

## Assembly

55TH NEVADA ASSEMBLY - Committee on Agriculture  
Chairman Virgil Getto

March 11, 1969

HEARING Re A.B. 617 - which places all conservation of renewable natural resources under resource conservation districts.

Members Present: Getto, Dini, Close, R. Young, Brookman.

Absent: Howard and Hafen.

Chairman Getto called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and introduced the following interested soil conservationists from the rural districts around the state:

George Zappettini, Secretary, State Soil Cons. Comm.; Jerome J. Niolof, Soil Cons. Service, Elko; Cliff Gardner, Ruby Valley, Nevada; Grant Anderson, Chairman, State Soil Cons. Comm., Fernley, Nevada; Lester Stodik, C.V.S.C.S., Gardnerville, Nev.; Norman Cliff, W.V.S.C.D., Washoe Valley, Nev.; Jim Lathrop, W.V.S.C.D., Washoe Valley, Nev.; Jim Kielhack, NASED, Round Mountain, Nevada; Emergy Conaway, Soil Conservation Committee, Caliente, Nev.; Chas. W. Clary, Soil Conservation Service, Reno, Nevada.

A.B. 420 - Mr. Dini said the amendments grandfather 3 seed control districts operating in the state now. He said they want to apply new law to the old until they have time to change it.

Dini moved DO PASS A.B. 420. Seconded by Young. Unanimously carried.

### A.B. 617 -

Grant Anderson, Chairman State Soil Conservation Commission, said the purpose of A.B. 617 was to update and make it fit the modern needs of a soil conservation district. He said, for example, at the last meeting, over a 2-day period, they had heard from just about all of 4 groups of people regarding small water shed districts. He said they were vigorous groups from these areas, which included White Pine, Eureka, Winnemucca, and the Galena area of Washoe County. He said "we are concerned with far more than maintaining soil conservation districts. It is a matter of trying to figure out ways for agricultural people to make legislation whereby those choosing to live in the rural areas of Nevada can make a living. We feel if these particular communities have the leadership, they should be equipped to do whatever they are trying to do. We want to revise our law and hope to clarify what people are thinking. We had another meeting yesterday. Things never come out like you imagine they will. The Nevada State Association of Soil Conservation Districts had their Spring Meeting. We heard comments from various people around the State of things they did and what they didn't like about A.B. 617."

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Cliff Gardner, Rancher from Ruby Valley Nevada said the way he sees this bill and what it will do for everybody, in the last few years there has been increasing interest in developing the natural resources in all areas. "I refer particularly to our area in Elko County. This new bill will give all districts a chance to culminate interests in developing natural resources and do a better job of it. In our area, we like to go to the Bureau of Land Management and solicit services and tell them of any sports groups or conservationists that want to start things in our area. We like them to first come to us and let us in turn go to the B.L.M. and solicit service. If we can't come up with answers for these people, then we are lacking in our duty."

Emery Conway, Soil Conservation Committee, Caliente, Nevada said Public Law No. 566 is getting to be a big pressure on us. The State Committee has the responsibility of establishing a priority for small programs such as water sheds.

George Zappettini, Secretary, State Soil Cons. Commission said that the potential for Nevada, if we are to take advantage of this small water shed program, there are two dozen requested projects which would amount to \$19,000,000 right here in Nevada.

Jim Kielhack, Round Mountain, Nevada said we talk about changing the name from Soil Conservation to Resources Development. So many people think that a soil conservation service is the same thing. One is state and the other is federal. We talk about what we can do and what has to be done. We simply have to have the authority to cooperate with federal agencies to provide maintenance. We are involved in maintenance work that crosses county lines. This is 4 soil districts that have banded together to work to get on a regional basis to apportion the economic situation of all the areas. We have areas where we find ranchers augmenting their incomes by going into summer camps for boys and summer camps for girls. We recently completed a film entitled "discover Central Nevada".

One of the problems that we have had, of course, we now recognize very strongly that there should be reapportionment on these boards from our towns and counties, and this new law provides for 4 people who would be family occupiers and 2 other representatives to represent urban and rural areas. One of the provisions is to provide authority for the districts to borrow money. We are talking about giving us authority to operate and maintain structures like public law 566, small water sheds, which we presently do not have the authority to do. Two key things is changing the name to more honestly reflect what we are trying to do, and increase governing boards to reflect more urban representation is on it so we apportion this thing from everybody's viewpoint. He referred to a letter he has written pointing out specific changes. It is from the Nevada Association of Soil Conservation Districts, Round Mountain, Nevada, to Assemblyman Virgil Getto, Chairman

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Committee on Agriculture, dated March 11, 1969, signed by James Kielhack, President. It is attached to these minutes as Exhibit "A".

Mr. Close asked if this film was going to be available for the Committee to see. Mr. Kielhack replied that it would. Chairman Getto said he would schedule a time with Mr. Kielhack for the committee to view the film.

Mr. Close asked: "How do you plan to finance all these activities?"

Mr. Kielhack replied, "Basically, the districts have no paid employees. It is strictly a volunteer type situation. The type of thing we are talking about doing is in the form of grants from the Department of Agriculture. We don't need money, we just need authority to use the existing grants."

Mrs. Brookman asked how many would constitute a voting board. Mr. Zeppetini replied, "7 active members on the commission plus 4 advisors."

Dini said you are deleting 4 and adding 6.

Cliff Gardner said the rural people feel that their communities are dominated by city people. "They have practically lost all interest in soil conservation now. We will first have to start gaining the cooperation of the country people. If we don't start sitting down and working out our programs together ---"

Mr. Close: "If I own a drug store, then, in a city, I am prohibited by this bill from being a member of the board?"

Gardner: "No. There is one member on the city level."

Dini: "But none on the state level?"

Kielhack: "We have the two organizations mixed up again. The state commission, as referred to in the bill, is Grant Anderson, which is a division of the department of natural resources. Then there is the soil conservation committee. It would be Grant rather than the 2 district people that would answer that question. When we talk about local district supervisors, we want the ratio of 4 local people to 2 city people on these boards."

Zeppetini: "I see no reason why the State Committee can't have city people on it. He referred to Page 4, Line 31, starting with Line 26, Sec. 12, Sub. Par. 2, "The governor shall appoint the seven active members on the commission from a list of 10 names of persons which may be submitted to him by the successor to the Nevada Association of Soil Conservation Districts, if it is organized, not more than one of which persons shall reside in any one county or district."

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Kielhack said that means they do not have to be agriculturally oriented people.

Gardner said he thought they had a good balance - 4 from the country and 2 from the city and county.

Brookman re Sec. 76, Lines 4 through 7, "The governing body of each incorporated city or town which is located wholly or partially within the exterior boundaries of a district, as determined by the commission, may appoint a representative of the governing body of the city or town to serve as a member of the board of supervisors of the district."

"We are setting up a whole commission. If you don't spell it out now, you just have to come back and change it again".

Close: "Lines 21, Page 18, why do you want to delete? You will have a difficult time to determine who a qualified voter is."

Mr. Grant Anderson said they recognized that was wrong in their meeting yesterday.

Dini: "Some lawyer told us yesterday that it would be assumed to mean "Nevada Election".

Young: "Could it be changed to 'qualified district within a county'?"

Dini: "He would have to live in the County, or he would not be a qualified voter."

Close: "Do you have districts beyond the state?"

Anderson: "We have land owners out of the state".

Close: "If I owned the land and lived in California, I would not be a qualified voter".

Brookman: "It would be occupier or owner."

Getto: "I do suggest that we change that Line 27 to add "or owner" after "occupier".

Charles W. Clary, Soil Conservation Service, Reno, Nevada, Said he simply would like to say his organization is here to provide assistance.

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Close: What is the section where you have organized the district? Last page, Sec. 7.

Young: Page 21, Sec. 7. It appears that you are asking for 1/10th of 1% of all assessed valuation. I am just concerned with the fact that it might take in 100 percent of the people.

Kielhack: "It says it would be up to the county commissioners and is not mandatory. It just limits what a county could do. We in Central Nevada have been getting \$5,000 from the county".

Young: "You are not under any assessment now?"

Kielhack: "No, and not looking for any assessment".

Brookman: "Go back to Page 19, Line 48. What is the purpose and intent of having this action without a hearing. If they get 50% of the qualified voters, what is the purpose of that? That goes against all".

Kielhack: "I will speak for the Association. We would have no objection to your insisting on having a hearing. There should be a hearing. Basically, what we are trying to do is be the fellows in the white hats- the 'do gooders'. We are just asking for authority to try and do things ourselves."

Grant Anderson said he agreed with Mrs. Brookman. "We are not bill drafters, and some of these things do need changing."

Kielhack: "It states in here that a Board of County Commissioners of any such County may furnish such funds. They don't have to, but they can if they want to". Nye, Esmerelda and Eureka Counties are. It is coming out of the general fund."

Young: "This one here gives them the right to assess".

Dini: "I think what they wanted is an amount of money equivalent to. They just wanted the right to assess 1/10th of 1% if the Commissioners wanted to give them up to that level. I think the wording needs changing here".

Kielhack: "The only time we would ever ask for money from a county is for a project such as 566, for example, small water sheds, which contains flood protection. The Government only pays a portion of it. If you have this portion of the bill, we can fund the other portion of the money from the counties, if they want to become involved in it."

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Young, Sec. 7, Sub. Sec. 2, Are you going to mortgage all your property to buy equipment?"

Dini: "It is too broad. You've got to have restrictions. You are telling the county commissioners you want 1/10th of 1%."

Close: "The bill is absolutely unworkable the way you have it. What if you were an occupier and there is an owner. Do you both have a vote? What if you are an occupier and hire many hands who occupy the land also. Do they have a vote? What if I am an owner who lives in California. Do I have a vote? Does my wife get a vote? Do my children who are occupiers and qualified voters get a vote?"

Kielhack: "We think all who occupy the land are entitled to a vote".

(Assemblyman Lawrence Jacobsen came into the hearing room to listen and observe).

Kielhack: "As long as he or she is a registered voter. It has been going that way. Whether he is the occupier or the owner."

Getto: "You are saying you vote as people, not owners?"

Close: "The way it reads now, it has to be an occupier or owner".

Brookman: "Why would you want to restrict anybody from voting in the area? You vote as a property owner or non-property owner. The only time you have to restrict a vote is when you are voting on bonds."

Young: "The people in Elko are very concerned. They don't want too many people from outside having a vote".

Brookman: "Then it is a property owners vote. In Nevada you are either a property owner or a non-property owner".

Close: "If you are going to have people who just work on the land but not registered voters. You would pick up people."

Young: "How many people does it take to pass a bond issue?"

Brookman: "Fifty percent. (To Young) What would you do in your area? Call them registered property owners?"



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Cliff Gardner: "Any supervisor has to be in the agricultural business. Everyone in the area should vote, but the supervisors should be in the agricultural business".

Kielhack: "I think it is important in a rural area that everyone has a vote. These districts are going to cease to operate unless we start being effective".

Gardner: "In almost every district, there are recreationists or commuters from the city; being land owners, they should be eligible to vote. They have an interest in any new development, in the line of natural resources, but they have an interest in the tax structure. I think defining it as land owner, they should be able to vote for the supervisor."

Young: "Page 18, Sections 66 and 67, Are you the soil conservationist, Chuck? (To Charles W. Clary)."

Clary: "I would be a member of the Advisory Commission".

George Zappetini said that would be him.

Grant Anderson: Said it specifies four shall be farm land owners.

Close: "Perhaps we want to leave it to the discretion of the Governor?"

Young: What is the reason for Sec. 75? " (Sub Par 3, "Make any determination pursuant to such petition, in accordance with the provisions of this chapter more often than once in 5 years. "

Kielhack: "I would like to have that defined. Would there be any objection from any one?"

Getto: "I would like to appoint a committee, and have those members talk with a group of the proponents to come up with amendments that are workable."

It was the consensus of opinion of the committee that Assemblymen Close, Dini and Getto be appointed to work with the Soil Conservation members on amendments.

Re: Meat Inspection Law: It was the consensus of opinion of the committee to have Commissioner Hunter and Dr. Walter Christiansen come over and see if they could come up with a bill. They said they would ratify the original bill (State Meat Inspection bill).

Chairman Getto said that from Dr. Amsiejus' testimony, that would be showing good faith - to go back to the 1967

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State Act, putting in a \$50,000 appropriation. He said the committee should get out the old Meat Act and take a look at it.

He said they should take inspection out of the hands of industry and put it in the hands of the State.

"Dr. Amsiejus says that the money has been appropriated all along. The States that have complied must be working."

Close: "I was really surprised. He wasn't as bad as we expected."

Getto: "The Advisory Board of 18 members throughout the U.S. has been able to sit down with the Federal Government."

Young: "You are going to amend out of the bill about the appropriation? (Speaking of proposed Resolution A.J.R. 33). If you are going to ratify the bill, you don't need the Resolution."

Getto asked the Committee if, after he has set up a meeting with Hunter and Christiansen, if any one of them would want to go down and get a bill drafted that they feel will show good faith? The Governor says he will put the money back into the budget."

Chairman Getto appointed Assemblyman Dini to oversee the amending of the Resolution. He said, "If we can get the amendments out, we can get a DO PASS out of committee. You and I can sit down with Hunter and Christiansen tomorrow and see if we can come up with a meat inspection bill."

The meeting was adjourned.



## 55th NEVADA ASSEMBLY - Committee on Agriculture

## RECORD OF BILL HANDLING

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<u>Bill No.</u>	<u>Summary</u>	<u>Date and Committee Action</u>
A.B. 420	Amends Weed Control District Law.	3/11/69 DO PASS as amended.
A.B. 617	Places all conservation of renewable natural resources under resource conservation districts.	3/11/69 HOLD FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION