

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND
MINING**

**Seventy-Sixth Session
February 8, 2011**

The Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining was called to order by Chair Maggie Carlton at 1:32 p.m. on Tuesday, February 8, 2011, in Room 3161 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. Copies of the minutes, including the Agenda ([Exhibit A](#)), the Attendance Roster ([Exhibit B](#)), and other substantive exhibits, are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and on the Nevada Legislature's website at www.leg.state.nv.us/76th2011/committees/. In addition, copies of the audio record may be purchased through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Publications Office (email: publications@lcb.state.nv.us; telephone: 775-684-6835).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton, Chair
Assemblyman Paul Aizley
Assemblyman Elliot T. Anderson
Assemblyman David P. Bobzien
Assemblywoman Irene Bustamante Adams
Assemblyman Harvey J. Munford
Assemblywoman Peggy Pierce
Assemblyman John Ellison
Assemblyman Ed A. Goedhart
Assemblyman Ira Hansen
Assemblyman Kelly Kite
Assemblyman Pete Livermore

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Assemblyman Joseph M. Hogan, Vice Chair (excused)

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Randy Stephenson, Committee Counsel
Amelie Welden, Committee Policy Analyst
Jasmine Shackley, Committee Services Manager
Mary Lee, Committee Manager
Judith Coolbaugh, Committee Secretary
Sherwood Howard, Committee Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:

None

Chair Carlton:

[Roll called.] Welcome to the Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining which is more commonly referred to as Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining (NATRAM). We will begin by introducing ourselves and stating our interests in serving on NATRAM. We will start the introductions with Ms. Pierce.

Assemblywoman Pierce:

I am from Las Vegas and this is my fifth Assembly term. This is my first time on NATRAM although I have testified before NATRAM in the past. I have been an environmentalist for many years, and before I became a legislator I worked on air quality and land issues in Clark County. I look forward to learning a lot while serving on NATRAM.

Assemblyman Munford:

This is my fourth Assembly term representing District 6, and I served on NATRAM last session. I am particularly interested in horse and land issues, and I am a strong advocate for horse protection. Although I am not a cowboy, some of you may be surprised to know that I own horses and ride for pleasure. My horses are all big and average 17 hands high. Most of you would need a ladder to get on them. I enjoy that aspect of my recreational life. I am happy to be here and to serve on NATRAM. I learned a great deal last session and I am looking forward to this session.

Assemblyman Aizley:

I represent District 41 in Clark County, and this is my second term in the Assembly, and my second time on NATRAM. I served on the Interim Committee during the off session. I enjoy getting to know more about the whole of Nevada beyond Las Vegas. I went on a tour of the Carlin Trend mine,

and found out that even though I was 1,700 feet underground I was not claustrophobic.

Assemblyman Anderson:

I am from District 15 which includes the area that is north of Tropicana Avenue and south of Sahara Avenue in Las Vegas. It is all an unincorporated area. This is my first session in the Assembly and I am happy to be here. Serving on NATRAM is a great opportunity for me to learn more about environmental issues that impact this state as a whole.

Assemblyman Bobzien:

This is my third term with the Assembly representing District 24 in Reno. Also, it is my third time to serve on NATRAM. I spend a lot of time outdoors when I have free time. I am a fly angler, chukar hunter, backpacker, and snowboarder. You name it; if it is outdoors, I do it. My wife grew up in Elko and is from a mining family, so I have knowledge of that industry and issues that involve it. This is a committee that I really enjoy serving on.

Assemblywoman Bustamante Adams:

I represent District 42 which is the Spring Valley area of Las Vegas, and this is my first term. I grew up in a small farming community, so I have a deep appreciation for all natural resources. My family is one of the largest cattle producers here and in Oklahoma which is where my husband comes from. I am proud to say he is a cowboy.

Assemblyman Ellison:

I represent District 33 which encompasses Elko and Humboldt County in northern Nevada. I was born and raised in a ranching family that also had connections to mining. I served eight years on the Elko City Council and ten years as an Elko County Commissioner. I also served a term as President of the Nevada Association of Counties. I became familiar with public land issues when I served as Vice Chair of the National Association of Counties. I am familiar with environmental issues, and I asked to serve on NATRAM.

Assemblyman Hansen:

I represent District 32 which includes Humboldt County, Winnemucca, and Battle Mountain mining areas. I have spent many years exploring the back country, and I am an avid outdoorsman. I actively participate in groups working on issues concerning wild horses. Mining is the major industry in my district so those issues will be very important to me. Also, I am a long-time friend and advocate for Nevada's agricultural industry. I am looking forward to serving on NATRAM.

Assemblyman Livermore:

I am a first term member from District 40 which includes most of Carson City. I am interested in preserving and creating open spaces under our Quality of Life Initiative to ensure residents have available outdoor opportunities to enjoy recreational activities. I am looking forward to serving on NATRAM.

Assemblyman Kite:

I grew up a farm boy and a cowboy, and I participated in a lot of rodeos when I was younger. I was a Douglas County Commissioner for 12 years, and currently I am representing District 39 including Douglas County, a ranching community. My district also includes Crystal Bay and Incline Village at Lake Tahoe. Therefore, I am interested in the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) services and issues. I have also been a hunter and a guide, and I am interested in the outdoors and preservation of our lands.

Assemblyman Goedhart:

This is my third term in the Assembly, and my first time to serve on NATRAM. My District 36 includes all or parts of Lincoln, Nye, Esmeralda, Mineral, and Churchill Counties which is a vast area covering about one-third of the state's total land size. I reside in Amargosa Valley which has a population of 900. Everything I have comes from harvesting the sun, soil, and water. I have about 18,000 head of cattle on rangeland, and we farm about 3,000 acres. We grow about 25,000 tons of alfalfa annually. We take what nature gave us and produce beef, milk, and compost. I am happy to be on NATRAM.

Chair Carlton:

Thank you all. This is truly a representation of a citizens' Legislature with the varied group of people sitting up here today. I served in the Nevada State Senate for 12 years, and was a member of the Senate Natural Resources Committee for a number of years. If I can do just half as good a job as Senator Rhoads and the late Senator Jacobsen did on the Senate Natural Resources Committee, I will consider myself a success this session on NATRAM. I urge all NATRAM members to be involved and engaged in the current issues that are important to them and their constituents. I know we will have a good time on NATRAM. If there is a particular issue that you would like to delve more deeply into, I have no qualms about taking a field trip. We can go out and really experience what is actually going on in Nevada.

I grew up a city girl in suburbia before we had backyard fences. We used to raid the neighbors' backyards for tomatoes and corn. I have a true appreciation for the outdoors. Although I represent an urban district in Las Vegas, I would like those families and their children to have the opportunity to experience the outdoors the way we did when we were younger. I adhere to the philosophy

that we should only take photographs and only leave footprints. That is what nature is all about.

Next, I would like to introduce NATRAM's staff members. My right hand person is Mary Lee who is my Committee Manager and Personal Attaché. In her former life, she was a social worker with the state. She returned to school and obtained a degree as a paralegal. This is her third session at the Legislature, and her first in the Assembly. Last session, she was a Committee Manager for Commerce and Labor on the Senate side. She gallantly came to the Assembly side with me for which I am forever grateful.

Our sole Committee Secretary is Judy Coolbaugh. She was born and raised in Canada. After graduating from San Jose State University, Judy taught high school and middle school in California and Nevada for 34 years. She began her current career—retirement—13 years ago. When she needs a holiday from retirement, she works here. Our Committee Assistant is Woody Howard, and this is his second session. In his former life, he was a truck driver.

I also have two other valuable Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) staff members who will be working with us. I will have them introduce themselves to you, and they will be available to you any time you need assistance or have any questions or concerns.

Amelie Welden, Committee Policy Analyst:

I am a Research Analyst with the Research Division of the LCB and also serve as NATRAM's Policy Analyst. I have a background in policy and research but working on NATRAM is new to me. I am looking forward to working on it.

Randy Stephenson, Committee Counsel:

I am a Principal Deputy Legal Counsel for the LCB, and I am serving as your Committee Counsel. I was originally assigned to the Public Lands Committee in 1993 which familiarized me with rural issues. This will be my third session as Committee Counsel.

Chair Carlton:

With those introductions, you have met the team. We are going to establish the Standing Rules ([Exhibit C](#)) for NATRAM. They are identical to what you saw yesterday in Assembly Resolution 1. If there are any questions or comments that you may have on them, I would be happy to take those. There are new electronic procedures for the submission of amendments and exhibits this session. We realize this is going to be a transition period for folks, and many people do not have access to the equipment necessary to make their submissions electronically to NATRAM. Therefore, we will work with people to

help make the transition into this new electronic world as easy as possible. Not being technically astute, I know how difficult this is going to be for the everyday citizen. We will expect the professional people in this building to assist citizens in their efforts to frame their amendments and submit exhibits.

If NATRAM members have any questions or items they need work on, the staff is at your disposal. You do not have to come through the Chair to access them. However, keep in mind we only have so much time to get through the business that needs to be done. Are there any questions on NATRAM rules? [There were none.]

The Committee has a bill draft request (BDR) ([Exhibit D](#)) that we need to introduce.

BDR R-214—Urges proactive protection and restoration of the population and habitat of the greater sage grouse in Nevada. (Later introduced as [Assembly Concurrent Resolution 3](#).)

Introducing a BDR and voting on it does not mean that you are supporting the measure. It simply means you want the bill to be introduced, and we will do no work on the bill today. We will consider it when we have it in bill form. If the Committee is ready, I will accept a motion on the BDR.

ASSEMBLYMAN BOBZIEN MOVED TO INTRODUCE BDR R-214.

ASSEMBLYMAN ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (ASSEMBLYMAN HOGAN WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

Next, we have a presentation from our Committee Policy Analyst, Amelie Welden. You will find the *Committee Policy Brief Assembly Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining* ([Exhibit E](#)) in your binders. If you want to take the binders with you that is fine. They do not have to be left here. They are yours to use, and you may organize them in whatever way you choose.

Amelie Welden:

Page 1 of your committee brief is an introduction to some of the work that has been done in the past. It provides you with background information and summarizes selected issues pertaining to NATRAM.

On page 2, there is a listing of selected measures considered by NATRAM in the previous session. The jurisdiction of NATRAM is not set in stone. Some of the bills heard last session covered forestry, agriculture, mining, air and water pollution, livestock, flood control, state parks, and wildlife. We expect similar bills this year. There is also a table showing the bill statistics from last session. The Committee considered a total of 34 measures—21 from the Assembly and 13 from the Senate. Twenty-five were voted out by the full Assembly.

The next section gives an overview and a sampling of several bills that were heard and passed out of NATRAM last session. The bill examples are not of particular importance. I chose them to show the kinds of topics NATRAM heard last session. If you would like a full listing of all the bills that were heard by NATRAM last session, it is available from the LCB's Publications Office. It is called the *Summary of Legislation*, and I would be happy to obtain one for you.

The next section on page 4 shows a list of topics that may be heard by NATRAM in the current session. I based the list on the BDRs that are currently on file, and on page 9 I have itemized them for you. These are all the BDRs I saw that could possibly be brought before you this session. That does not mean they all will be heard by us, and there may be some that are not on this list that will come to us. The list changes daily, and you will notice that I have already changed Bill Draft Request 22-99. Last Sunday, this BDR became Senate Bill 85, and it will now be heard by the Senate Government Affairs Committee instead of the Senate Natural Resources Committee. This example gives you an idea of the daily changes.

Section 6 is a reminder of session deadlines. The most important date for NATRAM is April 15, 2011. It is the deadline for all bills to be passed out of the Assembly committees.

Finally, the next section is a list of some of the publications that the LCB has available for reference. The first paragraph lists the reports that will actually be made to the full Legislature by different state departments, agencies, and divisions. Once these reports are presented, they will be available online, and some of them involve natural resources issues. If you wish to be alerted to the date they will be heard, let me know. Otherwise, you can access them online.

Page 6 is a list of publications called policy and program reports. They provide a general overview of the history of different issues and a summary of recent actions on these topics. At the Chair's request, three of those reports have been included in your binder. They are: *General Environmental Issues and Matters Concerning Lake Tahoe* ([Exhibit F](#)), *Public Lands and General Natural*

Resource Issues ([Exhibit G](#)), and *Water Resources* ([Exhibit H](#)). On this page, there is also a list of reports that came from the interim committees which are also available from the LCB. The *Summary of Legislation 2009* is another LCB publication that briefly reviews each measure enacted during the last session and the special sessions of 2008.

Appendix B is a list of key contacts. This list includes state and federal agencies involved in natural resource matters and some of the organizations that typically provide testimony on such matters.

The Research Division is available to meet all of your research needs. Hopefully, you can submit requests to me or to our general research email address. All of our services are confidential. Are there any questions? [There were none.]

Chair Carlton:

Appendix B will be an excellent resource for those of you who are new to NATRAM. As you do your research and your homework, you will find these contacts very useful. Are there any questions?

Assemblyman Ellison:

Before this BDR resolution comes back to us, we need to track its progress because we have a lot of problems with it.

Chair Carlton:

Mr. Stephenson, would you like to introduce yourself and go over what services you provide NATRAM members?

Randy Stephenson:

I am available to you for any help you need on bills, and I can answer any questions you might have about what can and cannot be done with the bill's language and/or content. I am here until about 9:00 p.m. daily and always available. I have a rural agricultural background myself and have had my cowboy boots on. I believe I can bring you a unique perspective to help you with any legal problems.

Chair Carlton:

No one signed in to speak today before the Committee. Is there any public comment? [There was none.]

This meeting is adjourned [at 2:01 p.m.].

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Judith Coolbaugh
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBITS

Committee Name: Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture,
and Mining

Date: February 8, 2011

Time of Meeting: 1:32 p.m.

Bill	Exhibit	Witness / Agency	Description
	A		Agenda
	B		Attendance Roster
	C	Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton	Committee Standing Rules
	D	Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton	BDR R-214
	E	Amelie Welden	Committee Policy Brief Assembly Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining
	F	Amelie Welden	General Environmental Issues and Matters Concerning Lake Tahoe
	G	Amelie Welden	Public Lands and General Natural Resource Issues
	H	Amelie Welden	Water Resources