

projects as identified in the March 2004 engineering report by Axiom-Blair Engineering at a cost of \$10,500,000.

“(36) In the Hidalgo County, Texas, Donna Irrigation District, water conservation and improvement projects identified in an engineering report dated March 22, 2004, by Melden and Hunt, Inc. at a cost of \$2,500,000.

“(37) In the Hidalgo County, Texas, Hidalgo County Irrigation District No. 16, water conservation and improvement projects identified in an engineering report dated March 22, 2004, by Melden and Hunt, Inc. at a cost of \$2,800,000.

“(38) The United Irrigation District of Hidalgo County water conservation and improvement projects as identified in a March 2004 engineering report by Sigler Winston, Greenwood and Associates at a cost of \$6,067,021.”

(b) INCLUSION OF ACTIVITIES TO CONSERVE WATER OR IMPROVE SUPPLY; TRANSFERS AMONG PROJECTS.—Section 4 of such Act (Public Law 106-576; 114 Stat. 3067) is further amended by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (e), and by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) INCLUSION OF ACTIVITIES TO CONSERVE WATER OR IMPROVE SUPPLY.—In addition to the activities identified in the engineering reports referred to in subsection (a), each project that the Secretary conducts or participates in under subsection (a) may include any of the following:

“(1) The replacement of irrigation canals and lateral canals with buried pipelines.

“(2) The impervious lining of irrigation canals and lateral canals.

“(3) Installation of water level, flow measurement, pump control, and telemetry systems.

“(4) The renovation and replacement of pumping plants.

“(5) Other activities that will result in the conservation of water or an improved supply of water.

“(d) TRANSFERS AMONG PROJECTS.—Of amounts made available for a project referred to in any of paragraphs (20) through (38) of subsection (a), the Secretary may transfer and use for another such project up to 10 percent.”

SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR LOWER RIO GRANDE CONSTRUCTION.

Section 4(e) of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Resources Conservation and Improvement Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-576; 114 Stat. 3067), as redesignated by section 2(b) of this Act, is further amended by inserting before the period the following: “for projects referred to in paragraphs (1) through (19) of subsection (a), and \$42,356,145 (2004 dollars) for projects referred to in paragraphs (20) through (38) of subsection (a)”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to add extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1393 amends the Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Resources Conservation and Improvement Act of 2009 to authorize the construction of several water conservation projects in Cameron, Hidalgo, Willacy, Hudspeth, and El Paso Counties in Texas. I commend the bill's sponsor, Mr. HINOJOSA, for bringing this measure to our attention. I urge the passage of this noncontroversial bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1393. The Democratic bill manager has adequately explained this bill, which has passed the House in the last two Congresses in one form or another.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I now want to yield as much time as he might consume to the sponsor of the bill, to my classmate, Mr. RUBÉN HINOJOSA of Texas.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from my wonderful congressional class of 1996 for giving me this time and opportunity to speak about an issue that is very important to us in Texas.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 1393, a bill that will authorize a variety of water conservation projects, including several in my congressional district in Texas and other projects all the way up to El Paso.

I want to thank Chairman RAHALL and Ranking Member HASTINGS for bringing the legislation to the floor.

I represent a region of the country that is subject to periodic droughts but yet is experiencing phenomenal population growth. When I came to Congress in 1997, we had 7 years of drought that made it impossible for our farmers to be able to make a profit. The 2000 census showed that the population of Hidalgo County, in my congressional district, increased by 48 percent. The 2010 census is expected to show a very similar growth of 48 to 50 percent.

On the Mexican side of the border, millions have come to work in the maquiladoras to take advantage of the economic boom that has come from NAFTA. This growth has placed an enormous strain on water delivery systems along the Texas-Mexico border.

Agriculture irrigation water often flows through open dirt ditches, and studies show that much is lost to seepage. Much of it is also lost to evaporation. Municipalities rely on the water from the irrigation delivery systems to meet the water needs of growing communities.

This bill, H.R. 1393, will authorize 19 projects that will allow border water districts to continue upgrading and modernizing our antiquated water delivery systems through the installation of water pipes—PVC pipes and canal linings. That is what we have been doing during the last 10 years, saving anywhere from 38 to 42 percent of water that we would have lost to seepage and evaporation. Similar projects

were authorized in the 106th and 107th Congresses. This identical bill was passed in the 109th and 110th Congresses, but it has always stalled in the Senate. I am hoping that the third time is the charm.

We have already made a great deal of progress because this has been a collaborative effort. The irrigation districts have provided matching funds. The Texas Water Development Board and Texas A&M University have paid for many of the engineering studies. Federal appropriators have provided close to \$20 million for previously authorized projects. These funds are being put to good use. Numerous projects are already under way, and some are almost completed.

Mr. Speaker, as a result, we are seeing a water savings of as high as 80 percent in the projects that have been completed. When the metering system is fully installed, irrigation districts have a much clearer picture of water usage and of water savings. This type of investment is bringing us the state of the art in irrigation systems in agricultural regions like the ones we have in deep south Texas. This data will be vital to improving water management throughout our region.

Most importantly, Federal authorization has allowed us to tap into the resources of the North American Development Bank. To date, NADBank has approved almost \$24 million for these kinds of projects, and the passage of H.R. 1393 will make these new projects eligible for NADBank assistance.

In closing, I wish to say that, as south Texas moves back into a drought cycle, I urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 1393.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, at this point, I will yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I yield back the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1393.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1430

LAND GRANT PATENT MODIFICATION

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1280) to modify a land grant patent issued by the Secretary of the Interior.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1280

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AMENDMENTS TO LAND GRANT PATENT ISSUED BY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

Patent Number 61-2000-0007, issued by the Secretary of the Interior to the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society, Chippewa County, Michigan, pursuant to section 5505 of division A of the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104-208; 110 Stat. 3009-516) is amended in paragraph 6, under the heading "SUBJECT ALSO TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS" by striking "Whitefish Point Comprehensive Plan of October 1992, or a gift shop" and inserting "Human Use/Natural Resource Plan for Whitefish Point, dated December 2002, permitted as the intent of Congress".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to bring to the House for its consideration this legislation sponsored by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK). This bill makes a minor technical correction to a land patent issued by the Secretary of the Interior to the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society.

In 1997, Congress directed the Secretary to grant a land patent transferring a portion of the Whitefish Point Coast Guard Light Station to the society for the purposes of developing a public museum dedicated to shipping on the Great Lakes, including the well-known tragedy of the S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald, an iron ore carrier lost on Lake Superior in 1975.

A condition of the patent was that the use of the land conform to the Whitefish Point Comprehensive Plan of 1992. That plan has been replaced by a new document, the December 2002 Human Use/Natural Resource Plan for Whitefish Point. This bill strikes the reference to the old plan and replaces it with the title of the current document.

Congressman STUPAK has worked diligently on behalf of this legislation. The museum is one of the most popular attractions in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and Mr. STUPAK has been a great advocate on its behalf.

I wholeheartedly support H.R. 1280 and urge its adoption by the House today.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on H.R. 1280, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 1280 has been well explained by the majority, and we support the legislation.

At this point, I would reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to yield to the sponsor of the legislation, Mr. BART STUPAK of Michigan.

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the author of H.R. 1280. I would like to thank the chairman and ranking member of the Interior Committee, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN and Mr. LAMBORN, and the committee staff for their assistance in moving forward with this legislation.

H.R. 1280 is a straightforward bill that would allow the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society to implement the new Human Use/Natural Resource Management Plan for the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum in Chippewa County, Michigan.

We have passed identical legislation on suspension out of the House of Representatives in the 109th and 110th sessions of Congress before, but it was not considered by the Senate. I am hopeful, with the House acting early this year in this legislative session, that the legislation we pass today will allow the Senate ample time to consider and approve this legislation.

The Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the history of shipwrecks in the Great Lakes. Since 1992, the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society has operated the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum to educate the public about shipwrecks in the region. The museum provides exhibits on several shipwrecks in the area, including an in-depth exhibit on the Edmund Fitzgerald, which was lost with her entire crew of 29 men near Whitefish Point, Michigan, on November 10, 1975. Among the items on display is the 200-pound bronze bell recovered from the wreckage in 1995, as a memorial to her lost crew.

In 2002, the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society, working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Michigan Audubon Society, and the local community finalized a new management plan to improve the experience at the museum. The new management plan, which was signed and agreed upon by the interested parties, will allow the historical society to expand the museum's exhibits while addressing concerns about parking and access to surrounding wildlife areas. However, because the original land patent references the previous management plan, legislation to amend the patent is necessary before the new management plan can be implemented.

H.R. 1280 amends the land grant patent to allow the new management plan to be implemented. Congressman CAMP of Michigan has joined me in cosponsoring this legislation, and I thank him for his support.

The Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society has continuously improved the experience at the museum since it was established in 1992. With the approval of H.R. 1280, Congress will allow

the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum to further develop this cultural and historical resource.

I encourage my colleagues to support this simple legislation which would improve the opportunities available to visitors of Chippewa County, Michigan, and the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum.

I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1280.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SHASTA-TRINITY NATIONAL FOREST LAND TRANSFER

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 689) to interchange the administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal lands between the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 689

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. INTERCHANGE OF LANDS TO THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT.

(a) INTERCHANGE.—Effective on the date of the enactment of this Act, administrative jurisdiction of the federally owned lands described in subsection (b) is transferred from the Secretary of Agriculture to the Secretary of the Interior to be subject to the laws, rules, and regulations applicable to the public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "BLM").

(b) LANDS AFFECTED.—Except as provided in subsection (c), the lands transferred to the administration of the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, under subsection (a) are those heretofore within the Shasta-Trinity National Forest in California, Mount Diablo Meridian, as shown on the map titled "H.R. 689, Transfer from Forest Service to BLM, Map 1", dated April 21, 2009.

(c) EXCEPTED LANDS.—Excepted from the transfer under this section are those lands within the Shasta Dam Reclamation Zone which shall continue to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Reclamation.

SEC. 2. INTERCHANGE OF LANDS TO THE FOREST SERVICE.

(a) INTERCHANGE.—Effective on the date of the enactment of this Act, administrative jurisdiction of the federally owned lands described in subsection (b) is transferred from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of Agriculture to be subject to the laws, rules, and regulations applicable to the National Forest System. Such lands are hereby withdrawn from the public domain and reserved for administration as part of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.