

NEVADA LEGISLATURE - 54TH SESSION

SENATE COMMITTEE ON
FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTSMinutes of Meeting Held
February 27, 1967

The ninth meeting of the Senate Committee on Federal, State, and Local Governments was called to order at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, February 27, 1967, in Committee Room 50, State Capitol, by Chairman Gibson. All committee members were present. Also present were various persons interested in Senate Bill 47.

The Chairman stated the first matter of business was:

S.B. 47: Provides for one member of California-Nevada interstate compact commission actively interested in fish, wildlife and recreation. Introduced by Senator Young.

He called on Senator Young, introducer of the bill, who stated the form of the bill was slightly different from what he had anticipated, in that it deletes one commissioner from the Walker River Irrigation District in order to add a commissioner who is actively interested in fish, wildlife, and recreation. He had expected the bill would provide the added commissioner without deleting any existing commissioners.

Senator Young called on Bill Griswold of Reno, who spoke in favor of the bill, stating that if sportsmen were represented in the compact, misunderstandings due primarily to not knowing what is going on would be eliminated.

Frank Groves, Director of the Nevada Fish and Game Commission, next spoke in favor of the bill, stating that fish and game people in no way wish to take over a spot on the board now occupied by the Walker River Irrigation District commissioner, but they would like a spot.

Mr. Tom Trelease of Verdi, who spoke next, echoed Mr. Grove's comments in support of the bill.

Speaking in opposition to the bill were:

Mr. Herb Rowntree (Yerington), Manager, Walker River Irrigation District. He objected to WRID's losing a representative.

Mr. Bolton Minister (Yerington), commission member, speaking as an individual. He stated the compact commission only divides water between California and Nevada, does not declare a special use to be beneficial; that it's the function of the [of the] Legislature, not of the commission, to declare beneficial uses. He particularly objected to the Secretary of the Interior's Task Force Report re the Carson and Truckee Rivers, as requested by fish and game interests.

Phil Hiibel (Fallon), Manager, Truckee-Carson Irrigation District, and a member of the compact commission. He said compact meetings are open to

Senate Committee on Federal, State, and Local Governments
Minutes of Meeting Held February 27, 1967
Page 2

anyone to attend and bring suggestions. He felt that if a fish and wild-life member were seated, other special groups, such as the water quality control people, would request to be represented on the commission.

Fred Settlemeyer (Minden), member of the compact commission from inception until 1959 and after that an adviser to the Nevada commission, also objected to incorporation of the Task Force Report; and he saw nothing to be gained by adding a fish and game member to the commission at this time.

Discussions brought out that California and Nevada each have seven voting members on the compact commission; that the State Engineer is an ex-officio, nonvoting member from Nevada. Senator Young felt the commission should not object to one fish and wildlife member, since the rest of the commission would outnumber that member 7-1. Further, he pointed out that in California the Governor is authorized to appoint members at large to the commission, whereas in Nevada the statute is set up so that the Sierra Pacific Power Company and various water districts have specific representation on the commission. Hence he felt that the fish and wildlife people are entitled to a specific representative, also.

As the afternoon session was about to begin, the Chairman announced that the committee would meet at 8:00 a.m. the next day to discuss the remaining items on today's agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Glover - Secretary

I certify that the foregoing minutes are correct.

Senator James I. Gibson - Chairman