

this charge and they would have their say accordingly, but because there are enough other nongame and park aspects to a protected stream, it seems as though the Natural Resources Commission is maybe the best choice of the two. So I would rise in opposition to Senator Lindsay's amendment and believe that the Natural Resources Commission is probably the best overseer of this particular project.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Conway. Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I would just remind the senators here that the Natural Resources Commission is made up of 16 members. Thirteen of those members serve from each of the 13 major watersheds in the State of Nebraska. They are elected officials to their NRDs and then the NRDs within that watershed select a member to serve on the Natural Resources Commission. There are three additional members appointed by the Governor, one to represent municipalities, one to represent surface water users and one to represent groundwater users. And I would also remind the body that the Natural Resources Commission has developed several recreation areas in the state and after they have developed the areas, they turn that area of authority over to the Game and Parks Commission because they don't want to get in the areas of regulating wildlife, fish management. That's the Game and Parks Commission responsibility. So I think the appropriate place for this is within the Natural Resources Commission. It just makes logical sense. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I want to be clear on what authority Game and Parks has and what authority the Natural Resources Commission doesn't have because it really is key to understanding this whole concept and understanding why I believe the Natural Resources Commission cannot possibly function in this role. In 46-2108 of our statutes it is called instream appropriations and there is a definition of instream appropriation and it defines instream appropriation as the amount of water necessary for recreation or fish and wildlife. Those are the items for which instream appropriations can be obtained. Now there are only two entities under the statute that can apply for that appropriation. One is the Game and Parks Commission and the other is the Natural Resources District. The Natural Resources Commission itself