

SENATOR CARSTEN: Okay, thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Senator Bereuter, would you yield to a question, please.

SENATOR BEREUTER: Yes, I will.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Actually, at the present time, you are only establishing a system whereby, if the Legislature desired in another year or two, inaugurate some kind of a proposal to assist in conservation projects, that we could do so, is that right?

SENATOR BEREUTER: Yes. We will have those recommendations hopefully in December. That is the requirement.

SENATOR SCHMIT: And the only funding that is involved at the present time is for the advisory board which will be involved with coming up with those recommendations?

SENATOR BEREUTER: Yes, with the addition of perhaps a little bit of staff time in the Natural Resources Commission but the total would be about \$11,000.

SENATOR SCHMIT: And do you envision some interest in this program by the Natural Resource Districts?

SENATOR BEREUTER: I think they would undoubtedly be interested since they are charged with this responsibility. Although, they have, perhaps, in some areas of the state concentrated on other things.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Then this would actually be a parallel responsibility by another agency in an area that is actually not being perhaps developed at the present time, specifically, the small dams, is that right?

SENATOR BEREUTER: Yes, sir. I think it is a dire need.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Senator Bereuter. I think that perhaps I have some question about just exactly whether or not we want to get involved in this to this extent but I see nothing wrong with attempting to take a look at it, and if the advisory committee comes up with some positive recommendations by next December, the Legislature can then proceed with the bill. Thank you, Senator Bereuter.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, Senator Bereuter, Senator Bereuter.

SENATOR BEREUTER: Yes, sir.

SENATOR NICHOL: Are we getting the horse before the cart here. Couldn't we wait until next year to start spending administrative money for something that we don't have any money to spend on yet?

SENATOR BEREUTER: I don't believe so, Senator Nichol, and I would answer in this way. We need to establish the procedure whereby this program will be ongoing July 1, if the