

*Library*

MINUTES OF THE  
MEETING OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON NATURAL RESOURCES

SIXTY-FIRST SESSION  
NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE  
APRIL 15, 1981

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources had as its meeting for this day a field trip to Lahontan Dam and the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area. Exhibit A is the Field Trip Agenda.

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

GUEST LEGISLATORS:

Senator Virgil Getto  
Assemblyman Joseph E. Dini, Jr.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

GUESTS:

Mr. Arthur J. Palmer, Director  
Legislative Counsel Bureau  
Mr. Samuel F. Hohmann, Senior Research Analyst,  
Science and Technology  
Dr. Peter Krenkel, Director, Water Resources  
Desert Research Institute  
Mr. Dick Lattin, Manager, Truckee-Carson Irrigation District  
The Churchill County Board of Commissioners:  
Mr. Beale E. Cann, Mr. William Lee, Mr. John Serpa  
and Mr. Bjorn Selinder  
Mr. Joseph C. Greenley, Director, Department of Wildlife  
Mr. Sam Millazzo, Department of Wildlife  
Mr. Robert Hussey, Department of Wildlife  
Mr. John L. Meder, Director, Division of State Parks

Senate Committee on Natural Resources  
April 15, 1981

GUESTS: (con'td)

Mr. Lew Dodgion, Director,  
Division of Environmental Protection  
Mr. Wendell McCurry, Division of  
Environmental Protection  
Mr. Jac Shaw, Division of Lands  
Mr. Dick DeWitt, KCRL Radio and Television

The legislators convened at the rear of the Legislative Building on Wednesday, April 15, 1981, at 1:30 P. M. to commence the field trip. Guests and others in attendance proceeded according to their particular arrangements.

Upon arrival at Lahontan Dam, the group was first shown the dam site and heard a short lecture regarding its history, operation and projected improvements by Mr. Dick Lattin, of the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District. Concerns were voiced by various persons present, representing the general area in Fallon, regarding the future of the dam and its utilization.

The committee members, staff and guests then drove to the newer section of the park facilities contained within the Lahontan Recreation Area, where they boarded vans for a tour of this section. Mr. Bob Francke and Mr. Darrell Craig of the State Parks Division conducted the tour, providing information and facts about the various sites visited. A fact sheet giving vital statistics about the recreation area was distributed (Exhibit B).

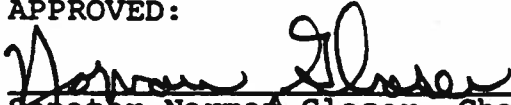
Upon completion of this portion of the tour, the committee members and others present proceeded to the Mason Valley Wildlife Refuge near Yerington, Nevada, where they viewed the new fish hatchery and proposed well site. They visited the Mason Valley farm owned and operated by the Department of Wildlife, viewing the facilities, headquarters and two wells. They also inspected the proposed fish site well which runs at 8 cubic feet a second, and the main irrigation canal.

The tour was completed at approximately 6:00 P. M.

Respectfully submitted by:

  
Carolyn L. Freeland, Secretary

APPROVED:

  
Senator Norman Glaser, Chairman  
DATE: April 28, 1981

SENATE AGENDA

EXHIBIT A

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee on Natural Resources, Room FIELD TRIP.

Day Wednesday, Date April 15, Time All day

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources is sponsoring a tour to Lake Lahontan and the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area, inviting members of the Assembly Committee on Economic Development and Natural Resources and the Assembly Committee on Agriculture to join with them. This tour will constitute the meeting for this date.

The tour and program have been scheduled for the afternoon of April 15, 1981 as follow:

- 1:30 - 2:30 - Leave legislative parking lot in private vehicles. Arrive Lahontan Dam.
- 2:30 - 3:00 - View dam and hydroelectric facilities. Discussion of dam operation by Truckee Carson Irrigation District representative.
- 3:00 - 3:30 - Informal discussion of Lahontan water quality problems and studies (division of environmental protection and desert research institute).
- 3:30 - 4:30 - Tour and discussion of state parks facilities including Silver Springs Beach (division of state parks).
- 4:30 - Committee departs Silver Springs Beach to go to Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area.
- 5:00 - 6:00 Tour and discussion of department of wildlife programs and facilities in Mason Valley WMA.

FACT SHEET  
LAHONTAN STATE RECREATION AREA  
February 26, 1981

EXHIBIT B

1. Park acreage . . . . . 32,894 acres
2. Visitation (1980). . . . . 451,741
  - Boats launched - 19,000
  - Overnight campers - 103,000
3. Employees. . . . .
  - 6 Permanent
    - 1 Park Supervisor III
    - 3 Park Ranger II
    - 1 Law Enforcement Specialist
    - 1 Park Maint. Spec. III
  - 25 Seasonal
    - 5 Seasonal Ranger (40 man months)
    - 4 Lifeguards (16 man months)
    - 13 Park Aids (44 man months)
    - 3 Seasonal Maint. Spec. (32 man months)
4. Funds expended for acquisition . . . . \$1,047,525.00
  - Estimated value of land. . . . . \$38,571,498.00
  - Funds expended for development . . . . \$2,548,229.00
  - Replacement value of structures. . . . \$1,044,623.00
5. Revenue (1980):
  - User Fees. . . . . \$121,780.00
6. Interpretive programs (1980):
  - 3 events, 47 people
7. Special work programs (1980):
  - YCC - 8 week program, 2,680 work/learning hours - Requires staff supervision
  - YACC - approximately 8,400 man hours - Requires staff supervision
  - Juvenile offender - approximately 300 man hours - Requires staff supervision
  - Inmate crew - 960 man hours - Requires staff supervision (other than conservation projects)
8. Routine services, cleaning and maintaining:
  - a. 40 developed campsites, 1,400 undeveloped campsites
  - b. 56 developed picnic sites, 110 undeveloped
  - c. 7 flush toilet restrooms, 1 shower building, 45 pit toilet facilities
  - d. 3 boat ramps
  - e. 3 developed day use areas
  - f. 2 high capacity sewer lift stations
  - g. 3 high capacity water pump stations with 202,000 gallons of storage
  - h. 12.1 miles of graded roads
  - i. 9 miles of fence

9. Problem areas:
- a. Lack of skilled maintenance personnel to maintain facilities and equipment.
  - b. Overcrowding of facilities and resources on summer weekends.
  - c. Degradation of resources due to overcrowding and uncontrolled use.
  - d. Increasing cost of energy eroding operating budget.
  - e. Lack of routine law enforcement in the park by local sheriffs or Nevada Highway Patrol.
  - f. Uncontrolled boundaries and numerous access roads.
  - g. Lack of usable marina facilities or services in Churchill County portion of the park.
  - h. Polluted rivers entering the reservoir.
  - i. Fluctuating and unpredictable water levels.
  - j. Size and complexity of park, compounds problems and costs.
  - k. Difficulties in maintaining and protecting facilities and resources.

10. Visitor/Resource Protection:

- Verbal warnings - 505
- F.I. card - 25
- Citations - 113
- Arrest - 9
- Incident reports - 99