

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

**Seventy-fourth Session  
March 26, 2007**

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources was called to order by Vice Chair Mike McGinness at 3:57 p.m. on Monday, March 26, 2007, 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 in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Senator Mike McGinness, Vice Chair  
Senator Mark E. Amodei  
Senator Joseph J. Heck  
Senator Bob Coffin  
Senator Michael A. Schneider  
Senator Maggie Carlton

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Senator Dean A. Rhoads, Chair (Excused)

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Susan E. Scholley, Committee Policy Analyst  
Randy Stephenson, Committee Counsel  
Brian Campolieti, Committee Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Jon Hutchings, Executive Director, Central Nevada Regional Water Authority  
Allen Biaggi, Director, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Steve K. Walker, Douglas County  
Doug Bierman, Humboldt River Basin Water Authority  
Andy Belanger, Southern Nevada Water Authority; Las Vegas Valley Water District  
Tina Nappe, Sierra Club  
Howard L. Skolnik, Director, Department of Corrections  
Bobby Gang

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Starr Butterfield  
Carolyn Dunne  
Florence McClure  
Charles Hawes  
Eugene Spatts  
Denise R. Dewart  
Marlene Adrian  
Loy Hayes

VICE CHAIR MCGINNESS:

I open this meeting today with Senate Concurrent Resolution (S.C.R.) 11.

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 11**: Urges cooperation among the State Engineer and certain local governments, water authorities and districts concerning issues relating to water resources in this State. (BDR R-204)

SUSAN E. SCHOLLEY (Committee Policy Analyst):

Senate Concurrent Resolution 11 was a recommendation of the Interim Study on Use, Management and Allocation of Water Resources out of S.C.R. No. 26 of the 73rd Session. The genesis of this recommendation was predominantly from the Central Nevada Regional Water Authority that testified as to its efforts to collect data and create a centralized system to optimize the knowledge of Nevada's water resources.

JON HUTCHINGS (Executive Director, Central Nevada Regional Water Authority):

The Central Nevada Regional Water Authority is an organization of seven counties in the central region of Nevada. This region consists entirely of internally drained basins. There are no rivers and streams that leave the basin. This context is why these rural local governments chose to come together to address issues related to water-resource management. During the Use, Management and Allocation of Water Resources study, the availability of water-resource information for local government decision making became the main theme. This was so city managers, county commissioners and planning staff could become more effective in water-resource decisions. This need, as well as urging local governments to engage in water-resource planning, is reflected in S.C.R. 11.

ALLEN BIAGGI (Director, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources):

I will be speaking on behalf of Tracy Taylor, the State Engineer, as well. We support S.C.R. 11. This precious resource must be managed wisely and one of the best ways to do that is to ensure a level playing field with regard to water information and data. However, I would like to point out one portion of S.C.R. 11 that causes us some concern. Page 2, lines 1 through 5 of S.C.R. 11 urges the State Engineer to establish a statewide system for information sharing concerning groundwater. As you know, over the last several years the State Engineer has established an Internet-based system within his office which gives the public access to 86,000 water-rights applications, over 100,000 well logs, information on over 40,000 ownership and title submittals and 64,000 water-level measurements. This system has been widely applauded by those having dealings with the Division of Water Resources.

This effort did not come easily or cheaply. First, the system needed to be conceptualized and developed. Thousands of man-hours were spent placing this information into the database. The effort contemplated in S.C.R. 11 may have even wider-ranging implications than the current database. Furthermore, the resolution provides no additional resources for the State Engineer to undertake this task. Given the pressures placed on the office from the scarcity of our water resources, increasing applications and dramatically increasing protests, we cannot allocate any existing resources to the efforts outlined in S.C.R. 11. If additional resources are provided at some future date, we would be pleased to establish the statewide water-sharing system outlined in S.C.R. 11. This contemplates only information within the purview and statutory authority of the State Engineer. That would not include water-quality information, aquatic-biota information or wildlife information.

VICE CHAIR MCGINNESS:

Do you think better wording would be to commend the State Engineer for his efforts? How would you see an improvement in S.C.R. 11?

MR. BIAGGI:

Senate Concurrent Resolution 11 is acceptable as it stands. I want to point out S.C.R. 11 will task the State Engineer with a large effort without providing additional resources to implement it.

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VICE CHAIR MCGINNESS:

You must understand S.C.R. 11 is only a resolution.

MR. BIAGGI:

I understand.

STEVE K. WALKER (Douglas County):

Page 2, line 15 of S.C.R. 11 which urges a system to handle counties that require domestic-well dedication has been addressed by a Douglas County bill which you will see soon. This would reduce the State Engineer's workload which could save the State money.

DOUG BIERMAN (Humboldt River Basin Water Authority):

We support S.C.R. 11.

ANDY BELANGER (Southern Nevada Water Authority; Las Vegas Valley Water District):

We support S.C.R. 11 as well. The State Engineer in the Las Vegas Valley maintains an inventory of all water usage within the Valley. That has been helpful in understanding groundwater situations in southern Nevada.

TINA NAPPE (Sierra Club):

We support inventory of water use and availability in Nevada. We would appreciate increased funding for investing in objective water studies. In addition, there should be a similar effort on behalf of the State's wildlife needs for water and an inventory of state parks and wildlife management areas. I am concerned by the content on page 2, line 15 of S.C.R. 11. It is helpful to have entities that are managing water. Surely the Legislature can provide more funding for the Division of Water Resources.

VICE CHAIR MCGINNESS:

I will close the hearing on S.C.R. 11 and open the hearing on Senate Bill (S.B.) 330.

**SENATE BILL 330**: Changes the name of the Southern Nevada Women's Correctional Facility. (BDR S-1306)

SENATOR BOB COFFIN (Clark County Senatorial District No. 10):

When you look at S.B. 330, you will see that only the first page really counts and reads much like a resolution. Senate Bill 330 only changes the name of the Southern Nevada Women's Correctional Facility through statutory means. Florence McClure is one of the outstanding women of our generation. She is known throughout southern Nevada for her career as a volunteer for all causes associated with keeping people informed about the rights of women as well as the difficulties women have in the justice system. Florence McClure has been given credit for reforming the way the justice system works for women. With regard to the difficult circumstance of the exploitation of women with regard to rape, Florence McClure worked with judges and police in southern Nevada to present what it is really like to be raped. I have known Florence McClure for 30 years. She has worked hard over those years and will not stop. This is how she earned the nickname "Hurricane Florence." Although the efforts of the people who signed the petition provided to the Committee (Exhibit C, original is on file in the Research Library) are great, no one has done more than Florence McClure to help bring about the creation of the women's prison in southern Nevada. This will be the first time a prison in Nevada would be named after a person. I can think of no other person who deserves it more.

In 1983, I was acquainted with Florence McClure but did not realize she felt I deserved to be a member of the Nevada Legislature. She asked me to carry a bill for her to create a permanent source of funding for the Rape Crisis Center. I was not sure how I would survive introducing legislation without knowing how to do it. I subsequently introduced the bill, but the passage of the bill was due to Florence McClure. While I thought I was heroic in carrying a bill, I was only a name on a piece of paper. Florence McClure received credit for getting permanent funding of the Rape Crisis Center in Las Vegas. Now 25 years later, I am here having the privilege of honoring her.

SENATOR CARLTON:

I was going through the listings in S.B. 330 and noticed that nothing else is named after a person. It seems you will be breaking new ground by naming a state facility after a person. Do you have any thoughts on that?

SENATOR COFFIN:

Good movements must start somewhere.

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SENATOR CARLTON:

Will this create the situation created by special license plates where they change every session? Will buildings do the same?

SENATOR COFFIN:

There are names on dozens of state buildings, particularly in the university system. The act is not unprecedented. This is the first prison, but the name is needed to add humanity to the place.

HOWARD L. SKOLNIK (Director, Department of Corrections):

I was lobbied by Florence McClure many times. She has been a true force for good and because of this, I support S.B. 330.

BOBBY GANG:

I support S.B. 330. I met Florence McClure in Las Vegas and have observed her tireless efforts on behalf of women and families for many years. She has done much for women in prison, and I was thrilled to see the correctional center was to be named after her. It would be a great honor for you to pass S.B. 330.

STARR BUTTERFIELD:

I support S.B. 330. This is an honor Florence McClure did not request, but it is one that is deserved.

CAROLYNE DUNNE:

I am Florence McClure's daughter. My mother has worked hard for the people of Nevada and deserves this honor. I support S.B. 330.

FLORENCE MCCLURE:

I have lived in Las Vegas for over 45 years. Most of my time has been spent working with the Legislature. I appreciate everything people have said about me and passage of S.B. 330 would be an honor.

CHARLES HAWES:

I love Florence McClure, and she is one of my greatest friends.

EUGENE SPATTS:

I support all the comments that were previously made on behalf of Florence McClure and support S.B. 330 as well.

DENISE R. DEWART:

I support S.B. 330 because Florence McClure is a strong and persistent citizen. It is important for Nevada to recognize her. We should acknowledge and recognize all people who have served Nevada.

MARLENE ADRIAN:

I thank Senator Coffin for bringing S.B. 330 to the Committee. Florence McClure has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of women in Nevada. I support S.B. 330 and urge the Committee to pass it. Florence McClure tenaciously advocated for the advantages of having the prison in the Las Vegas area.

LOY HAYES:

I have never met a more dedicated person who has worked to provide quality programs, treatment and services for the population. Florence McClure has always pushed for programs for women in the Las Vegas community. It would be an honor for Nevada to have a woman of her stature lend her name to this facility. It would be a testament to what Nevada stands for in terms of women's corrections.

SENATOR COFFIN:

I want to thank everyone for appearing and testifying on behalf of S.B. 330.

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VICE CHAIR MCGINNESS:

If there is nothing else to come before the Committee, I adjourn the Senate Committee on Natural Resources at 4:38 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Brian Campolieti,  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Senator Mike McGinness, Vice Chair

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