

SENATE PUBLIC RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting --- March 15, 1971

Committee members present:

Emerson Titlow, Chairman  
Clifton Young  
John Fransway  
Boyd Manning  
Carl Dodge  
Proctor Hug, Sr.  
Floyd Lamb

Also present were:

Dr. John Homer				Nevada Assembly
James Kielhack	)	Nevada Soil	Conservation	Districts Association
Bobby Hooper	)	"	"	"
John Buckwalter	)	"	"	"
Chet Cleary	)	"	"	"
Joe Frade	)	"	"	"
C.A. Krall	)	"	"	"
Norman Shurtliff	)	"	"	"
Ray Huxtable	)	"	"	"
Karl Weikle	)	"	"	"
Leonard Anker	)	"	"	"

Chairman Titlow called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. Under consideration was one bill:

S.B. 298 - Proposed by Senators Titlow and Young.  
Extensively amends Soil Conservation Districts Law.

Mr. James Kielhack, President of the N.S.C.D.A. explained the intent of the subject bill and emphasized the need for various changes in the existing law which has governed the districts since 1937. He also reviewed the history, function and authority of soil conservation districts.

He noted that the association of the state's 37 districts had voted upon various proposed changes in the law at its 23rd annual meeting last December. He submitted minutes of that meeting for inclusion in the record (See Attached.)

Chairman Titlow and Senator Hug stated they had received telegrams from several members of the association who opposed the changes in the districts law.

Mr. Kielhack and Mr. Bobby Hooper explained that only three districts out of thirty-seven were in opposition. Mr. Hooper further explained that he felt the opposing districts do not want urban influence in the operation of their districts; however, the other districts are in favor of encouraging some urban influence for the benefit of better planning and development of various projects.

(Cont)

Senate Public Resources Committee  
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It was pointed out that the conservation districts in this state are charged with the responsibility of setting priorities for the allocation of more than \$2,000,000 from federal funding each year.

The representatives of N.S.C.D.A. expressed their feeling for the need of holding annual elections of directors to the state "commission" to strengthen its leadership. Historically, The Governor has appointed the directors, resulting in the serving of terms by persons not wishing to do so but who have felt obligated by the appointments.

Chairman Titlow called for testimony in opposition to S.B. 298 but no opponents were present.

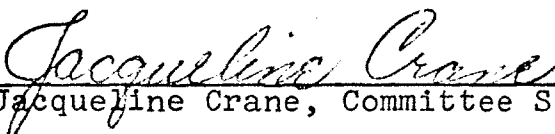
The members further discussed the bill and decided to request counsel to draft amendments to it.

Senator Fransway moved to Amend and Do Pass; seconded by Senator Hug. Motion unanimously carried.

Senator Dodge, having left the meeting earlier, was not present when the vote was taken.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jacqueline Crane, Committee Secretary

Transcription of testimony  
attached hereto.

NEVADA ASSOCIATION  
OF  
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

PROCEEDINGS OF THE TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING

MAPES HOTEL - RENO, NEVADA

DECEMBER 10-11, 1970

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LIST OF REGISTRANTS

Participation at the twenty-third annual meeting of the Nevada Association of Soil Conservation Districts included, but was not restricted to, the following list of registrants.

Delegates from twenty one soil conservation districts voted on resolutions and other positions considered at the meeting.

Glen Griffith, Nevada Fish and Game Dept., Reno  
J. K. Smith, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Lake Tahoe  
Carl Sundquist, Soil Conservation Service, Reno  
A. R. Melis, Soil Conservation Service, Fallon  
John Buckwalter, Tahoe-Verdi Soil Conservation District, Incline Village  
Joe Landa, Big Meadow Soil Conservation District, Lovelock  
Richard MacDougall, Soil Conservation Service, Lovelock  
Manuel Farias, Mason Valley Soil Conservation District, Yerington  
G. S. Williams, Mason Valley Soil Conservation District, Yerington  
Wallace Munk, Big Meadow Soil Conservation District, Lovelock  
Clarence Schwager, Tahoe-Verdi Soil Conservation District, Incline Village  
Vernon Bryan, Smith Valley Soil Conservation District, Wellington  
Walter Hussa, Vya Soil Conservation District, Cedarville, California  
H. R. Guenther, University of Nevada, Reno  
Claude Gerber, Starr Valley Soil Conservation District, Deeth  
H. W. Baker, Soil Conservation Service, Yerington  
Joe Frade, Mason Valley Soil Conservation District, Yerington  
Norman Hall, Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources, Carson City  
W. R. Osterhoudt, Tonopah Soil Conservation District, Round Mountain  
Edward C. Maw, US Forest Service, Reno  
Elmer Peterson, National Association of Conservation Districts, Portland, Oregon  
Gurney Maple, Mason Valley Soil Conservation District, Yerington  
Emery Conaway, Meadow Valley Soil Conservation District, Caliente  
Robert Tegner, Soil Conservation Service, Portland, Oregon  
James Kielhack, Tonopah Soil Conservation District, Round Mountain  
Robert Carroll, State Division of Forestry, Carson City  
Alvin Burden, Quinn River Soil Conservation District, Orovada  
Karl Weikel, Vegas Valley Soil Conservation District, Searchlight  
C. A. Krall, Soil Conservation Service, Reno  
Cliff Gardner, Ruby Soil Conservation District, Wells  
Duane Collins, Soil Conservation Service, Reno  
Edward Noble, US Forest Service, Ogden, Utah  
Grant Anderson, State Soil Conservation Committee, Fernley  
Graham Hollister, Carson Valley Soil Conservation District, Genoa  
D. J. Johnson, Soil Conservation Service, Wells  
Harvey Hale, Northeast Elko Soil Conservation District, Jackpot  
Lloyd Howland, Soil Conservation Service, Las Vegas  
Ed Bishop, Eureka Soil Conservation District, Eureka  
Ray Huxtable, Soil Conservation Service, Reno  
Alec Walker, Washoe Valley Soil Conservation District, Washoe Valley  
Leonard Anker, Soil Conservation Service, Carson City  
Ray Pallesen, Statistical Reporting Service, Reno  
Arnold Settelmeyer, Carson Valley Soil Conservation District, Gardnerville  
William Dunning, Soil Conservation Service, Minden  
Dallas Byington, Carson Valley Soil Conservation District, Minden

LIST OF REGISTRANTS (CONTINUED)

Richard Capurro, Agricultural Stabilization & Conservation Service, Reno  
Logan Hazen, Soil Conservation Service, Austin  
Albert Neu, Central Nevada RC&D Project, Austin  
Chet Cleary, Secretary-Treasurer of NASCD, Austin  
Gerald Byington, Farmers Home Administration, Reno  
Ray Ely, University of Nevada, Reno  
Ted Young, Austin Soil Conservation District, Austin  
Ray Flake, Austin Soil Conservation District, Austin  
Van Peterson, White Pine Soil Conservation District, Preston  
Lenard Smith, Soil Conservation Service, Caliente  
L. J. Fee, Vya Soil Conservation District, Fort Bidwell, California  
Ted Crawford, Continental Casualty Company, Salt Lake City, Utah  
Harold Fitz, Stillwater Soil Conservation District, Fallon  
Bobby Hooper, Humboldt River Soil Conservation District, Battle Mountain  
Gene Heckethorn, White Pine Soil Conservation District, Preston  
Norman T. Shurtliff, Moapa Soil Conservation District, Overton  
Dale Bohmont, University of Nevada, Reno  
Joseph Stein, University of Nevada, Reno  
William Hicks, Nevada Farm Bureau, Reno  
Lee Burge, State Department of Agriculture, Reno

Welcome to Reno - Honorable Roy G. Bankofier, Mayor of Reno

With the high interest in ecology and in the quality of our environment expressed not only by the people of Nevada but throughout the Nation, this meeting of soil conservation district supervisors, under the auspices of your State Association, seems most appropriate.

I know that each of you is a practicing conservationist, in the language spoken a few years ago. This would make you an ecologist or environmentalist in today's vernacular. I hope that your deliberations in the next two days will result in specific actions that will provide assurance that Nevada's natural resources will not be despoiled.

I do want you to know that we are happy to have you in Reno, and want to make your stay here as enjoyable as possible. If I can be of any assistance to your group, please give my office a call.

President's Report - James Kielhack, President, Nevada Association of Soil Conservation Districts

The past year has been an eventful one for soil conservation districts in Nevada. Two major thrusts that our officers and directors have given highest priority to were for districts to determine the needs for updating our state law; and district involvement in regional planning.

Meetings throughout the state in the past year and a half have boiled our needs down to eleven points. Tomorrow we will vote, point by point and district by district, on the changes in the State Soil Conservation District Law that we feel are needed so that districts can, if they wish, broaden their programs.

The way in which we discussed our needs at the meetings was very gratifying to me and the other officers present. It certainly pointed out that communications between the State Association and individual districts have been very poor. This is something that we will work hard to correct in 1971.

However, the eleven points of change were in general agreed upon, once we got to communicating with one another. I hope that after tomorrow's business session, each of you will go home and advise your legislative delegation of the points we think are essential to change in our law so that they can go to Carson City in January fully informed on your wishes in this matter.

The other point of emphasis during the past year has been to encourage districts to become involved in multicounty-multidistrict planning and development. We are fully involved in Central Nevada. You will hear more about the Central Nevada Development Authority later on in this meeting. You will hear from Karl Weikel, Chairman of the California and Nevada Development Organization Steering Committee. CAN-DO people are intimately involved in their four district-three county planning area. You will also hear from Cliff Gardner concerning the fourteen district endeavor in the Humboldt Basin that takes in part of six counties and includes Wells, Elko, Battle Mountain, Winnemucca and Lovelock. This, in my estimation, is a natural planning and development region that certainly should receive high consideration when the Governor delineates regions in our state for planning purposes. People in the Big Meadow Soil Conservation District out of Lovelock have never been able to talk with the people in the Sonoma District out of Winnemucca, or with the people in Elko County. In fact, people up and down the Humboldt River have been antagonistic, area by area, about getting together to talk over common problems and opportunities along this stream which is the key to the economy of the area. For the first time they are talking sensibly and soon, I am sure, if their organization can involve counties and municipalities, they will be formulating plans developed by local people for the future of the Humboldt area.

I am sure that some of this city-county people involvement as we in agriculture are apt to look at it sounds distasteful. However, in our efforts to update our state soil conservation district law and in SCD involvement in planning regions, if we do not consider city people and do not involve county government, we are lost.

I hope you will keep this in mind throughout the meeting. I am sure that if we update our law and if we become involved in regional planning, rural people will continue to have a voice in the planning and development of our natural resources. This "regional planning kick" may be the last opportunity we in rural areas will have for a voice in the future of the areas we live in. I hope at the end of these two days that we are quite well united in our efforts to accomplish the two major thrusts your State Association has thought to be most vital to our future.

Legislative Developments in Other Western States - Elmer E. Peterson, Area Vice-President, National Association of Conservation Districts

Being most familiar with Oregon, I will begin with highlights of our district legislative activities:

In Oregon we are asking that our district law be amended to provide money for acquisition of land rights in watershed projects; a revolving fund of up to \$10,000,000 from which local sponsors could borrow on a short term, low interest basis for land acquisition and their portion of construction costs of small watershed projects; and, for the state to finance "tort liability" insurance for all supervisors. We have fair assurance that the next Legislature will amend our law to provide for at least some of the above.

Alaska has proposed legislation to amend their law to include a State Conservation Board in the Department of Natural Resources, to serve as an agency of the state in administering their natural resource conservation district law.

Arizona has a full-time executive secretary in the person of Wayne Kessler, Director of the Division of Soil Conservation. Arizona allows all land owners, even those of city lots, to receive mail ballots in accordance with a recent Attorney General's ruling.

California has had extremely strong legislative support to districts in the past. However, special interest groups are influencing legislators and actually watering down all environmental legislation in effect. There has been some consolidation of districts, from 194 to the present 159.

In Colorado the board is a part of the Department of Natural Resources. All towns and cities are within districts and districts have the legislative power to enter into a written memorandum of understanding with them.

Idaho has a Soil Conservation Commission and an administrative officer to the commission. Their law provides that the state can appropriate money to the districts.

Montana districts are getting some financing from county commissioners, up to six or seven thousand dollars per year. Forty-five towns and cities have representation on district boards. The soil and water conservation district law has been amended to permit project areas to be established. Two have so far been established, one for alkali control and the other for a watershed project.

New Mexico has proposed legislation which calls for a change in name to natural resource conservation commission and districts. The state is contributing to district assistance.

Washington has had rapid changes in state government by the State Committee, first in the Water Resources Department and now in the Department of Ecology. Districts were influential in getting strip mining reclamation legislation passed. Twenty thousand dollars is available for soil and water conservation district assistance per biennium. Districts are requesting an additional \$10,000 to help prepare and obtain adoption of local land and water plans.



Changing Times in the Soil Conservation Service - C. A. Krall, State Conservationist

It is a privilege for me to speak to supervisors of Nevada's 37 Soil Conservation Districts for the first time. I hope we can become better acquainted, and that we can continue the close working relationship that I have enjoyed to date in Nevada.

My topic is a challenging one. Change is something we all are familiar with. We make changes continuously in our daily lives to meet unforeseen circumstances.

When we look back over the 35 plus years when SCS and our Districts came into being, it brings to mind that the Soil Conservation Service was born in a period of environmental concern. At that time it was called the menace of Erosion--the dust bowl of the dirty thirties--the extreme water erosion in the southern states, and erosion from irrigation in the development of the arid west.

SCS was first set up to demonstrate conservation treatment on eroded lands-- demonstration forms and demonstration projects. From this was evolved the idea that people themselves could do the conservation job if they were provided some technical help. Thus, Soil Conservation Districts were organized, with SCS and other agencies providing assistance.

As time passed, new programs were brought into being by people who wanted change. To name a few--SCS was assigned the technical responsibility on the permanent type ACP practices; the soil survey program was expanded to the national soil survey, with a goal to survey each acre of land in the United States instead of just the acreage needed for a farm conservation plan; the Watershed Protection Law was passed where complete watersheds would receive land treatment measures as well as flood control structures; river basin studies were instigated to identify water use, future water needs, and to identify needed watershed and reclamation projects; the SCS was given primary responsibility in a snow survey program; the Great Plains Conservation Program put under SCS leadership; and the most recent legislation passed, giving SCS Broadened responsibility, is that of leadership in resource conservation and development projects.

These are just a few of the major changes that have taken place over the years. Other minor responsibilities have been added by the Secretary of Agriculture memorandums, dealing with problems of Civil Defense, Youth Groups, Minority Employment, Poverty, Hunger, etc.

The name of the game today is Quality Environment. This has become the challenge of the seventies. President Nixon, in his State of the Union message said, "The great question of the seventies is, "Shall we surrender to our surroundings, or shall we make our peace with nature and begin to make reparations for the damage we have done to our air, to our land, and to our water?" Perhaps at this point, we should try to define what constitutes a Quality Environment. A Soil Conservation District newsletter gave the following definition, which seems to be reasonable. "It is a humane environment that provides for all man's needs--it is a place where we can both work and play. A quality environment is diversified -- it is a well planned, well kept urban area. It is a wilderness area, each and everyone in its proper place. Since the only thing that is constant is change, then it follows that environment is a changing scene. It changes with time, whether altered by nature or man. It is more than keeping what we have--it is more than restoring what we once had. It displays man's concern for beauty and for sharing our resources. It involves decisions regarding the development, protection, use and management of all of our resources for the needs and enjoyment of all the people, thus satisfying man's needs, hunger, thirst, safety, being, and

knowledge, which then culminates in a strong, productive nation...rich in tradition, rich in wealth, rich in health of the people and of the land. "

"A quality environment is used wisely and well." Assuming this definition is correct, what has the Soil Conservation Service been doing along the lines of quality environment? What changes do we need to make to move with the present trend of change across the nation? We and other federal, state, and local agencies have assisted soil conservation districts such as you represent across the nation for over 30 years. District cooperators, with assistance from our agency and others, have corrected much of the land misuse experienced during the dust bowl days of the thirties. However, some lands are still subject to abuse through mismanagement or mistreatment, or are used beyond their capabilities. We have come a long way together since the dirty thirties. Through good conservation practices on our agricultural lands, we are reducing sediment and pollution of our streams. Through reorganization of our irrigation systems, we are efficiently utilizing our water for top production. Through applied management systems on our range and pasture, we are producing beef, milk, and wool, yet protecting the resources by improving the plant cover to provide protection from raindrop splash and winds.

National legislation has been enacted, providing us with ever-increasing authorities to assist individuals, groups, and units of government in planning for the wise use of resources and in the land treatment measures that will provide financial, economic or social benefits, as well as conserve our resources.

We have the same mission that we have had for thirty years. We operate under the assumption that a cooperative federal, state, local program to encourage soil and water conservation is vital to the welfare of the people of the United States; that soil and water are basic resources on which life depends; and that they need to be managed for the good of the entire nation. This is as true today as it was in 1933 when the Service was created. The social and economic setting of soil and water conservation is much different today from 35 years ago. There have been important changes over the years in values, priorities, responsibilities. American attitudes toward conservation and the environment have undergone significant changes since the mid-thirties. The move to the suburbs, with its demand for land, and with resulting urban erosion and land use problems reflected conservation as almost exclusively an agricultural need in the early years. During World War II, farmers learned to grow more and more on fewer acres. Surpluses came about. Conservation remained a "good thing" but there was no great public awareness of conservation problems of agriculture as there had been for the forest conservation in the early 1900's. In the 1960's, attitudes toward conservation began to change. If one were to select a single event to mark this era, it would be the publication of Rachel Carson's book, *Silent Spring*. It became an immediate sensation--a new concern for the environment--a concern which has grown to a national movement. The mounting concern has been reflected in new environmental legislation, new agencies, new expenditures, increased research, new books, and new organizations. The new interest in environment is more than a fad. The growing population, increasing affluence, and a mounting concern for the quality of life in America, along with such critical social problems as racial tensions and poverty, are causing a whole new value system to develop.

The SCS at the start of the seventies finds itself in a unique position. A pioneer in the multi-disciplinary approach to conservation and in working with land users, the Service is in a position to help bring a truly ecological approach to today's complex problems. The skills and techniques developed by SCS scientists for conservation of agricultural lands have proved equally adaptable to other land uses. Soil surveys help communities identify those areas on which housing developments may take place--and those where it should not. Soil surveys also help identify land suitable for many other non-farm purposes, such as highways, schools, and recreational facilities. Two-thirds of the land in the United States remains to be surveyed. SCS practices to control soil

C. A. Krall

communities identify those areas on which housing developments may take place-- and those where it should not. Soil surveys also help identify land suitable for many other non-farm purposes, such as highways, schools, and recreational facilities. Two-thirds of the land in the United States remains to be surveyed. SCS practices to control soil erosion can be applied as successfully to construction areas around towns and cities as they can to farmlands. Watershed projects can do much to reduce flood damages in developing areas and provide municipal water supplies and recreation. Technology in such applications as building ponds and managing vegetation can be applied to the development of urban recreation sites. Experience with soil and water management can save developing communities many thousands of dollars in planning, in sewage costs and in property damage.

SCS technical people are proving themselves capable of providing leadership in the resource aspects of comprehensive planning. We are cooperating in the new concept of regional planning and multicounty planning, working with more people and involving more people. In an effort to help people identify their resources, SCS is expanding efforts in obtaining resource inventory data, interpretations, and potentials of the resource if developed. We intend to make this resource data on soils, land use, water, snow survey information, cropland, rangeland, woodlands, etc. available to more people to help them meet their community planning needs.

What does all of this mean as it relates to the partnership that the Soil Conservation Service has with the more than 3,000 Districts across the Nation, up until a few years ago, largely agriculturally-oriented? Most states have already, or are in the process of updating their state enabling legislation to consider the problems of all lands and waters. Conservation has come to mean the preservation or use, or development of, natural resources besides soil, such as land, water, vegetation, trees, etc.

In reviewing several years ago the district outlook for the future and current Tuesday letters, I feel we are closely related in our goals. You supervisors are to be complimented on your farsightedness in proposing to update your soil conservation district law to reflect changes that will let you move in the direction of change. Not only from a practical viewpoint but also from a psychological viewpoint, this move is good. The Districts as such are without involvement of all the people. Without this total environment, only a partial job can be accomplished. Our best wishes on your deliberations in the next two days.

Review of Currently Enacted Legislation for Central Nevada Development Authority  
James Kielhack, Chairman, CNDA

Again I would like to reiterate how we have moved ahead on planning and development in Central Nevada. Some eight years ago, the Tonopah Soil Conservation District was in the process of updating its program. The board of supervisors looked at all possibilities for economic growth in this largely range-livestock, desert entry district. We came up with facts that the farmers were barely subsisting and, in many cases, were broken both financially and spiritually. The livestock operators were finding it more and more difficult each year to show a profit. We reached the conclusion that in order to improve the economy, the tax base of our county and the quality of living for our people, something had to be done. Looking at our resources which are largely wide open spaces and rugged mountain ranges, outdoor recreation seemed to be the key to meet our objectives of making Central Nevada a better place to work and live. We went through the process of trying to get Economic Development Authority designation, however, because of our employment figures and lack of numbers of people, this was impossible. Likewise, statistics could not be developed that were considered reliable. Then we decided to apply for planning assistance via the Resource Conservation and Development Project route. We were approved for planning assistance by the Secretary of Agriculture and have been in the operational phase for more than a year. Again, this did not solve all our problems. However, we were beginning to have an identity. Then, we did attain the Central Nevada Resource Development Authority by legislation passed during the last session of the State Legislature. The powers established under the Authority will allow us to do many things, however, we still lacked the something that would allow us to plan and develop to fill our needs in Central Nevada.

Most recently, the Authority, with HUD assistance, has undertaken development of a comprehensive plan. We feel that this probably should have been the first step in our planning efforts, then the RC&D assistance and then perhaps the EDA designation. However, we feel that this will allow us to get off the ground with some logical development in Central Nevada.

We are a planning agency just as the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency is a planning agency. The board of directors is made up of a single representative from each of the county boards of supervisors, plus myself having been appointed by the Governor of Nevada. The Authority's planning commission is composed of two soil conservation district supervisors from each of the four soil conservation districts. The board of directors and the planning commission meet once a month in a joint session. All proposals have been, to date, unanimous and have resulted in such things as the Kingston Canyon development. Perhaps more important, the Authority's major objective of bringing power to Central Nevada is being accomplished through the Sierra Pacific Power Company and the Rural Electrification Administration cooperative effort.

We have several project measures that are underway. We feel the comprehensive planning effort will bring to light many more which should make Central Nevada a better place to live.

Review of Legislation Creating the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency - J. K. Smith,  
Executive Officer, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency has been created by legislative action in California and Nevada with approval from the Congress of the United States. The governing body of the agency is made up of one member appointed by each of the county boards of supervisors of El Dorado and Placer Counties in California, one member appointed from the City Council of the City of Lake Tahoe, one member appointed by each of the boards of county commissioners of Douglas, Ormsby (Carson City), and Washoe Counties in Nevada, one member appointed by the Governor of California, one member appointed by the Governor of Nevada, and a federal agency member appointed by the President of the United States.

The agency has a technical staff supplemented by the technical staff of the Forest Service. Additional resource planning assistance is provided by other federal agencies' operations from the counties and states involved. Our planning schedule is established in the Legislature so that we will have our plan essentially completed 15 months after our organization, and we will adopt the plan within 18 months, by September 1, 1971.

Our regional plan will include a land use plan, a transportation plan, a conservation plan, a recreation plan and a public services and facilities plan. All objectives of the Tahoe Region General Plan shall be enforced by the states, counties, and cities within the region. The agency in its planning efforts is milling about somewhat. Communications lines between ourselves and the Forest Service are starting to become clear. They understand more of what we mean by planning, and we understand more of what they mean by planning. Likewise, the county governments in the two states involved are communicating in a better manner than a few months ago through the agency as it pertains to planning. The key to our planning endeavor is the people's desire to go ahead.

Review of Proposed State Legislation for the California and Nevada Development Organization - Karl Weikel, Chairman, Steering Committee, CAN-DO

Our organization has been known as CAN-DO for the past three years. Originally, CAN-DO involved soil conservation districts and counties in southern Nevada and northwestern Arizona, plus a small portion of San Bernardino County adjacent to Needles, California. However, Governor Williams of Arizona, during our process of planning, designated what were, in my opinion, very unrealistic planning boundaries in Arizona. The Arizona strip and part of Coconino County, and all of Mohave County were in CAN-DO. Our CAN-DO boundaries were not coterminous with the Governor's designation, thus, he did not endorse the Arizona portion of CAN-DO.

We are still known as CAN-DO. Spelled out, we are now the California and Nevada Development Organization. Our area in Nevada includes all of Clark County, that portion of Nye County in the Pahrump Soil Conservation District and that portion of Nye County in the Tonopah Soil Conservation District presently outside the Central Nevada RC&D Project, which includes the Atomic Energy Commission Test Site and Bombing Range.

We feel strongly that this natural resources-based planning region, ignoring county lines as they were so promiscuously established, is the proper way to go about this proposition. We have developed an application for resource conservation and development project planning assistance. This application is presently on file with the Administrator of the Soil Conservation Service in Washington, D. C. We are hopeful that this planning assistance will be forthcoming this year. However, we intend to go ahead with our planning endeavor with or without the Secretary of Agriculture's blessing. We also have legislation drafted very similar to that of the Central Nevada Resource Development Authority, and have been assured by key legislators in our part of the state that they will support our move to become a resource development authority. We feel just as the Central Nevada group feels, that the authority will provide us with an identity which is so important in planning for the orderly development of our area. We are already underway with several projects which could not have been realized without organized planning through the counties, soil conservation districts, and cities who are sponsors of our organization. An example of one of the things that we have underway that will become an actuality by 1971 is flood control for the city of Las Vegas. Just two weeks ago, under CAN-DO auspices, the Army Corps of Engineers and the private engineering organization met in Las Vegas to discuss the Corps plan for flood control. The private engineers informed the Corps of Engineers that their plan was obsolete and they asked the Corps to relinquish their plan so that SCS assistance under Public Law 566 could be applied for. We got nowhere by this route. However, we did indicate to the Corps that private engineers would develop an overall design for flood control within the next month and we would again meet with representatives of the Corps to determine if they would accept this design rather than their obsolete one. This January 1971 meeting, I am sure, will be constructive because we fully intend to handle our flood control financing through a bond issue which I feel we can sell to the citizens of Las Vegas to get the job done with or without Corps assistance. If they will accept our plan, it will be on a cost-sharing basis. Or, if they will relinquish their plan, we will apply for Soil Conservation Service assistance. If neither of these are possible, our bond issue will give us the flood protection that we need.

I feel very strongly that organizations such as CAN-DO, CNDA and the organization of districts and counties in the Humboldt Basin, are the way to go about this matter. I believe that with soil conservation district participation, rural involvement is assured. I believe that now is the time, if ever, that we can attain authorities to do the jobs that we need to do in various portions of the state for the orderly development of our natural and human resources in Nevada.

Review of Proposed State Legislation for the Humboldt, Elko, Eureka, Lander and Pershing Development Authority - Cliff Gardner, Chairman, HELP-DO

We in the Humboldt Basin are not as well along as the CNDA or CAN-DO groups. However, we have very similar objectives. To date, the fourteen soil conservation districts in North Central and Northeastern Nevada largely within the Humboldt Basin have been meeting with the idea of attempting to think out approaches to solving the problems of the Humboldt River area. The districts involved vary in their attitudes toward what should be done, nevertheless, we are communicating through our monthly meetings. Up until a few months ago it was unheard of to have ranchers in Elko County, those out of Winnemucca, and people farming irrigated land near Lovelock discussing in a logical way some of the common problems of the Humboldt Basin. We are sure that as time passes, we can come up with a plan which will do the most good for the most people in the Basin, and that there certainly will be a rural input in the plan. I will see to it that a brochure we have developed is attached to these proceedings so that more people will understand HELP-DO.

We, too, have drafted legislation for a resource development authority which we fully intend to present at the next session of the Legislature. We are not as well along on involving counties or cities, or communicating with counties or cities as Karl Weikel's group or Jim Kielback's group. This is still ahead of us. We feel by the time that the Legislature convenes that we will have a better understanding between ourselves as farmers-ranchers-district people, and the people in the municipalities of our region. I feel just as Karl does that county lines are not important in our planning effort. Our problems are largely around human and resource planning concerned with the water in the Humboldt Basin.

Review of Possible Needs for State Legislation in the North Cal-Neva RC&D Project - Walter Hussa, Chairman, North Cal-Neva RC&D Steering Committee

I have reported at the past three meetings on progress of developments in the North Cal-Neva RC&D Project. You may be interested to know that we are presently hoping to expand our RC&D project area to include most of Modoc County and a good portion of Lassen County. This will involve four more soil conservation districts, two counties, and two cities. We believe that the addition will be beneficial to our planning and development in that it does include nearly all of the Susanville grazing district, in that it involves 4,000 additional people, in that our problems are largely common ones throughout the project area, so we see nothing but good in the addition to our project. As far as the Nevada portion of the North Cal-Neva Project is concerned, we believe that we should be included in the planning region which no doubt will be delineated in northwestern Nevada. We do not think that we should be a planning region of our own because we have very few residents in the Vya District and only a handful in the Gerlach District. This does not allow for proper people involvement in planning. The Nevada portion, in our minds, probably belongs with Washoe County and whatever other areas that will be included in the planning region involving Washoe County.

Preserving Nevada's Environmental Heritage - Featured Speaker Elmo J. DeRicco,  
Director of the Nevada Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources

In November of 1969, Senator Cliff Young requested that the Governor's Natural Resources Council take on a project to develop Environmental Quality ratings for our air, soils, water, and related resources. With this in mind, I asked Mr. Ed Maw, Supervisor of the Toiyabe National Forest, to head up an ad hoc committee, made up of resource people of the various state and federal agencies in the Governor's Natural Resources Council. This was called the Environmental Quality Index Committee.

These resource people were members of eight subcommittees, namely Education, Taxation, Minerals, Wildlife, Soils, Air and Water Quality, Open Space, and Forestry Subcommittees. Highlights of committee work were:

The Education Subcommittee recommended that legislation be drafted and enacted that would require instruction in the preservation of our environment and the principles of conservation of our natural and human resources, and that these subjects be included in the curriculum of all elementary and secondary schools in the state, and that environmental education be included as a regular part of all teacher education programs.

The Taxation Subcommittee suggested that the incentive approach to taxation, rather than tax penalties, should be used as devices to improve our environment, and that monies for environment uses be derived from such sources as special fuel tax and from the Motor Vehicle Privilege Tax.

The Minerals Subcommittee made substantial contributions as pertaining to the mining and smelting industry, which would also be relevant to most utilities and heavy industry in the state.

The Wildlife Subcommittee concerned itself with such things as the use of vehicles off roads, as they degrade the habitat of wildlife and our open spaces in the environment.

The Soils Subcommittee took a practical stand on pesticides and needed state legislation.

The Air and Water Quality Subcommittee suggested possible greenbelt legislation, as well as consideration of sewage effluence, industrial wastes, agricultural wastes, and natural erosion.

The Open Space Subcommittee concerned itself with urban planning, and its necessity for the reasonably orderly development of cities, towns, and communities in Nevada.

The Forestry Subcommittee suggested checking stations along the highway where printed information pertinent to camping and fire regulations could be disbursed to the public, and a more intensive fire prevention program, stating that for every fire that is prevented, you do not have to consider air and water pollution, soil erosion, physical loss of biologically important elements in the soil, wildlife loss and many other environmental aspects.

Robert V. Long, Staff Forester, Division of Forestry, and James T. Havel, Deputy Director, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, devoted many hours to coordinating, consolidating and finalizing the report of the Committee. On July 1, 1970, the Committee presented an extremely well-done report entitled, "Preserving Nevada's Environmental Heritage" to the Governor's Natural Resources Council. We feel this report will provide a great deal of the background needed to implement state legislation required to protect and preserve our clean air, water, and productive soils.



December 11, 1970

Symposium on Proposed Changes in the Nevada Soil Conservation Districts Law. -  
James Kielhack, President, Nevada Association of Soil Conservation Districts, Presiding

The following proposed changes in the present state law were reviewed in detail and, by vote of the delegates of the twenty-one districts represented, the actions indicated were adopted.

1. Change the name of Soil Conservation Districts to Conservation Districts or Resource Conservation Districts:

<u>Change Name</u>	<u>Change name to Conservation Districts</u>	<u>Change name to Resource Conservation Districts</u>
Yes - 19	Yes - 12	Yes - 7
No - 0	No - 7	No - 12

The proposal to change the name to Conservation Districts was adopted.

2. Change the statements of legislative policy and determinations as follows:

"It is hereby declared, as a matter of legislative determination, that the renewable natural resources of the state of Nevada are basic assets, and conservation and development of these renewable natural resources are necessary."

"It is hereby declared, as a matter of legislative determination, that the consequences of failing to plan and accomplish the conservation and development of the renewable natural resources of the state of Nevada is to handicap economic development and cause degeneration of environmental conditions important to future generations."

"It is hereby declared, as a matter of legislative determination, that local people can and should provide basic leadership and direction for the planning and accomplishment of the conservation and development of renewable natural resources through organization and operation of resource conservation districts."

"It is hereby declared to be the policy of the legislature to recognize the ever-increasing demands on the renewable natural resources of the state, and the need to conserve, protect, and develop such resources at such a rate and at such levels of quality as will meet the needs of the people of the state."

The proposal to adopt the above statements of policy was adopted unanimously.

3. Change the name of the State Soil Conservation Committee to the State Conservation Commission:

The proposal to change the name of the State Soil Conservation Committee as shown above was adopted unanimously.

4. Change the membership of the Commission to make the membership of the Board of Directors the Nevada Association of Soil Conservation Districts, as elected annually.

Yes - 18

No - 3

The proposal was adopted.

## Symposium on Proposed Changes in the Nevada Soil Conservation Districts Law (Continued)

5. Change the governing board of the Conservation Districts to four elected supervisors each elected for a four-year term by land owners and occupiers outside of incorporated towns or cities within the District, terms of office to be staggered so that one will be elected annually, and one member appointed by the governing board or boards of incorporated towns or cities within the District and one appointed by the governing board or boards of counties having territory within the District.

The delegates voted on the proposal to change the governing board of districts as follows:

<u>No Change</u>	<u>Four rural, two urban representatives</u>	<u>Elected by all registered voters</u>
Yes - 4	Yes - 16	Yes - 1
No - 17	No - 5	No - 20

The proposal as shown above was adopted.

6. Change the powers of district governing boards to include the power to borrow money and obligate the property of the District and revenue or potential revenue of the District for its repayment but no indebtedness of the District will be an obligation of the state of Nevada. This power of the District Governing Board to borrow money will be restricted to an amount of \$50,000, except that amounts in excess of this figure may be authorized by majority vote at an election conducted with due public notice where all land owners and occupiers in the District will be eligible to vote.

The delegates voted on this proposal as follows:

Yes - 17  
No - 4

The proposal was adopted.

7. Change the law to exclude the power to impose land use regulations:

The delegates voted on this proposal as follows:

Yes - 8  
No - 13

The proposal was rejected.

8. Change the law to permit the Commission to accept letters from any two or more districts signed by all members of the governing boards of the Districts seeking the combination of the territories or any parts of the territories of the concerned districts. The Commission will call a public hearing on the action proposed and may, at the Commission's discretion, authorize the action sought or subject the action to referendum, in which case favorable action must be based on a majority of the votes cast being in favor of the proposed action:

The delegates voted unanimously to accept this proposal and it was adopted.

Symposium on Proposed Changes in the Nevada Soil Conservation Districts Law (Continued)

- 9. Change the law to permit any incorporated city or town lying wholly or partially within the exterior boundaries or contiguous to a district to be included in and made a part of the district. The governing board of the city or town may present a letter duly authorized by their board to the governing board of the affected district. If the request is approved by the governing board of the affected district, the territory of the incorporated city or town will forthwith become a part of the district:

The delegates voted unanimously to accept this proposal, and it was adopted.

- 10. Change the law to permit District Governing Boards to prepare and submit a budget to the board of county commissioners of each county whose territory lies wholly or partially within the district, for administrative and operating expenses. The board of county commissioners of any such county may furnish the budgeted funds or such portion of those funds as they may consider appropriate from the general funds of the county:

The delegates voted on this proposal as follows:

<u>No change in present law</u>	<u>Prepare budget for consideration of County Commissioners</u>	<u>Have limited taxing power</u>
Yes - 5	Yes - 14	Yes - 1
No - 16	No - 7	No - 20

The proposal as shown above was adopted.

- 11. Individual Districts should have the power to acquire public land (BLM) for purposes of community improvement and to participate in cost sharing on federally financed projects:

The delegates voted as follows on the above proposal:

Yes - 19  
 No - 2

The proposal was adopted.

December 11 -

Annual Business Meeting - Emery Conaway, Past President, Presiding

The Business Meeting was called to order at 9:00 A. M. by Past President Conaway.

REPORT OF THE CONTINENTAL CASUALTY COMPANY

Ted Crawford, representing the Continental Casualty Company, expressed appreciation in behalf of his company for the working arrangement with the Nevada Association of Soil Conservation Districts, and expressed the conviction that the arrangement was resulting in mutual benefits for the Soil Conservation Districts and the Company.

REPORT ON FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF NEVADA CONSERVATION AWARDS

William Elwell expressed appreciation in behalf of the First National Bank of Nevada for the opportunity to work with the Nevada Association of Soil Conservation Districts in providing recognition for outstanding District cooperators who are making important progress in conservation and development work. Mr. Elwell appealed to the delegates to encourage all district boards to take the opportunity to name an outstanding cooperator for the Bank's annual conservation award.

REPORT OF SECRETARY-TREASURER

The report of Gurney Maple, retiring Secretary-Treasurer, is attached as attachment 1, followed by the current report from C. W. Cleary, incoming secretary-treasurer.

ANNUAL ELECTION

C. W. Cleary, incoming Secretary-Treasurer, conducted the annual election to select officers and directors for 1971. Results of the election are as follows:

President - James Kielhack, Round Mountain

Vice Presidents- John Buckwalter, Incline Village, and Bobby Hooper,  
Battle Mountain

Directors, Western Area - Joe Frade, Yerington, and Wallace Munk, Lovelock

Directors, Northeastern Area - Alvin Burden, Orovada, and Harvey Hale, Jackpot

Directors, South Central Area - Norman T. Shurtliff, Overton, and Karl Weikel,  
Searchlight.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions were considered and adopted as follows:

Resolution on forecasting water supply - This resolution was adopted and is included as attachment 5.

Resolution on grazing fees - This resolution was adopted and is included as attachment 6.

Resolution on the Agricultural Conservation Program - This resolution was adopted and is included as attachment 7.

Resolution on water rights - This resolution was adopted and is included as attachment 8.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board of Directors convened for a brief session.

Action was limited to a determination that the newly elected board of directors, including the past president, should be submitted to the Governor of Nevada as the ten names from which the appointed members of the State Soil Conservation Committee will be selected.

MEETING OF THE LADIES AUXILIARY OF THE NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Members of the Ladies Auxiliary met at a luncheon on December 11. Officers of the Auxiliary for 1971 are:

President - Helen Conaway, Caliente  
 Vice-President - Evelyn Weikel, Searchlight  
 Secretary-Treasurer - Phyllis Molof, Elko  
 Historian - Ruth Buckwalter, Incline Village

NOTE OF APPRECIATION

The Nevada Association takes this opportunity to express appreciation to the following business organizations for their contribution, assistance and support in making the twenty-third annual meeting an effective and successful one:

Harold's Club  
 Security National Bank  
 First National Bank of Nevada  
 Continental Casualty Company  
 Hotel Mapes

Respectfully submitted,

*C. W. Cleary*

\_\_\_\_\_  
 C. W. Cleary, Secretary-Treasurer  
 Nevada Association of Conservation Districts

# Nevada Association Soil Conservation Districts

President  
JAMES KIELHACK  
Big Smoky Valley  
Austin, Nevada 89310

Vice-Presidents  
WALTER HUSSA  
P. O. Box 146  
Cedarville, California 96104

FRED R. ZAGA  
Jiggs, Nevada 89827

Directors (Western)  
DR. RICHARD G. MILLER  
Rt. 1, P. O. Box 621  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

WALLACE MUNK  
Loveland, Nevada 89419

Directors (South Central)  
NORMAN T. SHURTLIFF  
Overton, Nevada 89040

GENE D. HECKETHORN  
Spring Valley Stage  
Ely, Nevada 89301

Directors (Northeastern)  
HARVEY S. HALE  
Jackpot, Nevada 89825

CLIFTON GARDNER  
Ruby Valley, Nevada 89833

Secretary-Treasurer  
GURNEY MAPLE  
P. O. Box 101  
Yerington, Nevada 89447

Past President  
and Director  
EMERY CONAWAY  
Caliente, Nevada 89008

Newsletter Editor  
CALEB WHITBECK  
Rt. 1, Box 19A  
Yerington, Nevada 89447

## TREASURER'S REPORT

(PARTIAL)

December 11, 1970

BALANCE - December 5, 1969	\$1997.14
<b>INCOME</b>	
1969 Dues - Tonopah	\$ 35.00
1970 Dues Tonopah \$35.00	250.00
Starr Valley	\$35.00
Humboldt River	35.00
Moapa	35.00
Jiggs	50.00
Lamoille	35.00
Virgin Valley	25.00
1971 Dues - Jiggs	50.00
Associate Membership - Norm Ritter	15.00
Insurance Memberships	<u>20.00</u>
	\$ 370.00
<b>EXPENSE</b>	
NACD Dues	\$ 110.00
NACD Bulk Mailing Fee	30.00
Postage	85.00
Stationery	64.50
Newsletter - April	76.93
Officers Travel Expense - NACD San Francisco	425.48
Conaway	\$171.48
Kielhack	254.00
Gift - NACD President Studebaker	25.00
Gift - C. W. Cleary Retirement	<u>50.00</u>
	\$ 866.91
BALANCE * December 11, 1970	<u><u>\$1500.23</u></u>

*Gurney Maple*  
Gurney Maple, Retiring Sec.-Treas.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

C. W. Cleary, Incoming Secretary-Treasurer

October - November - December - 1970

Gurney Maple Report

Balance \$1500.23

INCOME

1970 Dues - Smith Valley SCD	\$35.00
Carson Valley SCD	50.00
Washoe Valley SCD	35.00
Esmeralda SCD	50.00
Meadow Valley SCD	35.00
Pahrump SCD	50.00
White Pine SCD	50.00
Mason Valley SCD	50.00
Pahranagat Valley SCD	35.00
Big Meadow SCD	50.00
Lahontan SCD	50.00
Tahoe-Verdi SCD	50.00
Northeast Elko SCD	50.00
Quinn River SCD	50.00
Vegas Valley SCD	35.00
Stillwater SCD	50.00
Ruby SCD	35.00

Insurance Memberships	15.00
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Convention Income	404.00
	<u>\$1179.00</u>

Total	<u>1179.00</u>
	\$2679.23

EXPENSES

Convention Expense	\$345.39
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Postage	30.00
	<u>\$375.39</u>

Balance	<u>375.39</u>
	\$2303.84



C. W. Cleary, Secretary-Treasurer  
Nevada Association of Conservation Districts

NEVADA COOPERATIVE SNOW SURVEYS  
1485 WELLS AVENUE  
RENO, NEVADA

TREASURER'S REPORT

December 11, 1970

BALANCE - December 5, 1969	\$2049.56
INCOME	
Board of U. S. Water Commissioners (WRID)	\$ 250.00
Pershing Co. Water Conservation District	150.00
Cwyhee Project - North Board of Control	185.00
Cwyhee Project - South Board of Control	110.70
Nevada Colorado River Commission	150.00
Kennecott Copper Co.	175.00
Amalgamated Sugar Co.	<u>75.00</u>
	\$1095.70
EXPENSE	
Telemetry Repairs	\$ 175.00
Radio Parts	5.68
Christmas Cards	4.50
Business Cards	28.00
Used Calculator	80.00
Individual Snow Surveys	<u>85.00</u>
	\$ 378.18
BALANCE - December 11, 1970	<u><u>\$2767.03</u></u>

Gurney Maple  
Gurney Maple, Treasurer



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Soil Conservation Service

Attachment 4

Funds Appropriated by State Legislatures, or Otherwise Provided  
Through Official Facilities of the State, for Fiscal Year 1971  
for Participation in Soil Conservation District Programs

State	State Soil Conservation Committee, Bd. or Commission	Direct Assistance to Soil Conservation Districts	Conservation Protection Program		Flood Prevention Program	Other Conservation Activities	Total State Funds
			Investigations and Planning	Works of Improvement			
Alabama	\$81,400	-	\$75,000	-	-	-	\$156,400
Alaska	1,500	-	-	-	-	-	1,500
Arizona	15,000	-	-	-	-	-	15,000
Arkansas	227,676	\$182,400	162,500	-	-	\$2,000 a/	574,576
California	5,600	-	240,000	\$3,617,000	\$1,042,000	-	4,904,600
Colorado	51,916	2,425	12,000	4,700	-	64,400 b/	135,441
Connecticut	420	50,000	275,000	37,000	-	29,500 c/	391,920
Delaware	103,100	215,000	15,000	50,000	-	222,600 d/	605,700
Florida	12,000	-	14,000	-	-	36,000 e/	62,000
Georgia	81,908	25,000	350,000	-	-	-	466,908
Hawaii	-	12,600	-	-	-	7,500 g/	20,100
Idaho	30,500	44,000	55,000	-	-	217,595 h/	347,095
Illinois	17,200	390,500	50,000	-	-	-	357,700
Indiana	31,860	27,600	142,500	384,600	-	14,000 c/	800,560
Iowa	79,090	719,840	50,000	-	-	100,000 e/	948,930
Kansas	50,727	250,576	120,000	-	-	2,616 c/	433,919
Kentucky	185,970	149,000	-	-	-	-	334,970
Louisiana	65,979	346,368	187,857	650,000	-	25,000 e/	1,255,204
Maine	25,752	19,500	-	40,000	-	25,000 e/	110,252
Maryland	30,217	77,458	36,000	200,000	-	43,615 e/	387,320
Massachusetts	3,000	78,000	12,000	1,500,000	-	60,000 g/	1,653,000
Michigan	59,032	155,000	125,000	-	-	-	339,032
Minnesota	71,460	230,000	40,000	-	-	-	341,460
Mississippi	17,500	-	221,000	-	-	45,000 h/	283,500
Missouri	35,465	70,000	60,000	-	-	-	165,465
Montana	26,300	1,000	75,000	71,900	-	29,000 i/	203,200
Nebraska	47,951	150,000	235,931	416,346	-	174,159 j/	1,024,397
Nevada	750	-	-	-	-	7,418 b/	8,168
New Hampshire	300	2,500	-	124,800	-	-	127,600
New Jersey	37,000	60,000	17,000	981,000	-	16,000 e/	1,031,000
New Mexico	85,000	-	75,000	-	-	130,000 k/	290,000
New York	49,725	-	3,900	175,000	-	2,325,600 l/	2,554,225
North Carolina	61,614	138,992	99,073	-	-	-	299,679
North Dakota	17,970	19,883	25,000	26,800	-	90,000 e/	179,653
Ohio	68,400	302,600	113,000	2,310,000	-	400,000 e/	3,200,000
Oklahoma	90,000	713,556	137,000	100,000	-	-	1,040,556
Oregon	55,109	11,092	70,000	-	-	55,115 m/	191,316
Pennsylvania	184,200	74,800	-	1,273,300	-	230,000 e/	1,762,300
Rhode Island	700	1,800	-	-	-	-	2,500
South Carolina	62,265	96,000	100,000	-	-	50,000 e/	308,265
South Dakota	26,521	70,500	41,500	8,000	-	7,500 n/	154,121
Tennessee	5,000	30,000	50,000	-	-	-	85,000
Texas	166,909	326,404	150,000	-	-	-	643,313 o/
Utah	21,291	32,750	31,000	66,880	-	636,634 p/	788,555
Vermont	21,027	26,911	17,500	38,000	-	14,000 e/	117,438
Virginia	19,500	115,260	104,765	5,000	-	141,800 e/	386,125
Washington	50,091	10,000	1,000	55,000	-	21,350 m/	137,441
West Virginia	45,030	113,685	-	764,600	50,000	-	973,315
Wisconsin	112,173	72,000	-	250,000	-	70,000 e/	504,173
Wyoming	40,145	11,250	24,500	-	-	16,500 b/	92,395
Puerto Rico	300	90,000	-	175,000	-	-	265,300
Virgin Islands	-	9,000	-	-	-	130,000 r/	139,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,579,543</b>	<b>\$5,435,330</b>	<b>\$3,604,126</b>	<b>\$13,444,926</b>	<b>\$1,092,000</b>	<b>\$5,445,742</b>	<b>\$31,601,667</b>

- a/ Water resources research project
- b/ River basin and snow surveys
- c/ Soil surveys
- d/ Highway crossings and dredging program
- e/ Soil interpretations
- f/ Farm forestry, wildlife assistance, soil and snow surveys
- g/ Study of potential sites for surface water storage
- h/ Soil surveys and forestry work
- i/ Soil and snow surveys and RC&D assistance
- j/ River basin surveys, flood plain management, and natural resources data bank

- k/ River basin surveys, Plant Materials Center, and improvement of community irrigation systems
- l/ Comprehensive river basin and water resources planning
- m/ Soil and snow surveys
- n/ River basin studies
- o/ For 9/1/70 through 8/31/71
- p/ River basin investigations, soil and snow surveys, use of interest free money available for structures on Conservation Operations Program, and state water plan
- q/ RC&D assistance
- r/ Dam building program and cost sharing on conservation practices

*Norman A. Berg*  
Acting Administrator

(10/27/70 - B&F)

## TAHOE-VERDI SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Incline Village, Nevada 89450

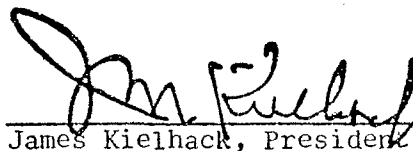
Resolution

- WHEREAS, Forecasting of the water supply and the measurement of snow are fundamental in the management of water for irrigation, recreation, power generation, watershed project operation, conservation planning, municipal use, and flood control, and
- WHEREAS, Continued growth and prosperity of the arid portion of the Western United States will largely depend on man's ability to manage and conserve this seasonal resource, and
- WHEREAS, The Soil Conservation Service has the leadership in the coordination of the snow measurement and streamflow forecasting activity with the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, as principal cooperators, and
- WHEREAS, Modern technological advances have been made which will permit a continuous monitoring of all hydroclimatological factors affecting runoff and when put to use would result in an improved water forecast, the prime tool in water management;
- THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Nevada Association of Soil Conservation Districts support an increase in the Soil Conservation Service's budget to implement the necessary telemetry facilities needed throughout the state of Nevada and watersheds pertinent to Nevada in California;
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the Nevada Congressional Delegation, the Governor of Nevada, and the President of the National Association of Conservation Districts.

December 11, 1970

Nevada Association of Conservation Districts Endorsement

The Nevada Association of Conservation Districts, at their annual meeting on December 10-11, 1970, endorsed the above resolution and will take action to advise the Nevada Congressional Delegation, the Governor of Nevada, and the President of the National Association of Conservation Districts in support of the resolution.



James Kielhack, President

Nevada Association of Conservation Districts

## VEGAS VALLEY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Searchlight, Nevada 89046

Resolution

WHEREAS, The present structure of the fees for the grazing of livestock upon the Public Lands of the United States does not recognize the indisputable fact that forage in certain areas is of greater value than that in certain other areas, and

WHEREAS, The present structure is predicated upon a study which was designed to arrive at a uniform grazing fee, regardless of the actual value of the forage, area by area or ranch by ranch, and

WHEREAS, The Public Land Law Review Commission, in its recently published report, recognized the variations in the value of forage on the Public Lands and recommended that this variation in value be considered in the establishment of grazing fee structures;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Nevada Association of Soil Conservation Districts strongly recommend to the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture that no action be taken to implement any incremental raise in grazing fees for the 1971 grazing year, pending Congressional review and evaluation of the Report of the Public Land Law Review Commission and Congressional action thereon, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be promptly transmitted to the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture and to each of the Nevada Congressional Delegation.

December 11, 1970

Nevada Association of Conservation Districts Endorsement

The Nevada Association of Conservation Districts, at their annual meeting on December 10-11, 1970, endorsed the above resolution and will take action to advise the Nevada Congressional Delegation, and the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture in support of the resolution.



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James Kielhack, President  
Nevada Association of Conservation Districts

Yerington, Nevada 89447

Resolution

WHEREAS, The Agricultural Conservation Program is one of the action programs administered by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service in Nevada and in the United States providing benefits to not only farmers and ranchers but to the public in general,

WHEREAS, The Agricultural Conservation Program encourages the conservation of soil and water through land leveling, reservoir construction, ditch lining, permanent vegetative cover establishment and other practices which help hold and protect the soil and improve the usage of water,

WHEREAS, The Agricultural Conservation Program encourages the conservation of wildlife through development and management of shallow ponds and wildlife habitat which benefit not only wildlife but people,

WHEREAS, The Agricultural Conservation Program helps in range management through fence construction and water development providing for better distribution of livestock, more even utilization of range plants and help in maintaining the ecological balance of the range,

WHEREAS, The Agricultural Conservation Program gives economic help to agriculture and secondarily to its supporting services by cost-sharing on practices which the individual could not afford, making agriculture more efficient and productive and passing greater value onto the consumer,

WHEREAS, The Agricultural Conservation Program provides help in pollution abatement through alternatives to crop residue burning and through holding facilities for liquid wastes to prevent contamination of streams and waterways providing better quality air and water for all persons,

WHEREAS, Technical assistance for Agricultural Conservation Program projects is provided by the Soil Conservation Service conforming with overall aims and individual Soil Conservation District farm management plans, encouraging long life facilities and best usage of resources for the conservation of air, soil, water, and wildlife,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nevada Association of Soil Conservation Districts supports and requests funding of the 1971 and future years Agricultural Conservation Program at a level adequate to accomplish the conservation objective and to insure the general public of adequate flood and erosion protection, pollution abatement, open spaces for wildlife and recreation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the Nevada Congressional Delegation, House and Senate Agriculture Appropriations Committees, Secretary of Agriculture and Director, Office of Management and Budget.

December 11, 1970

Nevada Association of Conservation Districts Endorsement

The Nevada Association of Conservation Districts, at their annual meeting on December 10-11, 1970, endorsed the above resolution and will take action to advise the Nevada Congressional Delegation, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget in support of the resolution.



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James Kielhack, President  
Nevada Association of Conservation Districts

## EUREKA SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Eureka, Nevada 89316

Resolution

WHEREAS, The Nevada State Legislature has enacted a statute requiring that farmers be required to irrigate their cropland at least one year in five to maintain their water rights, and

WHEREAS, The initial five-year period will end July 1, 1972, and

WHEREAS, This law does not provide any provisions to exempt those farmers who are making an effort to develop their lands as their financial resources permit, and

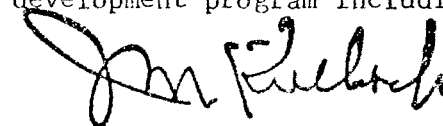
WHEREAS, To comply with this law, farmers are forced to irrigate lands which they normally would not irrigate until they have made the necessary land improvements;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Nevada Association of Soil Conservation Districts, meeting in regular session, appoint a committee to review this specific water rights law and work with the State Engineer to prepare appropriate legislation to be submitted to the Nevada State Legislature to amend or change the existing law to provide for exemptions or extensions to farmers who are following a sound conservation and development program including maintenance of a perennial grass cover.

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James Kielhack, President  
Nevada Association of Conservation Districts

JIM KIELHACK: Perhaps it would be appropriate to begin with a little history. Lots of people don't really know what a soil conservation district is or how it functions or what the background is.

Early in President Franklin Roosevelt's administration, there was created by him a national committee charged with the responsibility of suggesting guidelines and legislation to create and encourage soil conservation in the states. In 1937 a study was completed and the work of this committee was transmitted to our then Governor, and subsequently submitted by him to the \_\_\_\_\_ Nevada Legislature where it was passed.

Our Nevada Law is very similar to laws passed in the other 47 states. These separate state laws of 1937 created almost 33,000 soil conservation districts in the United States and 37 districts in Nevada, they've all been well enacted ever since.

I have a map over there that shows and delineates the different soil conservation districts in the state and I might refer to that a little later.

Time and progress goes forward: In 1937 what were the main problems in Nevada? How large were Reno and Las Vegas? Certainly, conditions were different than today, which is... why creating a Nevada Soil Conservation District Law is requested.

What are Soil Conservation Districts in Nevada? What do they do? How do they operate? Here's a very small part of a big story: A soil conservation district is a subdivision of state government with specific boundaries, responsibility and authority, much like a county. Members of the soil conservation district are called co-operators and this membership is open to anyone living within the district's boundary. By federal regulation, government technical-agricultural assistance is provided only to soil conservation district co-operators, which probably explains why most farmers and ranchers are cooperators. Elected officers of Soil Conservation Districts are called supervisors and are elected by the cooperators...elections held every year.

Soil Conservation Districts have land-use regulatory powers, these in Nevada have seldom been used, but the authority exists. A district is capable of going to district court, if someone is abusing conservation principles...I don't think this authority has ever been used in this state. Soil Conservation Districts are qualified to obtain surplus government heavy-equipment for use by district cooperators. This practice in many districts, is diminishing in popularity because most farmers and ranchers have their own equipment nowadays.

Soil Conservation Districts sponsor R.C.D. (Resource Conservation and Development) projects. We have two in Nevada now, central Nevada and the Cal-Neva program. We also sponsor small water shed projects and research. Right now there are 31 applications.

I would like to bring forth a little information about small water sheds because there was an announcement made last week by Congressman Walter Barring that the application for the project around Lovelock was approved.

(Cont)

MR. KIELHACK: The sponsors of this are the Big Meadow Soil Conservation District and the Pershing County Water Conservation District. ...Along with water shed projects, districts sponsor river basin studies soil and water reconnaissance surveys and numerous other programs.

Soil Conservation Districts have the responsibility and influence in setting priorities and schedules of the U.S. Conservation Service and other federal agencies, benefitting Nevada by millions of dollars a year.

I would like to read a letter I've requested from Mr. Charles Kroll, State Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture:

...Soil conservation districts in Nevada have a direct part in establishing priorities for nearly two-million dollars and 190,000 man-hours of work appropriated annually to Nevada Agencies by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Priorities are also reviewed with the Department of Interior and state agencies on joint-planning and help with work on public lands with a similar amount of federal funds, and man-hours. This doesn't not include the time spent by land-owners, contractors and others involved in assistance on conservation projects...

My point is, that the district probably has a major influence on local districts throughout the state and how \$2,000,000 of federal money is spent. This is why it's of interest to everyone. I think our state budget is \$50,000,000 a year? well, here our districts are spending \$2,000,000 a year...

Most big legislatures have updated the state laws governing the conservation districts in the last five years, hoping to enable their districts to cope with modern calendars ...In line with this, the directors of The Nevada Association of Conservation Districts; during the last two years, have been holding seminars with the local district cooperators and supervisors, seeking to come up with the needed change. This has been done. Countless meetings with all districts have been held throughout the state, and time and distances have been considerable.

From these series of meetings a list of changes was compiled. Changes, the local district cooperators and supervisors suggested. The key on this is that these ideas of change did not come from Carson City or Washington, D.C. or the state association, but from the individual cooperators throughout the state of Nevada.

Last October, the complete list of proposed changes was circulated to each individual district supervisor, well in advance of our annual state meeting. At this meeting, each proposal was read, discussed and argued at length and voted on by the district supervisors who were present. This meeting, incidentally, was the best turn-out we've had in ten years. It created a great deal of interest throughout the state.

The changes in our state law as requested in S.B. 298 are the changes voted upon by the clear majority of the 37 districts of Nevada, meeting in open convention with due democratic process. Every supervisor and cooperator was fully made aware of those changes and had an opportunity to come and vote as they wanted. Those changes and the reasons of their proposal are noted in the minutes of the annual meeting which was held in the Mapes Hotel, Reno, December 10th and 11th, 1970. It was the 23rd annual meeting of Nevada Association of Conservation Districts.

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MR. KIELHACK: I'd like to review with you those changes voted upon and for which legislation is being requested.  
(End of verbatim transcript)

Mr. Kielhack read the subject changes noted on Pages 12, 13 and 14 of the attached copy of minutes of the 23rd annual meeting of the Nevada Association of Soil Conservation Districts, a copy of which he presented to the chairman for inclusion in the record.

Members of the committee and the conservation districts' delegation discussed the intent of A.B. 298.

Mr. John Buckwalter stated that many of the changes would enable a more democratic process by allowing election of a chairman and members of the State Soil Conservation Committee (Commission) rather than having them appointed by The Governor. He explained that in the past a number of appointees, selected from a list submitted by the association have had to remain on the commission even when they would have preferred not to serve more than one term.

Senator Fransway asked Mr. Buckwalter to explain what was meant by "renewable natural resources" designated in a number of the proposed amendments to the bill.

Mr. Buckwalter said, basically, something that recharges itself; for instance, mining does not recharge, it depletes, as does oil and coal products. Rather, renewable natural resources are water and crops.

Senator Young asked what the reasons were for proposing the amendment on Page 9, Section 24, Line 30, concerning appointments of supervisors.

MR. BOBBY HOOPER: ...This is really one of the key points of the change. Right now there is no member on the board of supervisors of Soil Conservation Districts that represent other than agriculturalists or owner-occupiers, that's farmers and ranchers. These districts establish priorities on how several million dollars is being spent.

We think that urban influences should be on these boards for a number of reasons. First of all, there are many dedicated conservationists that cannot serve because they live in the cities and are not farmers or ranchers. The second point is, how long are soil conservation districts going to be able to spend two million dollars a year if there isn't any urban influence on these points...The third point is probably most important, is that the information that the soil conservation districts have can be most meaningful in the planning of urban areas. The Tahoe-Verdi district, for instance, has had a great influence in developments and suggestions of planning over there. Yet, there is no one single owner-agricultural-occupier in the district and we propose that there be four owner-occupiers of agricultural properties, and then there could be two more added to the board, one who would represent the cities within the district and one who would represent the counties, so that the board could be constituted of six men. This would allow influence from other industries to broaden their interests.

(End of verbatim transcript)

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