allocate money towards doing land management activities, for instance.

Ms. Morin: — So maybe I'm getting to the bottom of understanding why we've moved from a steering committee to an advisory council because what I'm hearing is that there were some problems, it sounds like, with the current structure in terms of allocation of funds as it currently exists. Is that correct?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. To the member, thank you for your question. I think what we're attempting to do is strike a balance between, I think, the desires of the stakeholder groups that wanted a stand-alone agency to be able to operate the fund as they saw fit and also between that and the current structure that we do have which really, right now, is the steering committee providing, for lack of a better word, the capacity to review direction that is being pursued with the fund.

But the governance structure for the steering committee to be able to take a greater amount of ownership over what the fund dollars were going to be used for and . . . keeping in mind that these are all stakeholder groups that are very well versed in matters of conservation and matters of the intent of the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund. So this provides that ability for the steering committee to move to a different level of having governance and oversight over the fund while still having the oversight by the government.

In a review, a cross-Canada review, there are certain provinces that do operate just as a straight stand-alone agency. They receive the money. There's really an arm's-length relationship from government. Other provinces continue to operate, I think, more closely to how we've operated in Saskatchewan for many years where it's really the government that, while taking advice from stakeholder groups, really managed the fund. And so this, this attempts to strike I think a common ground between their desire to, as I said again, to have really a stand-alone agency and still have the government provide our due diligence that we have a responsibility because these are funds coming into the government by way of, as you all know, by way of the sale of licences.

Ms. Morin: — That's correct. So this is not turning the situation into a stand-alone agency. I mean this legislation is not making that happen, and that's why I'm having such incredible difficulty understanding this legislation.

I have to tell you; I am extremely perplexed. And I've turned to my colleagues again on this evening and said, what am I not understanding? Because again the changes to this legislation would be necessary if there was something prohibitive under the current situation and as how things were functioning. But I haven't received that information yet, that there has been anything prohibitive in terms of how things have been functioning and moving along.

So unfortunately I have to say I'm left to wonder, ponder what nefarious nature may exist with this legislation because I'm just not understanding the changes that are being made so far in relation to what currently exists and what wasn't working. So I don't know if you have some comments to offer on that. If you do, great. If not, then I'll move on.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — No, I think the only thing I can add is that part of what the amendments do is provide certainty to those stakeholder groups because we're putting into legislation the actual committee which we're now . . . Yes, we're changing the name; it's an advisory council now. So we're putting the actual stakeholder advisory council into the legislation, and we're also putting into the legislation areas that we're expecting that council to provide advice to me as minister in the direction of the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund. And I think that these stakeholder groups would, I think without putting words in their mouth, would argue that perhaps they could play a greater role in determining where the funds should be utilized, and this is an avenue to provide that.

Up till now it's really been a committee that provides a review of direction that is put out by the ministry. Now we're soliciting more of their input and the direction that they want to see it go and clearly stating in the legislation that those are the expectations that we have of them as an advisory committee.

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. That leads me to my next series of questions, and that is, given that there is greater expectations now upon these member groups and organizations and members, etc. — as you have just said, the group will now have the ability to determine a greater role where funds should be utilized; there's going to be other responsibilities placed upon these organizations and member groups, etc. — so given that there's these greater expectations with these public funds, like I said, I would assume that they could have made those recommendations to the minister in the current, existing situation. But this legislation is before the House right now. So what type of reporting mechanism is being expected by the ministry from these member groups and stakeholder organizations, given that the minister wants to empower them with greater financial decision-making powers?

[20:00]

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. The amendments before the committee do not remove any of the existing oversight that is provided for the fund dollars. So the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund dollars, the fund is audited by the

Provincial Auditor, so that won't change. And ultimately the minister is responsible for how those funds are used, and so that level of accountability also remains.

As the Act and the amendments that are contemplated state, that the council . . . it sets out areas where the council can advise the minister, but ultimately it is advice to the minister. And so the accountability that not only the Provincial Auditor provides for still remains, but also the accountability of this body in terms of the minister's oversight and responsibility.

Ms. Morin: — Okay. So again it's clear as mud to me as to what the changes are in terms of what currently exists. I keep trying to find the answer to my questions in terms of trying to understand this, Mr. Minister, and I'm not seeming to move that much forward here on this, so we'll try a different tack.

There is some concern with respect to the changes to this legislation about some contracting out of work, Mr. Minister. So can you perhaps elaborate on what the ministry envisions or what you envision as to what are some potential contracting out of work that might be done under some of the new recommendations or suggestions that are made through the advisory council?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — As the Bill and the amendments set out, the minister and the Ministry of Environment will be at the council's disposal to provide assistance where needed, whether that be technical or clerical. The Act though and the amendments also do provide for the ability of the council to seek outside advice or any outside expertise that they deem is necessary. So that is stated in the Act.

The Act also or the amendments also, I think if I can maybe try this again, and I apologize to the member for not making this clear. So as it currently stands, the steering committee can provide advice but there's really no, there's no formalization of the fact that that advice is provided to the minister. There's no obligation for the minister to hear the advice or take the advice. There's no ability for the steering committee to review the legislation, or review the, formally review the regulations, all of that. So it's really a steering committee that doesn't have much, if any, in the way of a governance structure.

The Act and the changes that we're making, yes, change somewhat the title of the committee, but more importantly formalize the obligations, not only of the members that will sit on the council, but also the obligation of the minister to take under advisement the work of the new advisory council, and stipulates clearly in areas where the council is expected to or able to, they can or don't . . . They can take the, clearly in 20.2(1), "The council shall advise the minister," and then it sets out in subclauses, various areas. It really strengthens the governance of the existing steering committee, but also formalizes the obligations that the minister has when it comes to the work of the steering committee, which will now be the advisory council.

Ms. Morin: — Okay. So the minister is putting forward legislation to strengthen the governance of the steering committee, which doesn't seem to be changing much from what it is now in terms of, there's no extra obligation upon them because we've already heard the reporting mechanism won't be

any different than what it is now. So what I'm understanding now is that it formalizes the obligation of the council, which from what I've heard has always been a very respectful and co-operative steering committee to date, and it formalizes the obligations of the minister. So am I to assume then that there's been a bit of a problem with the minister being co-operative in this situation with the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — No, I don't think that's the case. I think that, again I don't think this should be a reflection on this steering committee as it has operated in the past. This simply formalizes the council in legislation, formalizes both the relationship of the council to the minister and the relationship of the minister to the council, provides more certainty, and further enhances the work of the steering committee.

I think that this is a direction that members and stakeholder groups that are represented on the advisory council — on the steering committee — have wanted to go. I think it's probably fair to say that perhaps it doesn't go far enough in terms of clearly delinking the advisory council from the ministry, but it's certainly in keeping with the direction that our stakeholder groups were seeking the government to move.

Ms. Morin: — Thank you. Can the minister provide the names of the members and stakeholder groups who wanted to see this change move forward as it exists here today in this legislation that's being proposed?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — The ministry consulted with a number of stakeholder groups in proposing these changes, consultations going back, as far as I know, up to and including two years. The biggest proponent of these changes were the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation.

Ms. Morin: — So the biggest proponent was the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation. And what other member and stakeholder groups were consulted with respect to what the minister refers to as two years worth of consultation?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — The groups that were consulted, the ones that took part in a focus group workshop were Ducks Unlimited, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Nature Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, Saskatchewan Bowhunters Association, Saskatchewan Outfitters Association, Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, and then also our ministry officials were there.

We also received written submissions from the Outfitters Association — I'll maybe just dispense with the Saskatchewan before each group — the Stock Growers, the Trappers Association, the Bowhunters, Nature Sask, the Wildlife Federation, NCC [Nature Conservancy of Canada], Ducks Unlimited, Flora of Saskatchewan, the Association of Conservation Officers, Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan, Prairie Conservation Action Plan, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, the Saskatchewan Association for Firearms Education, the Saskatchewan Burrowing Owl Interpretive Centre, the Saskatchewan Environmental Society.

Sorry, Mr. Chair, I'm just going to make a correction. Those were groups that were invited to provide submissions. The ones that did provide submissions were the Ducks Unlimited, NCC,

Nature Saskatchewan, the Bowhunters Association, the Trappers Association, and the Wildlife Federation as well as the Saskatchewan fly fishers and the University of Regina Biology department as well as the Watershed Authority. My apologies for that.

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. So the original list that you read off — I was trying to do shorthand here; that's all right — the original list that you read off were the groups that were invited to the consultations. The last list you read off of Ducks Unlimited, Nature Conservancy Canada, and Nature Saskatchewan, SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] . . . I believe you said the Saskatchewan bowhunters or outfitters. I can't recall.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Both.

Ms. Morin: — Both, okay. And Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation and the U of R [University of Regina] Biology department, is that correct?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — That's correct. Those were the ones that provided written submissions. Sorry, I think I probably confused myself as much as I did members of the committee.

So just so I'm clear, the organizations that were at the workshops were Ducks Unlimited, NCC, Nature Saskatchewan, SARM, and the Bowhunters Association as well as the outfitters, the Wildlife Federation, and our Ministry of Environment officials.

The long list that I gave you kind of in the middle of that last answer was the groups that we invited to provide submissions. And the last group that I gave you were the ones that actually did provide written submissions, and those were Ducks Unlimited, NCC, Nature Saskatchewan, the Bowhunters Association, the Trappers Association, and the Wildlife Federation as well as the fly fishers, the Watershed Authority, and the University of Regina Biology department. That's the group of stakeholders that provided written submissions.

[20:15]

Ms. Morin: — Thank you very much. I'm just correcting my notes because, as I said, I don't do shorthand, and we've had a few corrections to incorporate now. Okay.

Now we had talked about earlier how the funding is derived for the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund, and it's through the 30 per cent of the revenue generated from trapping, angling, and hunting licences is how this fund is deriving its funding. We've also, through that discussion, talked about the fact that the majority of the trapping licences, if this is fair to say, are purchased in the northern communities of Saskatchewan. Is that a fair assessment?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Yes. The majority wouldn't be in the North. It would be what would be considered the South, for trappers.

Ms. Morin: — And the South would be from what area down?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Yes, that'd be basically the forest fringe.

Ms. Morin: — Forest fringe, okay. So I note that the trappers submitted a written submission, were not part of the workshops. But the other thing I note is from the list of stakeholder groups or members that were invited to either the workshop or the written submissions, I don't see on this list the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations or any First Nations. Is there a reason why none of those groups were invited to provide consultation on the changes and to the amendments to this Act?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Chair, we'll endeavour to return with an answer to that. We believe that specifically FSIN [Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations] would have been invited but obviously don't appear on my list of the groups that attended the workshops. But there is a feeling that they would have been involved, but we just, we need to confirm that.

Ms. Morin: — Yes. Because I have to say, Mr. Minister, it strikes me as very odd that, given the obvious interest that First Nations would have with respect to the work that's being done with the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund, that there wouldn't be any First Nations that appear on the list of contributors to either the written submissions or to the workshops. And especially shocking is that they don't even appear on the list of people, groups, members, stakeholder groups that were invited in terms of the consultations that took place around the proposed amendments to this Bill. So I look forward to an update on that at some point in the future as well.

I wanted to speak a bit about the services that are currently being performed and the projects that are being funded out of the fish and development wildlife fund. Are there recommendations to the minister that provides funding outside of the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund with respect to some of the work that needs to be done, be that the expertise from officials within the ministry on certain projects and advice and guidance that can be provided through ministry officials for certain projects or services? Can the minister elaborate on how much assistance is coming from the Ministry of Environment itself for the recommendations that are currently being made regarding the fish and development wildlife fund?

Mr. Saigeon: — I'll try to answer that question for you. Currently proposals are submitted directly to a ministry staff person — proposals for funding — and they're reviewed initially and then they go out to the committee for comment and final approval. The intent would be, under the new work plan, is that they would have more direct input early on. Ministry officials would still be there for technical support on proposals but would be giving that group more say in terms of prioritizing proposals that come in the door.

Ms. Morin: — I understand that, from the minister's comments, and I appreciate the fact that you've reiterated that so I can firmly understand that.

But what I'm looking for is the supports that are currently coming from the Ministry of Environment for any of those proposals that are being brought forward from the steering committee because clearly there would have to be some investigative work done or research or some expertise that's provided by the Ministry of Environment right now with respect to those projects and proposals. So how would that change under this new format that's being proposed in the

amendments?

Mr. Saigeon: — What's proposed now is that there'll be a formal, technical review committee which would be a subset of the new advisory council and several ministry staff, technical people, that would actually do the review of proposals. So it would be made up of a group of technical people from both sides, not the whole advisory council.

Ms. Morin: — So do you envision or I should say, Mr. Minister, do you envision any offsetting of responsibilities to the new advisory council with respect to preparing a more comprehensive proposal before it's brought forward to yourself and ministry officials?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Sorry, Ms. Morin, can you repeat that and maybe elaborate a little bit?

Ms. Morin: — Yes. So under the current system with the steering committee, the steering committee makes suggestions and proposals, and then the Ministry of Environment would have to pursue those and do the work, the background work that's necessary to find out if there is any viability with respect to those proposals and those projects that are being recommended. My understanding is that because there is more responsibility being given now to the advisory council, that a lot of that work would have to be done before those suggestions come forward to the minister and the ministry. Is that correct?

Mr. Saigeon: — I apologize . . . If I understand your question correctly, there would be a somewhat increased authority of the new council in terms of determining what our final decision's on proposals. That may require extra work on their part. They may choose to contract expertise to review a particular proposal that they don't feel the ministry staff is . . . or they may want a second opinion on. So they would have a slight increase in role and possibly a little more work on that end of things if they chose to make those sorts of decisions. Am I answering the question here?

Ms. Morin: — Yes, that's definitely part of it, no question about it.

My question is with respect to how much responsibility with respect to governance is being placed on this advisory council now in terms of bringing those proposals forward to the minister for acceptance or rejection.

So what you have just said is that they have the ability to hire some outside expertise, to be able to do that to substantiate those proposals that are being brought forward. Do they have the ability to have that work done in-house with respect to the Ministry of Environment? Can they make that demand of the Minister of Environment to have that expertise to be done in the ministry itself, or is it necessary for them to seek outside expertise to be able to substantiate these proposals that they're bringing forward?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — The advisory council will still have the support of our Ministry of Environment officials where they see that that's appropriate. They will also have the ability to go outside and direct funds towards purchasing services outside, whether that be legal, clerical, technical expertise. I think that

what this will do, whether it's seeking outside advice or using the ministry officials, as has been done in the past, this will provide the advisory council with a greater ability to set direction and priority, rather than just responding to the Ministry of Environment direction. This will give them a greater sense of ownership in terms of choosing a direction for the fund to go.

Ms. Morin: — So the minister has just talked about the fact that the council will now have the ability to seek outside legal, clerical, technical advice, et cetera. So is there . . . I mean I'm assuming, Mr. Minister, that they still have to go through your office to be able to have the ability to do that. Or do they have the ability to do that without seeking approval from you first?

[20:30]

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you to the member for her question. The proposed amendments stipulate that the advisory council could engage any services or engage services, such as what was contemplated would be legal, financial, managerial, but that it would be at the discretion of the minister to approve those dollars being spent, so long as the council can satisfy whether that would be a reasonable expense made by the council.

Ms. Morin: — So the buck stops with the minister, so to speak, in terms of whether or not those services can be hired on behalf of the council's suggestions.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Yes, I think that's fair to say. And I think that in contemplating changes that would be taking place, I think that that indicates the balance that was attempted to be struck between an arm's-length committee that acted completely independent from the minister and from government and the balance between that and essentially what we have now — a review committee that reviews the work that's managed by the ministry.

Ms. Morin: — But if the committee now, the steering committee, said to the minister, gee, we'd like to go ahead with proposal no. X and we'd like to be able to prove that to you by contracting ABC services, the minister still would have the ability to do that now without the changes under the amendments to this Act as it currently exists.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — I think you could presuppose that, but there's nothing that indicates that the minister . . . that the steering committee, that that would include their work, to advise the minister of that. Nor is there anything to indicate that the minister has an expectation that the steering committee under its existing form would be used in that manner. So there's really nothing that says that a minister can take the advice of the steering committee as it's currently constituted, or for the term of my time as the minister not utilize the steering committee to all of their abilities.

What we're talking about is clearly stating in the legislation the obligations of the advisory council, or the steering committee as it's called now, and also the obligations of the minister in being able to access the council, and for the council to take more ownership over the decisions that will be made in regards to the use of the funds and also the future direction of whether it be

the funds themselves; the land that's under management currently; work plans for the future which, while notionally that may be a part of what the steering committee does today, it's not clearly stated that that's the case.

Ms. Morin: — So we get back to the notion that we have all this wonderful expertise and this is going to be the same expertise that is going to be the makeup of the advisory council, currently called the steering committee, and the minister can or cannot take their advice either as a steering committee or as an advisory council. The minister can or cannot approve any monies that they want to see spent or expertise that they want to see hired as a steering committee or as an advisory council. So I'm back to where I was before where I'm not understanding the difference between what currently exists and what's moving forward, but we'll keep moving forward, Mr. Minister, because I'm sure that at some point I'll catch on.

Under the system that currently exists, were there any recommendations or requests for monies to be spent that would need to be coming out of the General Revenue Fund versus the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund in terms of the amounts? In other words, is there spending that was over and above what the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund could sustain that were requested to come out of the General Revenue Fund?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Ms. Morin, I think if the question is, were there proposals that would've taken the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund over and above their allotted dollars in terms of the Ministry of Environment paying to complete projects. I think the answer would be no. I think the long-standing, more to your point, I think the long-standing burr under the saddle, so to speak for the stakeholder groups, is the dollar amounts that go from the sale of licences into the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund that pay for ministry staff, that pay for Ministry of Environment staff. That's a longstanding irritant of the stakeholder groups. And that would be, I think, probably in terms of your question, the issue that the stakeholder groups would have with the funding.

Ms. Morin: — Okay. So we've now found an irritant, which is what I've been trying to seek out since we've started the questioning here is what was the reason for this legislation coming forward? What was the problem that existed? And what were we trying to fix with the amendments to this legislation? So the burr under the saddle, so to speak as you've put it — and I quite like that analogy — is that Ministry of Environment officials were being, or staff I should say, was being paid out of the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund. Can the minister elaborate on what staff would have been paid, and for what reason?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — I'll just find the information here, if you could just bear with me here for one second.

Currently 16.9 FTEs [full-time equivalent], ministry's FTEs are paid for by the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund. And my understanding is that this an irritant that goes back to I believe the early to mid-1990s, when it was determined by the government of the day to pay for the salaries of ministry staff, department staff that worked in fish and wildlife areas by using the money that was collected from the sale of hunting, trapping, and fishing licences.

Ms. Morin: — So, Mr. Minister, then, so that is, I mean that sounds significant in terms of the amount of funds that are going to be freed up because I mean we're looking at a \$3.5 million fund that would've, according to what you've just said, was paying out the salaries for 16.9 FTEs. That's correct?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Yes, and we're budgeted, we're budgeted again this year for 16.9 FTEs. I think that it'd be fair to say that we're looking to work, as a ministry, to return to the days where we paid for those FTEs as a ministry with GRF [General Revenue Fund] dollars. We're not there yet. And there may be a case once the advisory council, assuming we go forward with these amendments this evening, to work with the advisory council to determine what a more appropriate breakdown of the FTEs would be.

Ms. Morin: — So is the minister then informing the committee this evening that those 16.9 FTEs that are currently being paid out of the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund would no longer be paid out of the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund if this legislation passes? Is that what the minister's suggesting because that's what it's sounding like?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — No, I wouldn't say I'm suggesting that. I'm saying that where appropriate going forward in the future, where the Fish and Wildlife Development Advisory Council would seek to have their own staff, then their dollars would pay for that staff. What that staffing level would be, I'm not here to suggest a number.

Whatever that number would be, it would certainly be my hope into the future that the Ministry of Environment would pay our own staff out of our own government dollars provided by the treasury at the time of the budget, which would satisfy a long-standing irritant of our stakeholder groups and hunters and fishers and trappers who don't believe that our staff should be paid for, regardless of how closely we work with the fund, that our staff shouldn't be paid for by the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund dollars. That being said, I would leave it for the advisory council at a time in the future to determine whether or not they would have their own staff and what that level would be.

Ms. Morin: — So my understanding then, from what we're discussing, is that the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund Advisory Council would have the ability to make recommendations to the minister for the release of staff, staffing positions, if they see that it suits their purposes. Is that correct?

[20:45]

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Could you clarify how you mean release of staff?

Ms. Morin: — Well if the advisory council no longer wants . . . no, doesn't want to see Ministry of Environment officials paid out of the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund, and wants to say, hire a different personnel or, as you have said, wants to see a different staff complement, obviously they're going to have to, some way or another you're going to have to get rid of all or some of the 16.9 FTE's. So are those going to be absorbed by the Ministry? Are those employees going to be absorbed by the Ministry? Or I mean is the minister going to take that advice

from the advisory council to get rid of some of these, some of the personnel from the Ministry of Environment that they don't see as being of value to them in terms of what their agenda is, moving forward?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — I would say that the 16.9 FTE's would not be solely dedicated to working for the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund activities, so they would have other responsibilities within the Ministry of Environment. I think it's fair to say that the advisory council will continue to lobby the minister, just as the steering committee has to bring the . . . to use dollars allocated by the treasury at budget time for the paying of ministry staff and to no longer use the FWDF [Fish and Wildlife Development Fund] money as is currently happening. And I think that that lobbying has happened every year since the government of the day decided to use FWDF dollars to pay for department staff. And certainly I think it's a fair argument for them to make. It's one that I'm open to and certainly would like to move that way. But it's not a new irritant, and it wouldn't be new lobbying on the part of the stakeholder groups or the membership of the FWDF Advisory Council.

Ms. Morin: — So, Mr. Minister, how do the amendments to this Act compare to what currently exists with respect to the suggestions of the advisory council going forward, in comparison to the steering committee as it currently exists, with respect to not seeing the 16.9 FTEs being paid out of the FWDF?

I'm trying to understand why this change had to happen in terms of this amendment to the Act in order to make a change that could have been made without the amendment to this Act, shall we say. Because I mean the steering committee currently has the ability to say to the minister, we don't want to see these FTEs paid out of the FWDF, and we want to see those absorbed by the Ministry of Environment and therefore paid out of the GRF.

But there are proposed changes before us this evening, and I want to know what the difference is between the proposed changes and what currently exists in terms of the irritant, which is the only irritant that I've heard of so far, being the 16.9 FTEs being paid out of the FWDF.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Well I think that the changes that are being contemplated by these amendments don't speak specifically to the FTEs that are paid for through the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund dollars. The member's right that the advisory council, the steering committee advises, provides advice to the minister to remove this irritant just as they have probably from day one of when the former government started paying for department staff through the sale of, through the 30 per cent of the sale of fish, hunting, and trapping licences.

I think the other . . . But if there would be another irritant that stakeholder groups would have is that there is no formalized governance structure for the current steering committee. There's nothing in legislation to clearly outline what the steering committee can do in terms of providing advice to the minister, so that's part of what we're doing today. The amendments for today don't necessarily remove the irritant of the dollars. I think that's a bit of a separate issue that isn't specific to the

amendments today. We know that that's an irritant. We know that it was an irritant back when it was first done back in the 1990s, and I imagine it will continue to be an irritant until the day that those dollars no longer are used to pay for ministry staff.

What the amendments today do, in large part, is change the steering committee, which doesn't currently have a clear outline of its roles and responsibilities, and changes it to an advisory council that has a clear set of roles and responsibilities and a governance structure and some certainty for the stakeholder groups that make up the steering committee today and would make up the advisory council going into the future.

Ms. Morin: — But, Mr. Minister, what I'm still failing to understand is it changes the role, but it doesn't change anything in terms of a concrete way. I mean it's not a stand-alone fund, so there is nothing that changes in terms of the reporting mechanism for the advisory council versus a steering committee. You know, you speak of a changing role, but it doesn't give them any more authority than they have now. Again it's simply a matter of making suggestions and recommendations to the minister. So there is nothing that's changing in terms of a reporting mechanism. I mean you've talked about a governance structure, but really there is very little changes from what currently exists, that I can see, versus what we have now. So again it's very difficult to follow what's trying to be accomplished with this and what the true nature of the desire to see these amendments to this Act are.

So I guess I'll just repeat what my original question was before we got off track a wee bit. Have there been recommendations in the past to the minister with respect to proposals from the steering committee under the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund for projects that were not funded out of, were not paid for from the FWDF fund but rather were paid out of the GRF, that may now be absorbed by the FWDF going forward?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Chair, Ms. Morin, I'm not sure we're clearly understanding your question. But I think it's not the intention of the amendments that are being made today to transfer any programs or projects that we currently pay for as the Ministry of Environment on to the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund. I don't know if that's your question.

Ms. Morin: — Okay. Thank you. I want to ask some questions, Mr. Minister, about the composition of the proposed advisory board. The proposed changes clearly set out who is eligible to be on the advisory board of the FWDF, and one of the things that I found interesting is that no civil servants are eligible to sit on the board and that the majority of board members need to be from environmental non-governmental agencies. So can the minister just describe what the reasoning is behind that, please?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — In the course of the consultations, the makeup of the proposed advisory council . . . It was the desire of the stakeholder groups that the makeup of the council be derived directly from the stakeholder groups, whether they be angling groups, hunting organizations, conservation groups. The Ministry of Environment will still be involved in any way that we can provide technical expertise, but the board itself would be solely from the stakeholder groups and ultimately though, as we've discussed tonight, have assistance from our

officials when need be and ultimately make recommendations to the minister.

Ms. Morin: — Can the minister just elaborate on obviously the discussions that took place? There was obviously specific discussions that took place with respect to why no civil servant should be sitting on the board, given that there are many other boards that do have civil servants on them. Can the minister just explain what the concern was with respect to the discussions that took place with respect to not having any civil servants sit on this particular board?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — The council as it's envisioned to be made up of stakeholder groups, that's in keeping with the steering committee as it currently exists. Today the steering committee is solely made up of stakeholder group representation and doesn't have any civil servants that would serve on its makeup as well.

Ms. Morin: — Yes, I understand that, Mr. Minister, but again I'm seeking the reasons for the proposed changes in terms of this amendment to the Act, and one of them being described by yourself as changes to the governance structure.

So if there's a change to the governance structure and given that it isn't uncommon for civil servants to be sitting on boards, I'm wondering if there's a more concrete reason as to why there would be no desire to have a civil servant sitting on this board given that it now has a higher level of responsibility, as the minister has put it, with respect to the work that it is expected from this board. So I'm wondering if you could just elaborate on that.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — The amendments that are before us this evening set in place the governance structure for the council. In that respect, in terms of the makeup of the council, it wouldn't deviate from the existing steering committee that's been in operation for many years, and that seems to work well.

[21:00]

And as well, it was the desire of the stakeholder groups that the council continue to be made up of the stakeholder groups, whether that be hunting, fishing, trapping organizations, conservation organizations. And again this is in keeping with what we heard during the consultations that, as the member may know, these organizations feel pretty strongly about the 30 per cent that they receive from the licences, and they would like to see the makeup of the council going forward reflect the organizations that have a key interest in those particular dollars.

Not to say that, as we talked about this evening, not to say that the government through the Ministry of Environment would not be at the disposal of the council for assistance and ultimately to provide accountability through the minister in terms of where the dollars are spent, but this is in keeping with the way the steering committee currently operates with just stakeholders on the committee.

Ms. Morin: — I'm glad the minister clarified because when the minister was talking about only stakeholder groups wanting to, you know, have say on something that they feel strongly about, I was chuckling to myself because I thought, boy, Ministry of

Environment officials would take offence to that because I'm sure that they have as much interest in how the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund moves forward as the stakeholder groups would as well.

So I'm also chuckling about the fact that we're again seeing no change from how it currently exists. So again I'm still in that position of not quite understanding why we're seeing the changes before us this evening that we are. So with respect to the makeup of the board, the language is also that the majority but not all are from environmental NGOs [non-governmental organization]. So can the minister — and we know now that civil servants are not going to be sitting on the board — so can the minister explain to us who the other people or what would be the rest of the makeup of the board? Who would that consist of, if only the majority has to be from environmental NGOs?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — I think that — just a correction — that the majority of the members would be from organizations that represent hunting, fishing, and trapping. So the other members of the committee could represent NGO organizations, environmental NGOs, whether that be Nature Saskatchewan, that isn't directly tied to hunting, fishing, trapping.

Ms. Morin: — Thank you. That clarifies that. That I understand. We're moving forward here. That's very good, thank you.

So with respect to the consultations that took place, we have a list of organizations that were invited, and some submitted written proposals. Some attended workshops. I'm just wondering what specifically was discussed with them in terms of changes that would move forward and how that would change something because, as I said, I'm still having difficulty pinpointing what change is occurring — substantial change — with respect to the proposed amendments that are before us this evening.

Ms. Quarshie: — Liz Quarshie. May I please ask you to repeat the question, if you can?

Ms. Morin: — Sure. I'm wondering if you can describe very clearly what was presented to the participants that took place, in terms of the written submissions and the workshops — what information was provided to them specifically about the proposed changes that the government was looking at with respect to the amendment before us this evening.

So in other words, because I'm not seeing anything substantial in front of us this evening that's being changed from what currently exists, what was presented to these stakeholder organizations and member groups and members in terms of what they were understanding to expect from the ministry with respect to what would be coming forward in legislation?

Ms. Quarshie: — Thank you for the clarification. I believe that we didn't come to the consultation with a pre-formed idea or solution that this is all we're proposing; these are the changes we're proposing. What we said is, if we wanted to make changes with respect to the constitution and the operation of the FWDF, what changes would you like or would you anticipate to see in it?

So they had a number of recommendations, of course one not surprisingly being that we don't want any staff charged to the fund. And there were some other suggestions as well.

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Minister, can you describe some of those other suggestions that were made because, as we already know, the burr under the saddle has been talked about. What are some of the other proposals that were made by the workshops and written submissions that the ministry and the minister received?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you for the question. There were a number of areas that were focused on during the consultations. One area included enhancing the land management that is under the purview of the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund, the approximately 200,000 acres that is under the control of the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund across the province, so a more active role in the land management.

As well there was an interest in moving the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund to become an independent body from government. And so really take it a step further than what our amendments are proposing and that the makeup of the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund would really evolve into an arm's-length, independent organization without some of the qualifiers, if I can use that word, that we have in our amendments, providing advice to the minister and having the minister still involved ultimately in the decision making. So a big part of the consultations, and I think the hopes of some of those stakeholder groups, was to see the amendments go even further to detach the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund from government.

Ms. Morin: — So my understanding then from what's been described so far as the desires, shall we say, is the desire to see the 16.9 FTEs not be paid out of the FWDF, enhancing the land management, taking a more active role, be a much more independent body, and detach the FWDF from government altogether. Is that fair to say that those are the four points that came forward out of the suggestions from the consultations that took place?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — There was another topic that did come up that was an area of focus during the consultations. That is the future of the fish culture station. And it was, I guess . . . The outcome of those discussions were based on the infrastructure upgrades that would be required. The stakeholder groups felt it was best that that remain the government's responsibility.

Ms. Morin: — So nothing has changed then with respect to the fish culture station — that's a mouthful — with the proposed changes that we're seeing this evening.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — No changes.

Ms. Morin: — So out of the five suggestions that came forward then out of the consultations, I'm only seeing one, Mr. Minister, that has been somewhat addressed, and that would be enhancing the land management or taking a more active role with respect to land management under the proposed changes to the governance structure which, as you said, allows them a more active role in the purchasing and management of those lands. So one out of the five points, I'm now understanding, is being

addressed with the proposed changes to the legislation that we're seeing before us this evening.

So who, if anyone, was opposed to the proposed changes that were coming forward? Or has anyone contacted the ministry since the legislation has now come forward and they actually see what's going to be what the government wants to see passed, I should say. Who's now come forward with complaints or concerns that their voices haven't been heard or that their suggestions aren't being met?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Since the legislation was introduced back in late last year — I don't quite remember the date that I did second reading, but it was in the fall session — the feedback has been from several groups, including the Wildlife Federation, is disappointment that we didn't go far further with the changes to make it a completely independent body. That was the desired outcome of a number of organizations, that we didn't completely make it an independent body. So I think it's, I think it's viewed by those groups as a step in the right direction but not far enough.

Ms. Morin: — Okay. Thank you very much. And I'm hoping that I can ask you my final question because that's what I've promised the Chair here. The Throne Speech that took place didn't mention any intentions to alter *The Natural Resources Act*, and that's normally a time when the government identifies its legislative priorities. I'm just wondering why it wasn't contained in the Throne Speech and how it then came forward given that this, the consultations were taking place, as the minister described it, for the last two years. So I'm just wondering why there was no mention of it in the Throne Speech despite the fact that the government is talking about having consulted with the stakeholder groups for two years already.

[21:15]

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you to Ms. Morin for your question. I'm not sure there's any one specific reason why this legislative change wouldn't have been singled out in the Throne Speech. The Ministry of Environment over the last number of years has proposed and passed a number of pieces of legislation and not all, probably very few by name in any ministry, would get by name identified within the Throne Speech. That being said, I think our stakeholder groups over the last number of years that were involved in the consultations knew or had knowledge that this amendment was making its way through the process. And I think outside of those stakeholder groups, I think this part of the operation of government maybe isn't that well-known so the groups that had an interest in it certainly would have known about it.

Ms. Morin: — Well that would be the case to a certain extent, because we've heard this evening that we don't know yet whether the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations was invited in terms of any of the consultations that took place, and we don't know if any individual First Nations that may have a larger interest, shall we say, in this legislation were consulted. We don't have that information yet. So I'm hoping that information will be forthcoming. I would assume within 24 hours that we would have that information.

I'm going to conclude my questions. Not to say that I'm

finished in terms of the questions that I have or, how should I say, understand what's being presented this evening any better than I did when I first started because, like I said, I just said there's five recommendations that came forward over the last two years with respect to the consultations. The more substantial recommendations that came forward haven't been addressed. The only one that's been somewhat addressed is enhancing the land management in terms of having the advisory council, which is currently a steering committee, take a more active role. But even then all they can provide is recommendations to the minister. The minister still has final say.

So I'm still in the position as I was, Mr. Minister. And I was really hoping that we could get somewhere else in terms of my understanding of the amendments that are being proposed to *The Natural Resources Act*, but I have to say that I'm no further ahead after having asked these questions than I was when I started. So I will conclude my questions at this point. And I thank you and the ministry officials for answering all the questions that I had this evening. Thank you.

The Chair: — Thank you, Ms. Morin. Are there any further questions or comments from other committee members? Seeing none, clause 1, short title, *The Natural Resource Amendment Act, 2010*. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[Clause 1 agreed to.]

[Clauses 2 to 14 inclusive agreed to.]

The Chair: — Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts as follows: Bill No. 155, *The Natural Resources Amendment Act, 2010*. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Agreed. I would ask a member to move that we report Bill No. 155, *The Natural Resources Amendment Act, 2010* without amendment.

Hon. Mr. Hickie: — I so move.

The Chair: — Mr. Hickie. Mr. Hickie moves. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Thank you, Mr. Minister, and officials. Any final comments from the minister?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — I just want to, Mr. Chair, thank you and the members of the committee for all the questions this evening. And I want to thank my officials this evening, and those that behind the scenes do the work to prepare us for this evening. And also I want to thank the officials that spoke to Bill 144, *The Litter Control Act*. I didn't get a chance on the last Bill. So thank you to the officials this evening.

The Chair: — Thank you, minister. Any final comments from other committee members? Ms. Morin.

Ms. Morin: — On behalf of the Official Opposition, I'd also like to thank the minister and the officials that are here, the officials that have all the background work to prepare for the committee this evening and all the good work that's being done by the ministry officials on an ongoing basis. And also to committee members for your indulgence in my questions being asked this evening. Thank you very much.

The Chair: — Thank you, Ms. Morin, and thank you officials and minister. I think that this may be an appropriate time for a six-minute break will put us back here at 9:30 to discuss estimates.

[The committee recessed for a period of time.]

[21:30]

The Chair: — Thank you, committee members. Are there any other questions on estimates on Agriculture, Energy and Resources, Enterprise and Innovation programs, Enterprise Saskatchewan, Environment, Highways and Infrastructure, Innovation Saskatchewan, or Saskatchewan Research Council? Seeing none . . .

**General Revenue Fund
Agriculture
Vote 1**

The Chair: — Agriculture, central management and services, subvote (AG01) in the amount of 11,752,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Policy and planning, subvote (AG05) in the amount of 3,955,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Research and technology, subvote (AG06) in the amount of 18,182,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Regional services, subvote (AG07) in the amount of 31,608,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Land management, subvote (AG04) in the amount of 8,268,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Industry assistance, subvote (AG03) in the amount of 4,659,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Irrigation and water infrastructure, subvote (AG11) in the amount of \$7,762,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Financial programs, subvote (AG09) in the amount of \$8,865,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Business risk management, subvote (AG10) in the amount of \$320,757,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Amortization of capital assets in the amount of 2,027,000. This is for informational purposes only. There's no amount to be voted.

Agriculture, vote 1, 415,808,000. I will now ask a member to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31, 2012, the following sums for Agriculture in the amount of \$415,808,000.

Mr. Gantefoer: — I so move.

The Chair: — Mr. Gantefoer. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

**General Revenue Fund
Energy and Resources
Vote 23**

The Chair: — Energy and Resources, central management and services, subvote (ER01) in the amount of \$24,394,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Forestry development, subvote (ER18) in the amount of \$1,398,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Revenue and planning, subvote (ER04) in the amount of \$3,169,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Petroleum and natural gas, subvote (ER05) in the amount of \$9,315,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Mineral lands and policy, subvote (ER06) in the amount of \$10,847,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Amortization of capital assets in the amount of 2,116,000, this is for informational purposes only.

There's no amount to be voted.

Energy and Resources, vote 23, \$49,078,000, I will now ask a member to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2012, the following sums for Energy and Resources, in the amount of 49,078,000.

Hon. Mr. Hickie: — I so move.

The Chair: — Mr. Hickie. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

**General Revenue Fund
Supplementary Estimates — March
Energy and Resources
Vote 23**

The Chair: — Carried. Vote 23, Energy and Resources, resource and energy policy, subvote (ER06) in the amount of 36,226,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Energy and Resources, vote 23, \$36,226,000, I will now ask a member to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2011, the following sums for Energy and Resources in the amount of 36,226,000.

Ms. Heppner: — I so move.

The Chair: — Ms. Heppner. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

**General Revenue Fund
Enterprise and Innovation Programs
Vote 43**

The Chair: — Vote 43, Enterprise and Innovation programs, investment programs, subvote (EI03) in the amount of 27,347,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Enterprise and Innovation programs, vote 43, \$27,347,000. I will now ask a member to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2012, the following sums for Enterprise and Innovation programs in the amount of 27,347,000.

Ms. Wilson: — I so move.

The Chair: — Ms. Wilson. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

**General Revenue Fund
Lending and Investing Activities
Enterprise and Innovation Programs
Vote 144**

The Chair: — Vote 144, Enterprise and Innovation programs, loans under economic and co-operative development Act, subvote (EI01), in the amount of \$4,000,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried, Enterprise and Innovation programs, vote 144, \$4,000,000. I will now ask a member to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2012, the following sums for Enterprise and Innovation programs in the amount of \$4,000,000.

Mr. Gantefoer: — I so move.

The Chair: — Mr. Gantefoer. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

**General Revenue Fund
Supplementary Estimates — March
Enterprise and Innovation Programs
Vote 43**

The Chair: — Vote 43, Enterprise and Innovation programs, investment programs, subvote (EI03) in the amount of \$800,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Enterprise and Innovation programs, vote 43, \$800,000, I will now ask a member to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2011, the following sums for Enterprise and Innovation programs in the amount of 800,000.

Hon. Mr. Hickie: — I so move.

The Chair: — Mr. Hickie. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

**General Revenue Fund
Enterprise Saskatchewan
Vote 83**

The Chair: — Vote 83, Enterprise Saskatchewan, operations, subvote (ES01) in the amount of 21,630,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Programs, subvote (ES02) in the amount of \$20,173,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Enterprise Saskatchewan, vote 83, \$41,803,000, I will now ask a member to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2012, the following sums for Enterprise Saskatchewan in the amount of \$41,803,000.

Ms. Heppner: — I so move.

The Chair: — Ms. Heppner. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

**General Revenue Fund
Supplementary Estimates — March
Enterprise Saskatchewan
Vote 83**

The Chair: — Vote 83, Enterprise Saskatchewan, programs, subvote (ES02) in the amount of \$3,000,000. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Enterprise Saskatchewan, vote 83, \$3,000,000, I will now ask a member to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2011, the following sums for Enterprise Saskatchewan in the amount of \$3,000,000.

Ms. Wilson: — I so move.

The Chair: — Ms. Wilson. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

**General Revenue Fund
Environment
Vote 26**

The Chair: — Vote 26, Environment, central management and services, subvote (EN01) in the amount of \$16,734,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Climate change, subvote (EN06) in the amount of \$16,330,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Land, subvote (EN15) in the amount of \$3,030,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Environmental support, subvote (EN14) in the amount of \$13,396,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Fish, wildlife and biodiversity, subvote (EN07) in the amount of \$9,104,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Compliance and field services, subvote (EN08) in the amount of \$16,146,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Environmental protection, subvote (EN11) in the amount of 33,987,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Forest services, subvote (EN09) in the amount of 11,684,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Wildlife management, subvote (EN10) in the amount of \$68,477,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Amortization of capital assets in the amount of \$6,707,000, this is for informational purposes only. There is no amount to be voted.

Environment, vote 26, \$188,888,000. I will now ask a member to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2012, the following sums for Environment in the amount of \$188,888,000.

Mr. Gantefoer: — So moved.

The Chair: — Mr. Gantefoer. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

**General Revenue Fund
Supplementary Estimates — March**

**Environment
Vote 26**

The Chair: — Vote 26, Environment. Environmental protection, subvote (EN11) in the amount of \$37,015,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried, Environment, vote 26, \$37,015,000. I will now ask a member to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2011, the following sums for Environment in the amount of \$37,015,000.

Hon. Mr. Hickie: — I so move.

The Chair: — Mr. Hickie. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

**General Revenue Fund
Highways and Infrastructure
Vote 16**

The Chair: — Vote 16, Highways and Infrastructure, central management and services, subvote (HI01) in the amount of \$21,359,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Strategic municipal infrastructure, subvote (HI15) in the amount of \$16,326,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Operation of transport system, subvote (HI10) in the amount of \$84,138,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Preservation of transportation system, subvote (HI04) in the amount of \$139,474,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Transportation policy and programs, subvote (HI06) in the amount of \$3,846,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Custom work activity, subvote (HI09) in the amount of zero dollars, there's no amount to be voted. This is for informational purposes only.

Machinery and equipment, subvote (HI13) in the amount of \$5,750,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Amortization of capital assets in the amount of 119,395,000, this is for informational purposes only. There's no amount to be voted.

Highways and Infrastructure, vote 16, \$270,000,893. I will now ask a member to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2012, the following sums for Highways and Infrastructure in the amount of 270,893,000.

Ms. Heppner: — I so move.

The Chair: — Ms. Heppner. Excellent. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

**General Revenue Fund
Highways and Infrastructure Capital
Vote 17**

The Chair: — Vote 17, Highways and Infrastructure Capital, infrastructure rehabilitation, subvote (HC01) in the amount of 81,700,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Infrastructure enhancement, subvote (HC02) in the amount of 203,600,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Highways and Infrastructure Capital, vote 17, \$285,300,000. I will now ask a member to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2012, the following sums for Highways and Infrastructure Capital in the amount of \$285,300,000.

Ms. Wilson: — I so move.

The Chair: — Ms. Wilson. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[21:45]

**General Revenue Fund
Supplementary Estimates — March
Highways and Infrastructure
Vote 16**

The Chair: — Vote 16, Highways and Infrastructure, strategic municipal infrastructure, subvote (HI15) in the amount of \$23,500,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Operation of transportation system, subvote (HI10), in the amount of \$6,000,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Highways and Infrastructure, vote 16, \$29,500,000. I will now ask a member to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2011, the following sums for Highways and Infrastructure in the amount of \$29,500,000.

Mr. Gantefoer: — So moved.

The Chair: — Mr. Gantefoer. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

**General Revenue Fund
Innovation Saskatchewan
Vote 84**

The Chair: — Vote 84, Innovation Saskatchewan, Innovation Saskatchewan, subvote (IS01) in the amount of \$3,467,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Innovation Saskatchewan, vote 84, \$3,467,000. I will now ask a member to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2012, the following sums for Innovation Saskatchewan in the amount of 3,467,000.

Hon. Mr. Hickie: — I so move.

The Chair: — Mr. Hickie. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

**General Revenue Fund
Supplementary Estimates — March
Innovation Saskatchewan
Vote 84**

The Chair: — Vote 84, Innovation Saskatchewan, Innovation Saskatchewan subvote (IS01) in the amount of 8,500,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

The Chair: — Innovation Saskatchewan, vote 84, \$8,500,000. I will now ask a member to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2011, the following sums for Innovation Saskatchewan in the amount of \$8,500,000.

Ms. Heppner: — I so move.

The Chair: — Ms. Heppner. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

**General Revenue Fund
Saskatchewan Research Council
Vote 35**

The Chair: — Vote 35, Saskatchewan Research Council, Saskatchewan Research Council, subvote (SR01) in the amount of \$18,133,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Saskatchewan Research Council, vote 35, \$18,133,000. I will now ask a member to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2012, the following sums for Saskatchewan Research Council in the amount of \$18,133,000.

Ms. Wilson: — I so move.

The Chair: — Ms. Wilson. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Standing Committee on the Economy, ninth report. Committee members, you now have before you a draft of the ninth report of the Standing Committee on the Economy. We will require a member to move the following motion:

That the ninth report of the Standing Committee on the Economy be adopted and presented to the Assembly.

Mr. Gantefoer: — I so move.

The Chair: — Mr. Gantefoer. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Thank you very much, members. I think we've concluded the business of this committee and would entertain a motion for adjournment. Mr. Hickie. Thank you very much and a good evening.

[The committee adjourned at 21:49.]