

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

**Seventy-Ninth Session
May 30, 2017**

The Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining was called to order by Chair Heidi Swank at 1:49 p.m. on Tuesday, May 30, 2017, in Room 3138 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/App/NELIS/REL/79th2017.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblywoman Heidi Swank, Chair
Assemblywoman Lesley E. Cohen, Vice Chair
Assemblyman Chris Brooks
Assemblyman John Ellison
Assemblywoman Sandra Jauregui
Assemblywoman Lisa Krasner
Assemblywoman Robin L. Titus
Assemblyman Justin Watkins
Assemblyman Jim Wheeler
Assemblyman Steve Yeager

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton (excused)

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Susan E. Scholley, Committee Policy Analyst
Randy Stephenson, Committee Counsel
Nancy Davis, Committee Secretary
Cheryl Williams, Committee Assistant



OTHERS PRESENT:

Susan Joseph-Taylor, Deputy Administrator, State Engineer's Office, Division of Water Resources, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Steve K. Walker, representing Truckee Meadows Water Authority; Douglas County; Carson City; and Lyon County
Andrew M. Belanger, Director of Public Services, Southern Nevada Water Authority

Chair Swank:

[Roll was called and standard rules of the Committee were reviewed.] We will hear Senate Bill 74 (2nd Reprint).

Senate Bill 74 (2nd Reprint): Revises provisions relating to water. (BDR 48-178)

Susan Joseph-Taylor, Deputy Administrator, State Engineer's Office, Division of Water Resources, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources:

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce Senate Bill 74 (2nd Reprint). The main driver for S.B. 74 (R2), as originally introduced for recommendation, was developed by the Governor's Drought Forum. Due to subsequent legislative budget decisions, the sections dealing with the hiring of a drought resiliency and water conservation section chief and the formation of a water advisory committee on water conservation and drought resiliency were deleted.

Section 1, which dealt with rain barrels and wildlife guzzlers, is also in Assemblywoman Carlton's bill, Assembly Bill 138; therefore it was deleted. Additionally, there were two other sections deleted from this bill, as similar language is found in Assemblyman Oscarson's Assembly Bill 209, which was subsequently passed.

What remains from the original bill are sections 12, 13, and 14. Section 12 extends the time period from 30 days to 120 days to allow our office additional time to review water conservation plans. Section 13 adds four requirements to be addressed in water conservation plans. Section 14 removes a nonvoting member from the Water Planning Commission, as the law provides for an appointment by the State Engineer already.

Assemblywoman Titus:

Folks in this state who are on individual wells are incredibly anxious about the state taking over and metering individual wells. I need clarification under section 13, subsection 1, paragraph (f) that states, "A plan for how the supplier of water will progress towards the installation of meters on all connections." That would be meters on all connections within this plan, not on individual wells. Will you clarify that for me?

Susan Joseph-Taylor:

These are for plans for municipal water systems. This has nothing to do with domestic wells. I appreciate your asking to clarify that.

Assemblyman Ellison:

How much of the monitoring, management, and mitigation plan is in this bill?

Susan Joseph-Taylor:

Nothing.

Assemblywoman Cohen:

Section 13, subsection 1, paragraph (i), dealing with the water restrictions, does this change with the time of year?

Susan Joseph-Taylor:

That depends on what the municipal providers are looking at. They may put that in their plans.

Assemblyman Wheeler:

I am sorry I was late, but does section 13, subsection 1, paragraph (f), apply to domestic wells?

Susan Joseph-Taylor:

This does not put meters on domestic wells.

Assemblyman Ellison:

Section 13, subsection 1, paragraph (a), subparagraph (2) says, "Encourage reduction in the size of lawns and encourage the use of plants that are adapted to arid and semiarid climates." Will you explain that?

Susan Joseph-Taylor:

That is current language in the law now. The Legislature has decided that is a wise thing for providers to consider in their plans.

Chair Swank:

Is there anyone here in support?

Steve K. Walker, representing Truckee Meadows Water Authority; Douglas County; Carson City; and Lyon County:

We are in support of S.B. 74 (R2), specifically the section that removes the gallons of water per person per day and instead uses water saved annually in acre-feet. Utilities have struggled with that and basically, a gallon of water per capita per day is hard in apples-to-apples comparisons. You cannot compare a rural county that has groundwater pumping for agriculture production versus an urban county where that does not exist. This is the second attempt to get this amendment through; we would like to move that to acre-feet annually. We think that is a much better and more significant way to measure conservation efforts.

Andrew M. Belanger, Director of Public Services, Southern Nevada Water Authority:

We, too, are here in support of Senate Bill 74 (R2) and the provisions outlined in sections 12, 13, and 14.

Chair Swank:

Is there anyone else in support? [There was no one.] Is there anyone in opposition? [There was no one.] Is there anyone wishing to testify in neutral? Seeing none, I will close the hearing on S.B. 74 (R2). I will entertain a motion to do pass.

ASSEMBLYMAN WHEELER MADE A MOTION TO DO PASS
SENATE BILL 74 (2ND REPRINT).

ASSEMBLYMAN WATKINS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED. (ASSEMBLYMAN ELLISON VOTED NO.
ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

I will assign the floor statement to Assemblyman Watkins. Is there anyone here for public comment? [There was no one.] This meeting is adjourned [at 1:57 p.m.]

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Nancy Davis
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Assemblywoman Heidi Swank, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBITS

[Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda.

[Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster.