

HB

539

TO
 Cheryl Sutton
 From Sharm Mc
 FAX 2267

HOUSE RESOURCES STANDING COMMITTEE
 March 14, 1996
 1:12 p.m.

HB 539 - NAME CHANGE FOR SOIL AND WATER BOARD

Number 2022

CHERYL SUTTON, Legislative Assistant, Representative Bill Williams, introduced HB 539 by reading the sponsor statement into the record:

"House Bill 539 was introduced by request of the Soil and Water Conservation Board. It simply changes the name of the Board to the Natural Resources Conservation and Development Board. This request has been made for the following reasons:

MS. SUTTON further stated, "The declaration of policy for the board is to provide for the development, use and conservation of the farm, forest and grazing land of the state. The present name does not reflect adequately that the board has a resource development as well as a conservation mission.

"MS. SUTTON continued, "This name change is in agreement with that of the major federal player in the partnership -- the Natural Resources Conservation Service. This organization changed its name from the Soil Conservation Service in the Department of Agriculture.

MS. SUTTON proceeded, "The board, as well as the local Soil and Water districts, has a close tie with the NRCS Alaska Resource Conservation and Development offices in assisting rural regions of the state in adding value to their available resources.

MS. SUTTON concluded, "The name change will not affect any of the statutory responsibilities of the board. It has a zero fiscal note."

Number 2070

JEFF HARTMAN, Executive Director, Alaska Soil and Water Conservation Board, Department of Natural Resources, stated that the third mission of the board is to advise the commissioner and make recommendations for a specific action necessary for effective and orderly development of agriculture, forests and grazing land.

MR. HARTMAN explained the board's present name does not reflect that, and (the board feels) that the name change to the Natural Resources Conservation and Development Board is appropriate. The name change will not affect the function and there is no cost.

Number 2137

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIES inferred that the title appears to change the scope of work of the board.

Number 2161

MR. HARTMAN responded that the "Natural Resources" part of the name does reflect the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the board's federal partner, in the Department of Agriculture.

MR. HARTMAN explained that the main issue is the "development" aspect and the resources include forestry and agriculture. Two members of the present board are involved with game ranching and a health farm in the Kenai, and one member is the past president of the Reindeer Herders Association. The board is involved in many resources other than land and water, and the "Natural Resources" reflects that we work for the Department of Natural Resources and our major federal partner, the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

MR. HARTMAN said the board is not trying to assume any duties of the Oil & Gas Conservation Commission. Our emphasis is on rural development and "value added" development of the program, and specifically, the resource conservation development within the NRCS.

Number 2274

REPRESENTATIVE PETE KOTT wondered who developed the language in the boards and commissions manual as to the board's function.

MR. HARTMAN was not able to answer that question. He did say that the Alaska Soil and Water Conservation program will have its 50th anniversary next year. He said this bill does not change the Alaska Soil and Water program, nor the district, but the one aspect of the program, the five member advisory board to the commissioner, we are seeking to change, is the name change.

REPRESENTATIVE KOTT suggested looking at the language in the function because the current board name would serve the function, at least, in the boards and commissions handbook, and might be more appropriate than a new name.

MR. HARTMAN said that if the name change is approved, he will draft a new mission statement for the boards and commissions handbook.

Number 2328

MS. SUTTON explained that the purpose for this particular board is outlined in statute. She said the language is fairly clear and does seem to fit with their purpose in statute.

Number 2345

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIES said that the purpose in statute for the

present Alaska Soil and Water Conservation Board fits under the proposed new title, but that is because the proposed title is so broad. He asked Mr. Hartman if he considered something like the "Agricultural and Silvicultural Conservation and Development Board."

MR. HARTMAN replied that that was not specifically addressed by the board when they arrived at the present name.

MR. HARTMAN apprised the committee of the board's interest in developing tourist related products from natural resources. He said he was looking at a birch wood box in Aniak, which is not agricultural, but it is utilizing a natural resource with the help of the Natural Resources Conservation and Development Board to develop a market. He said the board is also working with others and trying to broaden the scope into locally available resources in the soil and water district. He talked about a project in the Willow area of making pressboard out of wood chips. He said that is not agricultural but it is using byproducts from a lumber mill and making a marketable product. Another project in Fairbanks is a dog "waste" compost project making compost and fertilizer from a dog team waste.....(end tape)

TAPE 96-32, SIDE B

Number 000

REPRESENTATIVE KOTT moved that HB 539 move from the House Resources Committee with individual recommendations and attached zero fiscal note.

Number 015

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIES objected.

Number 033

CO-CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS said he would hold the bill for a quorum and rescheduled HB 539 for Monday, March 18th.

*Check new
here's draft - Sharon 2/27*

HOUSE RESOURCES STANDING COMMITTEE
March 18, 1996
8:13 a.m.

HB 539 - NAME CHANGE FOR SOIL AND WATER BOARD

Number 101

JEFF HARTMAN, Executive Director, Alaska Soil and Water Conservation Board, Department of Natural Resources, reported that the board felt that the perception of what the board did was not clear with the present name of "Soil and Water Conservation."

MR. HARTMAN pointed out that state statute defines the board's function as development use and conservation. The board felt the name change would more accurately reflect what the board views as their function which is not only conservation but, also, the development of resources, specifically, in rural Alaska.

Number 200

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN DAVIES understood the inclusion of the word "development," but did have a problem with the further name change to "Natural Resources." He said justification for that part of the name change is not addressed and broadening the title to Natural Resources Conservation and Development Board takes in many other possible areas. With "soil and water" in the name, we knew what the board was supposed to be doing. "Natural resources" covers the whole waterfront and, possibly, includes oil and gas or fisheries.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIES suggested changing "Natural Resources" to "Agricultural and Forestry Conservation and Development Board."

Number 289

MR. HARTMAN said the board is an advisory board to the Department of Natural Resources; the department does not cover fish and game. The board represents land owners and much of the resources are more than just soil and water such as forestry and developing tourism related products using natural resources. In Aniak, one potential development product is wild berries. It is a locally available, but underutilized, resource.

MR. HARTMAN briefed the committee about an ongoing project in Fairbanks of converting dog waste into a usable fertilizer, and a potential project of converting ground water into a usable resource for the green house industry.

MR. HARTMAN said "Natural Resources" was chosen because the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, changed its name from the Soil Conservation Service; and because

the board is a principal advisor to the commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources, we felt that "Natural Resources Conservation and Development Board" was in keeping with that.

Number 450

MR. HARTMAN agreed that the board's principle base is agricultural but the base is broader and the board wants to reflect that change of emphasis because the whole resource conservation development program in the Natural Resources Conservation Service is relatively new to Alaska and it brings a lot of capability.

Number 495

CO-CHAIRMAN GREEN noted the arrival of Representatives Scott Ogan and Irene Nicholia.

Number 518

REPRESENTATIVE ALAN AUSTERMAN moved that HB 539 move from the House Resources Committee with individual recommendations and attached zero fiscal note. Hearing no objection, HB 539 passed out of the House Resources Committee.

Alaska State Legislature



Representative William K. Williams

Committees:
House Resources
Co-Chairman
World Trade &
State Federal Relations
Transportation
Rules
Oil & Gas

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352 Front Street
Ketchikan, AK 99901
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SPONSOR STATEMENT

House Bill 539

An Act changing the name of the Alaska Soil and Water Conservation Board.

House Bill 539 was introduced by request of the Soil and Water Conservation Board. It simply changes the name of the Board to the Natural Resources Conservation and Development Board. This request has been made for the following reasons:

- The declaration of policy for the board is to provide for the **development, use and conservation** of the farm, forest and grazing land of the state. The present name does not reflect adequately that the board has a resource development as well as a conservation mission.
- This name change is in agreement with that of the major federal player in the partnership -- the Natural Resources Conservation Service. This organization changed its name from the Soil Conservation Service in the Department of Agriculture.
- The board, as well as the local Soil and Water districts, has a close tie with the NRCS Alaska Resource Conservation and Development offices in assisting rural regions of the state in adding value to their available resources.

The name change will not affect any of the statutory responsibilities of the board.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA

BILL NO. HB539

1996 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: Original Dept Affected Natural Resources
 Title: An act changing the name of the Alaska BRU: Agricultural Development
Soil and Water Conservation Board. Component: Agricultural Development
 Sponsor: House Resources
 Requestor: House Resources Component Serial No. 455

(Thousands of Dollars)

Expenditures/Revenues	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02
OPERATING EXPENDITURES						
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

(Thousands of Dollars)

FUND SOURCE	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02
1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY96) cost: \$ none

POSITIONS

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

There is no fiscal impact associated with implementation of this legislation.

Prepared by: Jeff Hartman, Executive Director, S&W Board *Jeff Hartman* Phone: 465-2495
 Division: Agriculture Date: 12-Mar-96
 Approved by Commissioner: *Mike Berman for John Brundage* Date: 12-Mar-96
 Agency: Natural Resources

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