

**MINUTES OF THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Seventy-third Session  
April 11, 2005**

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources was called to order by Chair Dean A. Rhoads at 1:52 p.m. on Monday, April 11, 2005, in Room 2144 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. [Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster. All exhibits are available and on file at the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Senator Dean A. Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike McGinness, Vice Chair  
Senator Mark E. Amodei  
Senator Bob Beers  
Senator Michael Schneider  
Senator Maggie Carlton

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Senator Bob Coffin (Excused)

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Linda Eissmann, Committee Policy Analyst  
Jonathan Sherwood, Committee Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Leo Drozdoff, Administrator, Division of Environmental Protection, State  
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Alexander Haartz, M.P.H., Administrator, Health Division, Department of Human  
Resources  
Steve K. Walker, Truckee Meadows Water Authority  
Santana Garcia, City of Henderson  
Andy Belanger, Southern Nevada Water Authority; Las Vegas Valley Water  
District  
Larry Bennett, U.S. Ecology Corporation  
Joe L. Johnson, Toiyabe Chapter Sierra Club

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Robert O. Sack, Director, Division of Environmental Health, Washoe County  
District Health Department  
Kaitlin Backlund, Nevada Conservation League  
Jodi Stephens, Rural Director, Office of U.S. Congressman Jim Gibbons

Chair Rhoads opened the hearing on Senate Bill (S.B.) 395.

**SENATE BILL 395**: Transfers responsibility for operation of certain programs from Health Division of Department of Human Resources to Division of Environmental Protection of State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. (BDR 40-660)

Leo Drozdoff, Administrator, Division of Environmental Protection, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, spoke from a prepared statement in support of S.B. 395 ([Exhibit C](#)). He gave the Committee a proposed amendment to the bill ([Exhibit D](#)) and a letter of support for S.B. 395 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ([Exhibit E](#)). Chair Rhoads asked if the proposed changes in S.B. 395 were already in the Governor's budget. Mr. Drozdoff said the changes were in the Governor's budget.

Alexander Haartz, M.P.H., Administrator, Health Division, Department of Human Resources, said he was in support of S.B. 395. He said the transfer of funds from the Health Division was written into the Governor's recommended budget and would be effective after the budget closings and passage of S.B. 395.

Steve K. Walker, Truckee Meadows Water Authority, spoke in support of S.B. 395. He said water quantity and water quality were essential and the bill would allow the people who regulated water issues to be more efficient.

Santana Garcia, City of Henderson, spoke in support of S.B. 395. He said it would be beneficial for the Safe Drinking Water Program and the Clean Water Program to be regulated by the Division of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Andy Belanger, Southern Nevada Water Authority; Las Vegas Valley Water District, spoke in support of S.B. 395.

Chair Rhoads closed the hearing on S.B. 395 and opened the hearing on S.B. 396.

**SENATE BILL 396**: Revises provisions concerning sanitation and recycling programs and grants. (BDR 40-401)

Mr. Drozdoff spoke in support of S.B. 396 from a prepared statement ([Exhibit F](#)). From his statement, Mr. Drozdoff summarized the bill for the Committee. Chair Rhoads asked if the bill pertained to just Clark County and Washoe County. Mr. Drozdoff said Clark County and Washoe County had their own solid-waste authorities and thus the bill pertained to the other 15 counties in the State. Chair Rhoads asked if the bill would affect mining. Mr. Drozdoff said it would not affect mining. Senator Carlton asked if the bill would affect the issue in Lincoln County of an area there which had received too much solid waste from out of state. Mr. Drozdoff said section 2 of S.B. 396 would address the issue. Senator Carlton asked how much money this bill would generate. Mr. Drozdoff said the permit fees would generate approximately \$50,000. He said the money would be used for further recycling programs in the State. Mr. Drozdoff emphasized the permit fees would pay for themselves over time.

Senator McGinness asked how the tire fees collected would benefit rural Nevada. Mr. Drozdoff said the money would go back to the rural communities in the form of new recycling programs. Mr. Drozdoff said the fees proposed in S.B. 396 for inspections of landfills would be small. Senator McGinness asked if the permitting process was going to change for landfills. Mr. Drozdoff said the process would not change. Senator McGinness voiced concern over any changes in the landfill-permit process that might hurt an area such as Mineral County, which just opened a new landfill to generate revenue. Mr. Drozdoff said DEP supported the efforts by Mineral County and S.B. 396 would not hurt those efforts in any way.

Mr. Drozdoff continued his explanation of S.B. 396 with [Exhibit F](#). He offered the Committee a proposed amendment to the bill ([Exhibit G](#)). Chair Rhoads asked why Clark County would ask for an amendment on the bill when it did not affect Clark County. Mr. Drozdoff said the fees would only come from areas outside of Clark County and Washoe County, but section 5 of S.B. 396 affects recycling programs, which included all counties. Senator McGinness asked if U.S. Ecology Corporation in Beatty was meeting the standard set forth in the bill. Mr. Drozdoff said U.S. Ecology was meeting the standards.

Larry Bennett, U.S. Ecology Corporation, spoke in support of the amended version of S.B. 396.

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Joe L. Johnson, Toiyabe Chapter Sierra Club, spoke in support of the amended version of S.B. 396.

Robert O. Sack, Director, Division of Environmental Health, Washoe County District Health Department, spoke in support of S.B. 396.

Kaitlin Backlund, Nevada Conservation League, spoke in support of S.B. 396.

Chair Rhoads closed the hearing on S.B. 396 and opened the hearing on Senate Concurrent Resolution (S.C.R.) 15.

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 15**: Commends participants in effort to prevent listing of sage grouse as threatened or endangered species and encourages continued conservation efforts. (BDR R-430)

Linda Eissmann, Committee Policy Analyst, gave an overview of S.C.R. 15 from a statement from the Legislative Committee on Public Lands ([Exhibit H](#)).

Jodi Stephens, Rural Director, Office of U.S. Congressman Jim Gibbons, read a prepared statement in support of S.C.R. 15 ([Exhibit I](#)).

Chair Rhoads closed the hearing on S.C.R. 15 and opened the work session on S.B. 16.

**SENATE BILL 16**: Authorizes use of money in Fund for Cleaning Up Discharges of Petroleum by State for cleanup of discharges involving petroleum and other discharges under certain circumstances. (BDR 51-662)

Ms. Eissmann gave an overview of S.B. 16 using a work session document provided for the Committee ([Exhibit J](#)).

SENATOR MCGINNESS MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 16.

SENATOR AMODEI SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS BEERS, COFFIN AND SCHNEIDER WERE ABSENT FOR THE VOTE)

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Chair Rhoads opened the work session on S.B. 293.

SENATE BILL 293: Creates position of Weed Control Coordinator within State Department of Agriculture. (BDR 49-431)

Ms. Eissmann explained the bill using Exhibit J.

SENATOR CARLTON MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 293.

SENATOR AMODEI SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS BEERS, COFFIN AND SCHNEIDER WERE ABSENT FOR THE VOTE)

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Chair Rhoads opened the work session on S.B. 294.

SENATE BILL 294: Revises provisions governing distribution of grants of money by State Conservation Commission to conservation districts. (BDR 49-1154)

Ms. Eissmann gave an overview of S.B. 294 using Exhibit J.

SENATOR MCGINNESS MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 294.

SENATOR CARLTON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS BEERS, COFFIN AND SCHNEIDER WERE ABSENT FOR THE VOTE)

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Chair Rhoads opened the work session on S.B. 395.

SENATOR MCGINNESS MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 395.

SENATOR CARLTON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS BEERS, COFFIN AND SCHNEIDER WERE ABSENT FOR THE VOTE)

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Chair Rhoads opened the work session on S.B. 396.

SENATOR CARLTON MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 396.

SENATOR MCGINNESS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS BEERS, COFFIN AND SCHNEIDER WERE ABSENT FOR THE VOTE)

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Chair Rhoads opened the work session on S.C.R. 15.

SENATOR MCGINNESS MOVED TO ADOPT S.C.R. 15.

SENATOR CARLTON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS BEERS, COFFIN AND SCHNEIDER WERE ABSENT FOR THE VOTE)

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Chair Rhoads adjourned the meeting of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources at 2:36 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Jonathan Sherwood,  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Senator Dean A. Rhoads, Chair

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_