Favorable approval given to Front Range development council

Creation of a Front Range development council — a major feature of Gov. John Vanderhoof's package of land use bills before the 1974 Colorado General Assembly — won favorable approval Thursday from the Senate Local Government Committee.

The resolution was sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee for study of its fiscal impact. John Birmingham, the governor's top environmental adviser, estimated an initial cost of $80,000.

The council, which would serve solely as an advisory group, would cover a 13-county area stretching along the Front Range from Fort Collins to Pueblo. Over 80 per cent of the state's population lives in the area.

SIZE OF THE COUNCIL

Despite objections by Birmingham, the committee voted to allow the size of the council to range from 13 to 21 at the governor's option. Birmingham had argued for only a 13-member council.

"Large committee have so much trouble reaching decisions," Birmingham said. "A 13-member council would be nearly the size of the interim committee on land use which had lots of problems because of its size."

Birmingham raised no objections to amendments to limit some areas of study. The restrictions would prevent the advisory group from studying a Denver area metropolitan taxing district.

Birmingham said the council would include persons with experience in the fields of government, planning, business, labor, real estate, water, agriculture and the environment.


DEFINITE AREAS OF STUDY

Among definite areas of study will be to determine whether a second Valley Highway (Interstate 25), which cuts north-south across the Front Range, should be built or whether an additional lane should be added to the existing highway.

The council also will study the possibility of additional jet ports in the Front Range, and reach policy decisions as to water development and water improvement districts within the Front Range.

Birmingham said much of the material needed for a study of the Front Range already exists. If the council had to start from scratch, he said, the total cost of the project would be close to $250,000.

CHAMPION HOME BUILDERS CO.

Price controls and slumping motor home sales were directly attributable for the 81% drop in third-quarter earnings, Champion Home Builders Co., Dryden, Mich., reported Thursday.

3rd Qtr., Nov. 30: 1972: 1973
Sales $67,700,000 $12,300,000
Net income 4,022,000 2,000,000
Per share .72 .40

GREAT WESTERN UNITED CORP.

An earnings turnaround to profitable operations from a loss position in the second quarter was reported Thursday by Great Western United Corp., Denver, as a result of price increases at the Great Western Sugar Co., record net income from Shackle's Inc. and improvement at Great Western Cities which moved out of a net loss position in the second quarter.

2nd Qtr., to Nov. 30: 1973 a1972
Revenues:
Great W. Sugar 105,412,000 98,247,000
Great W. Cities 14,284,000 14,741,000
Shackle's 7,871,000 4,877,000
Total revenues 127,567,000 117,825,000
Net income before taxes 2,371,000 1,044,000
Per share .31 .19

Wastewater treatment bill clears finance committee

A bill that would allocate $2.5 million in state funds for wastewater treatment facilities in municipalities of less than 5,000 population cleared the Colorado Senate Finance Committee Thursday and was sent to Appropriations.

Sponsoring Sen. Leslie R. Fowler, R-Boulder, explained that smaller towns are far down the priority list for federal and state sewage funds.

But Earl Balkum, water quality specialist for the Colorado Health Department, testified that there is still money left over from the $15 million in state funds allocated to wastewater treatment in the current year. All 32 applicants, large and small, are getting the grants they asked, he said.

Another $14 million in such funds will probably be approved for next year. They would probably go to larger cities exclusively if the Fowler bill is passed.

All state and federal funds spent on wastewater control would require matching funds on the part of the city, town or district involved.