

Pipeline Funds Slashed In Rhodes Projects Bill

\$2 Million Of Proposed \$20 Million Earmarked For Northwest Ohio Plan

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COLUMBUS, July 13 — The Rhodes administration wants to divert capital improvement money tentatively earmarked for a northwestern Ohio pipeline to other projects, but officials say the water project still is alive.

Campaign material for the \$290 million bond issue approved by voters May 4 listed \$20 million as a state contribution toward the proposed 240-mile pipeline from Lake Erie or for some other method of increasing water supply to 17 counties.

But the administration's capital improvements bill approved today by the House Finance Committee calls for only \$2 million for planning the northwest Ohio water development.

The bill would appropriate \$277 million of the bond money, leaving \$13 million unallocated.

For all other major categories except one, the bill carries the same amounts as promised during the campaign — \$30 million each for natural resources and corrections, \$145 million for higher education, \$25 million for public school classrooms, \$12 million for historical sites, \$5 million each for airports and a new state health headquarters, \$10 million for deferring water and sewer assessments, and \$8 million for juvenile corrections.

Public Works Cut

The other exception is \$5.4 million for public works, reportedly a new state welfare headquarters in Columbus, interior additions on the House side of the statehouse, and miscellaneous public building repairs and improvements.

So even if the remaining \$13 million from the bond issue were appropriated later for the pipeline, its total allocation would be only \$15 million.

But Finance Director Richard Krabach and Development Director Fred Neunschwander say the state still is committed to the \$20 million for the water line.

Mr. Krabach said the additional funds might come from federal reimbursement for some of the other projects or from economies in other construction.

3 Solutions Considered

Since the pipeline project will be a lengthy one, Mr. Neunschwander said, only the planning money is expected to be need over the next two years.

He said three approaches to the problem still are being considered.

One is a pipeline, but instead of starting first at Lake Erie, it might initially link several inland reservoirs, being designed ultimately to reach the big lake somewhere near Toledo.

Also being discussed are development by a private water company or creation of a special authority to do the job.

The Ohio Senate voted 27 to 1 last night for a bill to make the Ohio Water Commission the vehicle for this or other similar pipeline developments.

Counties to the south and east of Toledo also are seeking a study for a similar project.

Four legislators would be added to the seven-member water commission, and its powers would be expanded to include:

- ▶ Cooperation in nationwide water management.
- ▶ Acquisition of property and construction of water and sewer lines, reservoirs, pumping stations, treatment works, and similar facilities.
- ▶ Collection of charges and entering leases with political subdivisions and other public or private agencies to pay for building and operating such utilities.

Mr. Neunschwander said that the final shape of the pipeline development depends to a great extent on the next planning stage to be financed with the \$2 million.

Capital Improvements Bill Passed By House Panel

The House Finance Committee today unanimously recommended adoption of a \$279,988,570 capital improvements bill following the administration's recommendations exactly.

The additional \$2.9 million beyond the original \$277 million represents reappropriations of money from an earlier bond issue which has not yet

been spent by several of the colleges.

Rep. Marigene Valiquette (D., Lucas County) proposed to add \$7.5 million for a teaching hospital at the Toledo State College of Medicine, but was defeated in a voice vote. Miss Valiquette then voted for the bill.