

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
MARCH 12, 1975

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The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

Senator Floyd R. Lamb was in the Chair.

PRESENT: Senator Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman  
Senator James I. Gibson, Vice-Chairman  
Senator Warren L. Monroe  
Senator B. Mahlon Brown  
Senator William J. Raggio  
Senator Clifton Young  
Senator Lee E. Walker

OTHERS: Bill Hancock, Public Works Board  
Eric Cronkhite, Parks Division  
Bob Forson, Chairman Parks Advisory Board  
Elmo DeRicco, Department of Conservation  
John Richardson, Parks Division  
Clarence Cassady, Dairy Commission  
John Humphrey, Predatory Animal Control  
  
Joe Miner, Predatory Animal & Rodent Control  
Don Klebenow, Professor of Wildlife  
Matt Benson, N.S.C.A.  
John Carpenter, Rancher  
Jean Ross, Budget Division  
Ron Sparks, Fiscal Analyst  
Cy Ryan, UPI

NRS 341

Mr. Bill Hancock said that the Board is required to seek approval from the Interim Finance Committee for use of the grant in this statute. Mr. Hancock said the amount requested is \$117,272 for an addition to the U.N.R. Library.

Senator Young - Approve  
Senator Raggio- 2nd  
Motion Carried

Senators Lamb and Walker were not present for this vote.

STATE PARK LAND AQUISITION

Senator Raggio inquired as to what the Consultant/Contract Services are. Mr. Cronkhite said this is for engineering, architecture, design-survey, etc., and that this amount will be an average of 20% of each project's design-cost.

Senators Brown, Raggio, and Lamb asked that the consulting cost be listed with each project.

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Mr. Bob Forson said that Nevada receives \$1.6 million from the Land Conservation Fund, and this is distributed on a statewide basis to communities for construction. Mr. Forson said that this provides jobs at a time when unemployment is high. Senator Young noted that \$900,000 goes to the State. Mr. Forson stated that the remainder is distributed to local governments on a cost-need basis. Mr. Elmo DeRicco said that a 60% - 40% apportionment was tried because the local governments have other matching funds and this would help them reach a balance.

Senator Raggio asked if this was limited to Parks and Recreation areas. Mr. Forson said, yes.

Mr. Cronkhite said that Rye Patch, Lake Lahonton and Shellbourne B.L.M. acquisitions that were approved last session have been omitted to this point. Mr. John Richardson remarked that some B.L.M. applications take four and five years, and many have priority over the Parks Division.

#### RYE PATCH

Mr. Cronkhite said the cost is \$250 per acre for public land, and he didn't have any data on the private. Mr. DeRicco said that the Department will let the Finance Committee know these costs, as the Department receives the appraisal.

#### BEAVER DAM

Mr. Cronkhite said this is 760 acres of public land for watershed area.

#### RED ROCK CANYON

Mr. Cronkhite stated this is 460 acres in two parcels. Senator Young asked if the proposal for State take-over on this area had been withdrawn. Mr. Cronkhite said this is a dormant issue now as B.L.M. has maintained a status-quo holding.

Senator Lamb and Senator Young thought it would be wiser to wait on this until the Federal government have made their plans clear.

Senator Gibson asked what are the plans for Spring Mountain Ranch. Mr. Cronkhite said that this spring the ranch will open as a group use area by reservation; and to Senator Brown, he said that the ranch probably won't be ready for general use this Biennium.

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CARSON RIVER

Acreage = 800 acres (two parcels)

Mr. Cronkhite said this is a private land east of Carson City.

CATHEDRAL GORGE

Acreage = 533 acres (private land), which will acquire park entry.

Senator Walker asked if this presentation was being made in order of priority. Mr. Cronkhite replied no, and that Red Rock Canyon and Carson River are high on the list.

FORT CHURCHILL

Acreage = 650 acres, needed to expand the boundary.

KERSHAW - RYAN

Acreage = 1,480 acres, which will acquire the park entry and B.L.M. watershed area.

ARROW CANYON

Acreage = 10,800 acres, which is a potential parksite, although this might take a lower priority since it is currently B.L.M. property, and would take time to acquire.

FORT SHELLBOURNE

Acreage = 480 acres, which is sixty miles north of Ely.

Senator Brown asked why money for acquisitions wasn't used to develop the lands already acquired. Mr. Forson said that the judgment on land acquisition needs to be made as funds and land become available; and allowing the public onto partially developed property can cause damage to the natural resource areas.

COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LAND LAWS

Mr. DeRicco said there are eleven committee members, and the budget has been cut because the workload has decreased.

DAIRY COMMISSION

Mr. Clarence Cassady said to Senator Raggio that full-time counsel is needed because there is a great deal of controversy about Commission decisions. Senator Raggio said that the

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the Committee would like to see the individual Boards using counsel provided by the Attorney General's office. Mr. Cassady said that he doubts if he could get legal services any more economically, as it costs him \$750 per month now. Senator Lamb said he had just talked to the Attorney General's Office, and he had been receptive to the Committee's suggestion.

Senator Gibson asked if any positions had been cut. Mr. Cassady said that two haven't been filled for years, because chain stores have decreased the workload.

SHEEP INSPECTION FUND

Mr. John Humphrey said this fund is supported by the Sheep Tax.

Senator Lamb asked how the tax is assessed. Mr. Humphrey said by the number of head on the assessment rolls.

Senator Walker asked how many sheep are in Nevada now. Mr. Humphrey said approximately 150,000; and two years ago this would be about 165,000. Mr. Humphrey said the decline is due to inflation and coyotes.

Senator Raggio asked about the \$3,300 to the Woolgrowers Association. Mr. Humphrey said that under the Sheeplgrowers Act, the agency is allowed to donate to any organization that promotes the dairy industry.

PREDATORY ANIMAL AND RODENT CONTROL

Mr. Joe Miner stated that this agency operates on the following funding:

a)	Agency Budget (1974 - 75)	\$316,317
b)	Woolgrower's contribution	88,000
c)	Fish and Game Commission	20,000
d)	Federal Funding	229,000

Mr. Don Klebenow discussed a sheep loss by predator study that was done on a ranch near Elko. Mr. Klebenow stated that the year round average loss showed that 42% was caused by predation. Mr. Joe Miner stated that a Woolgrower's study done by a questionnaire showed that out of 146,000 sheep, 25,500 were killed by predators; and that lamb losses were down by 33.3%.

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Senator Lamb asked if coyote hides were turned in to the agency when killed. Mr. Miner said yes, and that out of 784 coyotes killed in 1974, 143 hides were sold.

Senator Young asked if predator controls really showed any amount of progress. Mr. Miner answered that the largest loss has been with lambs, and the Woolgrowers survey indicated a savings.

Mr. Miner said to Senator Raggio that a great deal of research in varied types of control are being done by the Denver Research Institute.

Mr. Matt Benson stated that many Nevada ranchers are requesting help with this problem. Mr. Benson remarked that the cattlemen have had trouble documenting losses by predators, however, they are willing to accept an eight cent per head assessment in order to share costs for control efforts.

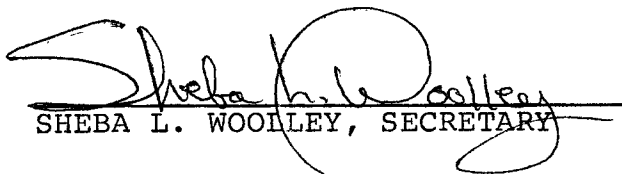
WOOLGROWER'S PREDATORY ANIMAL CONTROL COMMISSION

Mr. Miner said this Commission receives its income from the sheep tax fund, sale receipts, and grazing board contributions.

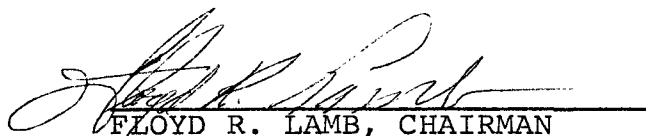
Mr. John Carpenter addressed himself to Senator Young and stated that as a rancher he is not making headway with losses by predators, but he is able to survive. Mr. Carpenter said that maintaining a slim balance has been possible by the aid of helicopter hunting, and the efforts of the Fish and Game Department. Mr. Carpenter remarked that losses are not only with sheep, but deer and antelope herds as well.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

  
SHEBA L. WOOLLEY, SECRETARY

APPROVED:

  
FLOYD R. LAMB, CHAIRMAN