

MINUTES OF THE
MEETING OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON NATURAL RESOURCES

SIXTY-FIRST SESSION
NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE
January 21, 1981

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources was called to order by Chairman Norman Glaser at 2:15 p.m., Wednesday, January 21, 1981, in Room 323 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. Exhibit A is the Meeting Agenda. Exhibit B is the Attendance Roster.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Norman Glaser, Chairman
Senator Wilbur Faiss, Vice Chairman
Senator James H. Bilbray
Senator Lawrence E. Jacobsen
Senator Joe Neal

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

Senator Floyd R. Lamb

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert E. Erickson, Senior Research Analyst
Carolyn L. Freeland, Committee Secretary

Senator Glaser explained that the purpose of this meeting was to review, discuss and approve the Committee Rules, to introduce staff members, and to discuss any other organizational matters which the members of the committee might have.

Senator Glaser stated that committee meetings will commence at 1:30 p.m., and in the event of any change in this time, he will announce it from the Floor. He asked that all committee members and staff be prompt in reporting for the meetings.

Carolyn Freeland was presented as Committee Secretary. Robert E. Erickson was introduced as Senior Research Analyst and Chairman Glaser noted that Mr. Erickson is well-versed in matters in which the committee will be involved.

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Mr. Erickson said that Mr. Andrew Grose, head of the Research Division, wishes to provide more research assistance to the committees during this Session, as well as to the individual members of the committees. However, there is still not enough personnel to staff all committees on a regular basis and although Mr. Erickson will not be able to attend all meetings, he will attend one meeting a week and he is prepared to provide for the committee any type of special research that is needed for a hearing to be held by the committee. He added that his department will also provide a bill analysis which is an explanation of the components of a bill that might be proposed, and the effect the bill might have on the State, putting the bill into an unbiased perspective. The bill analyses can be prepared at the committee's request.

Mr. Erickson added that staff is not present to interject itself into the meetings; he will always be available to answer questions, and is serving at the pleasure of the committee.

Senator Glaser discussed procedures of the committee meetings. He said the committee is scheduled to meet Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; however, there will be no Friday meetings unless it is really necessary as Friday afternoon is a bad time due to the general exodus of members immediately following the Floor session. Monday and Wednesday meetings will be scheduled heavily enough so that Fridays meetings will not be necessary, at least until the final days of the Session.

He indicated that he and Mr. Erickson, with the secretary's help, will be writing the agenda, scheduling those bills which might be controversial early on the agenda, and bills having less interest later. Bills will be scheduled two weeks to ten days ahead on agendas, when possible, in order to allow those wishing to testify on a particular matter time to gather their material. He added that if any committee member has a special preference for scheduling a bill, to please advise him or staff and it will be scheduled, if feasible, for a time convenient to that member and his constituents.

Senator Glaser said the meetings would be flexible and informal and that it would be tried to group the bills together on subject matter, scheduling them for the same hearing. The sponsor of the bill--the Assemblyman or Senator--will be given priority to testify in order that he or she might return to other matters. The Majority Floor Leader is interested in production in getting the bills out on General File as soon as possible in order not to impact the later days of the Session.

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In the event of a hearing cancellation, it will be attempted to notify everyone interested in that particular meeting in order to avoid any persons making unnecessary trips from remote areas for the purpose of testifying.

Chairman Glaser then asked for a review of the Standing Rules of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.

It was noted by the chairman that probably the minutes of each meeting will be typed and prepared within a week.

It was agreed to change item II.f. to read: "Any member of the Committee may request an item on the agenda by contacting the Committee Chairman three (3) days ahead of the Committee Meeting."

The vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources is Senator Faiss, and he will preside in the absence of the chairman and conduct the meetings of the committee.

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources is a six-man committee. There was discussion of item IV.a. regarding the membership of a quorum, and item IV.b. in reference to the number of members who must be present to hear a bill or resolution.

Senator Bilbray moved that three members must be present to hear a bill or resolution but a quorum shall consist of at least four members in order to take affirmative action.

Senator Jacobsen seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously. (Senator Lamb was absent for the vote).

There was discussion regarding item IV.d. and item IV.h.; it was decided to leave these items as they stand. Senator Glaser noted, on item IV.d., that if new evidence comes in, four members might hear the evidence and then if the matter is worthwhile, there could be reconsideration.

Senator Glaser read item IV.h. regarding final action to be taken after witnesses have been questioned and dismissed. In most cases, the committee shall wait until the following meeting to take final action; final action shall be taken within a week of the hearing. Non-controversial matters may be acted upon at the meeting at which they are heard.

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Senator Bilbray asked, in relation to item IV.g., if a committee member wishes to question a witness, if that member must first address the Chair, and Senator Glaser replied in the affirmative.

Item IV.i. was then delineated by Senator Glaser, and he reemphasized that concurrence of committee members for bill introduction does not imply commitment or support of the bill, or resolution.

Item IV.j, indicating no smoking in the committee room, was brought up for discussion. Senator Bilbray noted that there are no signs in the committee room stating, "No Smoking." He asked if some or one were to be put up. Senator Jacobsen replied that such signs must be requested. He added that some committees have authorized smoking in certain sections, and that is why signs were removed. However, Senator Jacobsen continued, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources could request that a "No Smoking" sign be put up, and the other committees using the committee meeting room would have to follow the same procedure.

Senator Bilbray moved that the committee ask that a "No Smoking" sign be put up in Room 323.

Senator Jacobsen seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously. (Senator Lamb was absent for the vote).

Senator Glaser said that he would have to check with the chairman of the Senate Committee on Transportation and the committee itself and tell them that such a sign is being put up. The chairman of the Senate Committee on Human Resources and Facilities, Senator Joe Neal, sits on the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, and therefore is already aware of this request.

Senator Glaser then read the last three items of the Standing Rules. In regard to item IV.m., "All meetings shall be open to the public and media," Senator Glaser said the law states that legislative meetings are not included in the state open-meeting policy. However, the committee is stating in its rules that its meetings are conducted as open meetings.

Senator Bilbray raised the question of whether there might be an instance when the committee might not want to have an open meeting. Senator Faiss felt that it is a good rule, and especially good for public relations. No change was made in the item. (See Exhibit C for amended Standing Rules).

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Chairman Glaser called for any other matters that might come before the committee. There being none, he stated that the agenda for the day was concluded.

Senator Glaser said that two bills, Senate Bill No. 5 and Senate Bill No. 14, are scheduled to come before the committee on Monday, February 2.

Senator Jacobsen said there was a meeting at three o'clock in the afternoon of January 21 on Lake Lahontan, and he would hope that the committee's staff person or someone from the committee might attend, as the issue will certainly be coming up later in the Session. Senator Neal noted that this matter goes to the Senate Committee on Human Resources and Facilities. Senator Jacobsen said he could attend this meeting in Room 329, and report back to the committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:


Carolyn L. Freeland, Secretary

APPROVED BY:


Senator Norman Glaser, Chairman

DATE: Feb 2, 1981

SENATE AGENDA

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee on Natural Resources , Room 323 .

Day Wednesday , Date January 21 , Time 1:30 P. M.

Introduction of Senate Committee on Natural Resources
Committee and staff.

Robert E. Erickson, Senior Research Analyst: research
assistance and staff relationship.

Consideration of Standing Rules of the Senate Committee
on Natural Resources.

Possible introduction of legislation by the Senate Committee
on Natural Resources.

STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON NATURAL RESOURCES
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- I. The authority and procedures of the Committee are determined by:
 - a. Constitution of the State of Nevada;
 - b. Nevada Revised Statutes;
 - c. Standing Rules of the Nevada Senate;
 - d. Standing Rules of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources;
 - e. Mason's Manual of Parliamentary Procedure.

- II. Duties of the Chairman:
 - a. Prepare the agenda;
 - b. Call Committee together;
 - c. Require minutes to be kept and presented as soon as possible;
 - d. Prepare Committee reports;
 - e. Appoint Sub-Committees, as needed; and
 - f. Any member of the Committee may request an item on the agenda by contacting the Committee Chairman three (3) days ahead of the Committee meeting.

- III. Duties of the Vice-Chairman:
 - a. In the absence or at the discretion of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman shall conduct the meetings of the Committee.

- IV. Committee Action:
 - a. Three members must be present to hear a bill or resolution but a quorum shall consist of at least four members in order to take affirmative action.
 - b. A simple majority of the Committee can pass or reject a bill or resolution.
 - c. In order to reconsider previous actions taken, an affirmative vote of five (5) members of the Committee will be required. However, a majority present may allow the hearing of new evidence or information which would be pertinent to the determination of whether or not a matter or an action should be reconsidered.
 - d. Attendance shall be recorded.
 - e. "No" votes shall be recorded.
 - f. Committee members shall address the Chair to gain the floor.
 - g. The Chairman shall determine when a final action is to be taken after witnesses have been questioned and dismissed.
 - h. Committee introduction requires concurrence of four (4) members of the Committee and does not imply commitment or support of the bill or resolution.
 - i. No smoking in the Committee room.
 - j. Recesses shall be at the call of the Chair.
 - k. Minority reports may be filed as per Mason's Manual, Section 677; and, must be requested at the time a bill or resolution is reported out of Committee and the minority report to be filed with the Secretary of the Senate

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IV. Committee Action (continued):

k. (continued)

must be individually signed by each member
requesting it.

l. All meetings shall be open to the public and media.

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, MEETINGS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON NATURAL RESOURCES SHALL BE HELD MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND
FRIDAY AT P. M. ADJOURNMENT.