



## Summary of Minutes of the Nevada Drought Forum

Meeting of September 28, 2015, 8:30 AM

Nevada Legislative Building, Room 4100  
401 South Carson Street  
Carson City, NV

Video Conference:

Grant Sawyer State Office Building, Room 4401  
555 East Washington Avenue  
Las Vegas, NV

### Members Present:

Leo Drozdoff, P.E., Chair

John Entsminger, Vice Chair

Dr. Doug Boyle

Dr. Justin Huntington

Jason King, P.E.

Dr. Mark Walker

Jim Barbee

Caleb S. Cage

### Forum Staff Present:

Micheline Fairbank, Senior Deputy Attorney General

Andrea Sanchez-Turner, Administrative Support

### **BEGIN SUMMARY MINUTES**

#### **1) Call to order and Roll Call**

Chair Drozdoff called the meeting to order at 8:42 a.m. Andrea Sanchez-Turner conducted the roll call.

Chair Drozdoff reviewed the meeting process and the goals of the meeting.

#### **2) Public Comments: (Discussion)**

*Carson City Public Comment:*

Jonas Sipaila, Evaporative Control Systems (ECS), provided background on his company. He spoke about Truckee Meadows receiving 10,000 acre feet of distilled water (over three billion gallons), however because of outdated regulations, policies, etc., the water became contaminated and was dumped in the Truckee River where it went to Pyramid Lake perhaps creating a rise of a  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in the lake and

ultimately the water evaporated. The reality of water management is the constancy of the plan. The dependence on snowpack is unreliable. He spoke about Community Water Harvesting, capturing rainwater and the legality of this process. There are technologies available to capture, filter and store captured rainwater for reuse.

Tina Nappe, spoke about population growth in Nevada. As a state, Nevada has allocated and over-allocated the “easy” water and is now focused on transferring existing uses to serve an anticipated population increase. This can be done partly by purchasing ranches and by raising the costs on domestic water users. More wells can be built and existing wells can be deepened. She spoke about the Washoe Valley and how it has changed because of the drought and low snowfall. Agricultural lands are the receivers of critical surface water and many groundwater rights. Many wildlife species are now dependent on agricultural waters and lands. Purchases for agricultural water rights to serve urban homes will continue and further erode wildlife values. She asked Forum members to include nature in future plans as they move forward.

David Barrett, Dedicated to You, spoke about a project that his organization is bringing to Nevada. It concerns indoor agriculture. This type of business is growing rapidly. This industry offers solutions when it comes to technology. There is technology currently being used in greenhouses that will reduce water consumption by 80 percent. He spoke about the ability to store and capture rainwater, which is currently illegal in Nevada. This law needs to be changed. If they could capture rainwater, they would not need to pump from reservoirs or underneath the ground-table. Mr. Barrett’s system is a closed looped system and does not contaminate the groundwater. Once they get water into the system, they are constantly using it and recirculating it. This is what they would like to see and encourage in the State of Nevada. Zoning laws need to be reevaluated for this to be successful.

*Las Vegas Public Comment:*

Mike Baughman, Humboldt River Basin Water Authority, spoke about accomplishing some short-term drought recovery in the Humboldt River Basin. In the lower part of the Basin there have been no deliveries of water to senior rights holders or surface rights holders for the past two years and they are looking at the possibility of an El Nino event this winter. If this does happen and there are flood flows the water typically moves through the system quickly to avoid damage from flooding and ends up out in the Humboldt sink and evaporates. Mr. Baughman’s recommendation to the Forum is to come up with a short-term operating plan for the river that would allow diverted flows outside the normal irrigation season. Rye Patch Reservoir would be filled quickly early in the season to provide storage. There would be diversions of water off the river and water spreading out into the irrigated lands. Perhaps this should start with senior rights holders to allow the soil moisture to be increased, because if it has not been irrigated for two years, it will take extra water to flush out the salts that have accumulated in the soils. This would help with drought recovery and would be a short-term operating plan for the river that would allow them to do some things that they may not be able to do under the Decree as it is specifically laid out.

Member King asked Mr. Baughman if he would petition the Decree Court to move forward with this plan. Institutionally and legally, Mr. Baughman noted, he is not sure how to proceed, however, there is no doubt they could figure it out and move forward.

A full account of public comments were captured in the audio recording, available on the Forum’s website ([www.drought.nv.gov](http://www.drought.nv.gov)).

### **3) Review and Consideration of Approval of Agenda (Action Item)**

Member Barbee moved to approve the agenda; second by Member Huntington; motion passed unanimously. \*ACTION

### **4) Review and Consideration of Approval of Minutes (Action Item)**

Member Barbee moved to approve the minutes from the August 19, Drought Forum meeting; seconded by Member Walker; motion passed unanimously. \*ACTION

### **5) Presentation on Potential Federal Legislation (Discussion)**

Samuel Crampton, Senator Dean Heller's Office, spoke about working with local stakeholders to find potential solutions via federal legislation for some of the problems faced by Nevada, including drought. There are two of pieces of competing legislation relative to drought in the United States Congress. The House passed the Western Water and American Food Safety Act. On the Senate side, the California Delegation, Senator Dianne Feinstein and Senator Barbara Boxer, has a piece of legislation focused on California. Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska is offering a hearing on this piece of legislation as long as the California Delegation is willing to take amendments for other states. Senator Heller's Office is reaching out to stakeholders to garner possible solutions to ensure Nevada has an opportunity to be a part of this legislation. Mr. Crampton spoke about funding and the possible bureaucratic red tape that may be an obstacle to receiving money. The Senator's Office would like to know about these obstacles and perhaps they can expedite a process to assist with this issue. Senator Murkowski would like to have the legislation done in October. Senator Heller's deadline for receiving comments and suggestions for this legislation is no later than the second week in October.

Member Walker asked if the Senator's Office had received any ideas so far. Mr. Crampton noted they have received some responses as a result of an email that was distributed via a listserve.

Chair Drozdoff noted that as the Drought Forum works through their process for recommendations to the Governor, there may be some ideas put forward that could be included in this federal legislation.

Mr. Crampton noted they are also working with federal agencies to come up with ideas.

Member King asked if any of the suggestions received so far have included the idea of storage and getting some funds earmarked for storage in Nevada. Mr. Crampton acknowledged it is difficult to get funding. There have been a number of potential solutions suggested, including water banks and getting water into more controlled storage. Nevada has capacity. It is just not being filled right now. There have been recommendations that there is a need to increase funding through USDA and NRCS programs for updating water delivery systems, however, this is a slow process.

A full account of the discussion is captured in the audio recording, available on the Nevada Drought Forum's website ([www.drought.nv.gov](http://www.drought.nv.gov)).

### **6) Forum Members Discuss Information Generated at July and August Drought Forum Meetings (Discussion and Possible Action)**

Chair Drozdoff described the process for listing recommendations on flipcharts for possible inclusion in the final report to the Governor.

Member King proposed Water Law be listed. He noted he supports prior appropriations and believes Nevada Water Law is solid, however, he does believe there needs to be some modernization done with it. He proposed adding “Water Law Issues” to the flipcharts. There was discussion about this. Member Barbee suggested listing items as they come up and then the Forum can come back to them to address them more in depth.

Member King proposed the following items be added under Water Law Issues: “Use It, or Lose It,” exploring the idea of capturing rainwater, critical management areas (CMAs)/Groundwater Management Plans (GMAs), and the surface-water/groundwater relationship.

Member Huntington noted the idea of having the ability to spread water when you have it should be explored more. This will involve federal decrees. Chair Drozdoff advised in reference to this item, “Decrees” should go under the heading “Other”.

Member King noted storage is another topic that needs to be addressed. Chair Drozdoff stated this should also be listed under “Other.”

Vice-Chair Entsminger suggested the Forum come up with categories, suggesting sub-categories for Water Law Issues. There was discussion the name of categories and what should be listed under each. The categories included: Over-appropriated Basins, Other Water Law (3 M Plans, idea of defining terms (will help with the effort of flexibility), CMAs and Use It, or Lose It (should also be listed under Over Appropriated Basins), Drought Response and Other Authorities to Respond to Drought.

Member Cage noted the Nevada Division of Emergency Management (NDEM) is a coordinating agency not a response agency. The NDEM commonly helps jurisdictions throughout the state through a grants process that they administer from FEMA or the Department of Homeland Security to conduct studies, training, and other research. He suggested having the NDEM identify grant opportunities for resiliency plans for drought and water and have NDEM engage with the Department of Homeland Security to conduct some critical infrastructure analysis as it relates to water throughout the state to see what Nevada’s threat assessment is for manmade or natural disasters, identifying Nevada’s preparedness level and ability to respond to the threat.

There was discussion about the issues being brought up, including the idea of flexibility which is supported by some, but feared by others, and how to organize them.

Water Law is not limited to state law, but could include federal law, funding programs, etc. Member Walker proposed adding “Education” concerning helping others understand the Nevada Water Law and informing others of what is available for relieve during times of need.

Member Barbee noted there are federal programs, grants and subset programs available for funding. Department of Agriculture has seen a tremendous amount of use of them. The difference in sizes of operations on the capital investment and the pay off in capital investment affects the ability to bring in technology. There are agriculture investments on the state side through general fund that could help some of the smaller producers be more effective in efficiencies. Member Walker stated there are federal programs available, however, one of the limitations in getting the programs to the people who need them is income.

Chair Drozdoff noted there were a few points brought up during the discussion that should be discussed further: technology transfers, education to make information known, what can be done to compete better in existing programs, and there is money that can be spent to increase efficiency for smaller farms. “Federal Programs” became a category for the flipcharts with areas for enhancement and ability to

compete better with the existing programs listed underneath. Member Barbee noted it would “Education and Outreach” to better inform those producers that exist of the programs that currently exist. He also stated that the creation of a state granting system that could be utilized to enhance operations and bring efficiency in needs to be discussed.

Chair Drozdoff brought up the topics of “Homeowners’ Associations” (HOAs), “Water Reuse,” and “Wastewater Effluent.” Member Walker noted the topic of Homeowners’ Associations should be broader and perhaps called “Urban Residential Water Use.”

Member Boyle suggested the topics “Defining Drought,” “Drought Monitor,” and “Predicting Drought.” Defining Drought should include: identifying and communicating drought. The Drought Monitor is an operational product and a good way to state the current conditions of a drought. Although it has challenges, it is the best tool available and is being linked to policy and it is important to make sure it as accurate as possible. Under Drought Monitor the topics are: is it being used correctly, are we spending as much time as we need given its importance, what does the drought monitor represent in terms of drought conditions (subcategories: vegetative versus hydrologic drought, policy implications, drought declarations, grazing restrictions, opportunity to develop other tools in addition to the drought monitor that federal agencies can use).

Member Huntington noted the importance to identify how a drought is declared in Nevada. It is based upon the USDA, which is based upon Drought Monitor conditions and time. There was discussion on these topics and why they should be included. Member Huntington stated the tools have been developed, however, we need to educate people on them. Member Barbee suggested the recommendation that the current drought monitoring system be expanded to also include, at a minimum, multiple indicators of drought (e.g. vegetation and hydrologic). Member Walker proposed adding a topic about trying to make the best use of on-the-ground observations by people who are qualified to assess vegetation condition. Member Boyle noted this should include the individual farmers and ranchers as well. Chair Drozdoff noted this topic may be critically important. Member Boyle stated there is a need to better communicate and educate stakeholders and decision makers on some basic weather and climate issues. Also, there is an idea of a drought early warning system.

Member Huntington spoke about the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) and an offer to expand what they are doing in California in terms of the early warning system called the DEWS (Drought Early Warning System). Chair Drozdoff stated he would prefer developing a Nevada early warning system that works. Member Huntington noted the intent is to have a Nevada DEWS and not just an expansion of ongoing efforts in California. The topic “DEWS” was added to the flipcharts. Member Boyle noted he would like the DEWS to be based upon three impacts: Hydrologic (irrigation for crops), Vegetation (rangeland) and the Impact to the Municipal, Industrial and Residential Water Supply. Member Huntington added Seasonal Forecasts, Funding, Outreach and Education.

Member Drozdoff stated a website could help be a conduit of the things being discussed by the Forum, including communication, technology transfer, etc. “Website” was listed on the flipcharts. Member Walker noted there are a few good sources on drought, but the challenge is how to get people to use them. This idea was added under the Website list.

Member Drozdoff stated another category is Additional Monitoring. There was discussion on this with Member Huntington stating there needs to be more monitoring/weather stations to be able to subdivide drought into subcategories. The weather stations could be listed as different categories, Cooperative Observer Weather Stations, Agricultural Weather Stations, Snotel/High Elevation Weather Stations, Soil Moisture, Streamflow and Groundwater. There was discussion on adding weather stations to elementary schools.

The Forum discussed the topic of Education with Member Barbee suggesting the Forum identify a high level message that should be delivered statewide and look at how to spread this message across different educational boundaries.

Member Walker noted the need to educate the judges and lawyers on how to understand Nevada Water Laws. This should include enhancing additional programs the currently exist. He also mentioned sharing success stories from industries to educate others on how to conserve. Member Walker discussed using the education system to get information out about water and voiced his concern that some educational materials may not be tailored for Nevada's climate. He suggested adding a topic on how to adapt what material is available for use in the State of Nevada. The topic listed under Education is: need to adapt the best curricula for use in K through 12 to look like Nevada.

Chair Drozdoff noted other topics for the flipcharts: "Areas to Augment Water" (desalinization and cloud seeding) and "Water Meters" (state agencies in a position to lead, areas in the state that don't have water meters that could). Member Boyle noted the unbundling of water rights should be added to the list and the impact of drought financially on Nevada. Member King clarified that "Reuse" should include: recharge of affluent.

Chair Drozdoff offered an opportunity for Public Comment.

#### *Carson City:*

Steve Walker spoke about federal programs particularly in reference to agriculture enhancement and specifically to increase efficiencies. He spoke about Conservation Districts. He noted the federal government helps those who help themselves. He recommended this message be shared with the Conservation Districts and agricultural producers. If they provide seed money this is the best access to the USDA, NRCS money.

Mr. Barrett noted the water laws with respect to Use It or Lose It and storage are paramount in his opinion. Using water and metering of water resources is also important. He also noted that capital is drawn to where the best returns are. Education is very important.

Tim De Turk, Douglas County Utilities, stated the future of our children should be included in the discussion the Forum is currently having. Use It or Lose It is an oxymoron and encourages waste. The hydrologic cycle can be used to benefit the situation. Ecosystems can be created to benefit everyone. He encouraged the Forum to recommend the identification of areas that will have surplus water that may be collected, such as floods, then identify the unused aquifer type basins or storage facilities to utilize them to collect floodwaters or surplus waters. He noted that conveyance is a problem. The creation of programs that cost dollars should not be the goal. Water meters for public systems and low flow toilets should be implemented.

Cathy Bowling spoke about her appreciation of the comments in regard to Education. She is concerned about the next generation. Our youth does not understand how important the current drought is. She recommended the Forum work with the Nevada Department of Education to provide better courses to be incorporated into the schools, especially at the high school level. She also spoke about Homeowners' Associations stating they should not be grouped with urban residential users as they could be abusive to their residents. They make requirements to use water that is not being used in the most beneficial way.

Chair Drozdoff reviewed the listed items on the flipcharts.

Member Walker spoke about urban residential water use. He noted the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) has a great plan in place and people are taking advantage of the opportunity. In northern Nevada, homeowners have little contact with their own sprinkler/irrigation systems. He recommended the topic of “Homeowner Education” be added to the list. There is a simple message, reduce your water usage by 10 percent. He mentioned a number of opportunities from SNWA.

Chair Drozdoff clarified his idea on HOAs concerns where their authority lies to require water use and how to address it. Vice-chair Entsminger stated that during a past legislative session there was a change to NRS to prohibit HOAs from requiring spray irrigation. It is currently in state law that new HOAs could not require that. However, concerning CCNRs that existed prior to this change in state law are not bound by that ruling and there are issues of legislatively violating contracts, and property rights, etc. It would be impossible to change this without some significant legal battles.

Vice-chair Entsminger spoke about desalination noting that it is listed in the SNWA water resource portfolio under the Future Resources category. He described what SNWA has done with this issue. They are in a situation right now where they do not need the water. They will not work on this until their community needs it. He is not sure what this recommendation to the Governor would look like. He also noted that in regards to cloud seeding, SNWA has participated with other states in funding this. If you get a good system running through, cloud seeding will add 10 to 15 percent to the snowpack, however, you need the weather systems to move through. As a drought measure, you probably will not get a lot of water out of it during drought years as you do not have the weather systems moving through to utilize it. You can use this during good weather years to store water.

Member King asked Vice-chair Entsminger if the power costs were greatly reduced for desalination and it did not have to rely on gas-fired power plants, would it become a bigger part of SNWA’s portfolio. Vice-chair Entsminger noted that even with the current technology they believe that over the intermediate term adding desalination to their portfolio is realistic. The more the costs can be driven down, the more attractive it will be, however, you will have three significant challenges: power, because of physical location, what to do with the salt, and the need for a partner to take direct delivery of desalinated water. It will take some time to bring all three of the variables in line. The rate base in southern Nevada will support desalination at the appropriate time. They will not want to see an increase in rates until SNWA verifies there is foreseeable need for these water resources.

Member Huntington noted there needs to be better information on the effectiveness of cloud seeding in Nevada. Cost per acre foot of groundwater recharge or surface water flows would be helpful. There was discussion on cloud seeding.

Chair Drozdoff noted that NDEP has a committee working on a process concerning reuse. The Forum should get information on where they are and what timeframe they are looking at.

Member King spoke about storage and how during wet years in Nevada, we need to capture water. This is a challenge as there are a lot of systems that have water rights on flood waters. Member Boyle brought up the use of reservoirs and policies for flood control, and the possibility of operating the reservoirs differently to capture early runoff. It was noted this can be done through the Decree court. There was discussion. “Develop a process to capture flood water” was added to the flipcharts.

Member King spoke about water metering and one barrier being the idea of the government looking in on what people are using. He believes this not a barrier, but a possible solution to conflict as being able to prove how much water people are using defends them from anyone else asserting they are over-pumping or illegally using water. If you can’t measure it, you can’t manage it. He would like to see meters on every use of water in the state. He noted that his office has ordered mandatory meters in a number of

basins on all manners of use, except for domestic and uses of five acre feet or less. It can require through current statutes. “Look at providing more opportunities to provide metering data” was added to the flipcharts. Member Huntington noted opportunities should include: new technology that can augment or support physical meters (remotely sensed metering).

Member King also noted that some people are concerned if they have to report their usage to the state then the State Engineer’s Office will use the data to take their water away from them. This ties into the Use It or Lose It issue. Water rights are not taken away often however it is possible within the current water law.

Chair Drozdoff added topic concerning: an opportunity for the state to lead in terms of water meters and landscaping.

A full account of the discussion is captured in the audio recording, available on the Nevada Drought Forum’s website ([www.drought.nv.gov](http://www.drought.nv.gov)).

### **7) Forum Members Discuss Information Generated at the Governor’s Drought Summit (Discussion and Possible Action)**

Chair Drozdoff noted Claudia Vecchio, Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, offered to have her agency do more research on drought and visitation. The Forum should take advantage of this offer. This was included as element of “Economic Impact.”

Chair Drozdoff also noted even within BLM there are some districts that do more watershed NEPA approvals and some that do not, this recommendation is to encourage federal agencies (BLM and US Forest Service) to complete broader (watershed) NEPA approvals, which could result in more expedited work.

Chair Drozdoff stated another topic that came up is the State Engineer Office having more resources and more enforcement authority to make sure that monitoring is occurring and in areas where violations are occurring they have the requisite tools to fix the problem.

Chair Drozdoff asked if there is anything to be done or recommended at the state level with regard to local land use decisions. Asking if there is an element of water planning that would help local authorities benefit from activities at the state level that would inform their own decisions.

Chair Drozdoff added another top as “Why Are We Doing This Drought Work.”

A full account of the discussion is captured in the audio recording, available on the Nevada Drought Forum’s website ([www.drought.nv.gov](http://www.drought.nv.gov)).

Lunch 12:17 p.m. to 1:23 p.m.

### **8) Forum Members Discuss Additional Information and Ideas (Discussion and Possible Action)**

Chair Drozdoff asked Forum members if they would like to add ideas under this agenda item. There were none.



## **9) Forum Members Discuss Drought Information Gathered in Relation to Recommendations of the Western Governors' Association (WGA) Drought Forum (Discussion and Possible Action)**

Chair Drozdoff asked Forum members for direction on what they would like to spend time on concerning the ideas brought up earlier in the meeting.

Member King reviewed the facilitator recommendations from the Governor's Drought Summit, including measurement, creating more water (e.g. desalination and cloud seeding), use water more efficiently, local control specific to area, don't go too far too fast with water law changes, adaptive management (3M plans). The facilitator also mentioned there is a mood for change. Member King agreed with this sentiment. There needs to be collaboration and communication.

Member King reviewed some of the seven issues listed by the WGA's Drought Forum: data and analysis, reuse of water, water conservation, working with institutional frameworks to manage drought, communication and collaboration and forest health and soil stewardship. Member King noted the Forum has discussed and listed items pertaining to many of these issues. It lines up well with the WGA's recommendations and what the facilitator from the Drought Summit listed.

Member Huntington noted that technology is a low hanging fruit that can be addressed and expanded based upon the current work that being done.

Member Walker stated there is an element of education concerning data and data analysis as people are not aware of available information and do not know how to utilize the information.

Member Huntington suggested the Forum make a recommendation to add staff to the State Engineer's Office in respect to water use monitoring and hydrology.

Member Boyle stated it is important to make information available easily and quickly.

A full account of the discussion is captured in the audio recording, available on the Nevada Drought Forum's website ([www.drought.nv.gov](http://www.drought.nv.gov)).

## **10) Review of Discussion, Future Meetings and Agenda Items (Discussion and Possible Action)**

Chair Drozdoff provided a brief review of the meeting and the topics discussed and listed on flipcharts. He noted that when completing the report to the Governor the Forum may need to make a distinction between northern and southern Nevada. He discussed getting the information listed today to Forum Members to digest and review and then come together to discuss at a future meeting. Vice-chair Entsminger stated he agreed with the thoughts of Chair Drozdoff and noted that in the Executive Order the deadline for a report is by the end of the year. The Forum Members can review the provided information and come together in October to come up with initial recommendations to make in the report.

Member King stated the proposed process is a good one, however, the deadline is November 1 for the report to be submitted to the Governor. Chair Drozdoff stated he would discuss moving the deadline with the Governor's staff.

Member King also brought up AB 198, which will look at alternative sources of water and if the Forum should consider this in their discussions. Chair Drozdoff noted this was a good idea and the Forum should consider any connections that can be made between the two.

Chair Drozdoff asked JoAnn Kittrell, Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, what the timeline would be to get the information together and send it out to Forum Members to review before their next meeting. Ms. Kittrell noted it would take approximately two to three weeks to distill the information and provide as much detail as possible for Forum Members.

Chair Drozdoff discussed assigning certain Forum Members certain topics because of their expertise to review and bring back recommendations to the other members at a subsequent meeting. There was discussion on this, including creating working groups. Micheline Fairbank, Nevada Attorney General's Office, reminded the Forum Member about the requirements of Nevada's Opening Meeting Law and stated that each member has been selected to be a part of the Forum because of their expertise and experience in certain areas, and based upon what they bring to the table in this capacity is the intent behind their participation. If there are individual forum members meeting to collaborate and digest information and then bring recommendations back to the full forum, it would could be subject to the Nevada Open Meeting Law. To the extent that each member is bringing their recommendations individually during a forum meeting is okay.

Chair Drozdoff asked Member Barbee if his facility would be available for the future meetings of the Nevada Drought Forum. Mr. Barbee noted he would check on availability.

Chair Drozdoff stated the information from today's meeting will be distributed to Forum Members the week of October 11.

The Forum discussed the dates of future meetings. It was decided the next two meetings would be held on Monday, October 26, and Friday, November 20.

Member Huntington noted that Mr. Baughman stated that when the Forum outlines their recommendations, they should identify the mechanisms to implement the proposed actions, identify barriers, and provide some level of cost-estimates, including additional staff to accomplish things. Chair Drozdoff agreed with Member Huntington's comments.

Chair Drozdoff asked for Public Comment concerning this Agenda Item.

*Carson City:*

Mr. Walker spoke about the "other law" component, including NRS 278. He discussed urban planning and commercial landscape and recommended these should be revisited. Chair Drozdoff stated in addition to NRS 278 the Forum should consider emergency management statutes.

Steve Bradhurst, Central Nevada Regional Water Authority, spoke about AB 198. The AB 198 study is to be conducted by the Public Lands Committee. There may be a subcommittee created within the Public Lands Committee to focus in on AB 198. At the Summit, there was a recommendation to create a Blue Ribbon Taskforce on water. This is difficult to do and he suggested the Forum utilize the subcommittee of the Public Lands Committee for any recommendations they may have on legislation.

Chair Drozdoff noted the Forum needs to spend some time on AB 198 and acknowledged the SNWA's experience concerning local land use plans. Vice-chair Entsminger provided background on SNWA's process. They created a citizen advisory group ensuring input from across their community. They then convened the Principles Group of the SNWA, which consisted of local utility managers and senior staff of the member agencies of the water authority to agree to one plan that could be implemented throughout the region through numerous codes and ordinances. The water authority then adopted a conservation plan that went before local boards (e.g. city councils) to modify ordinances to codify the conservation rules and

have one uniform conservation plan throughout southern Nevada. They are now facing the need to stay ahead of the curve. They are going through the process again to update their current conservation plan. Chair Drozdoff noted that this process provides better coordination with the different parties involved. Chair Drozdoff stated his staff will contact SNWA staff to get this process down into a template that can be a model and distributed to Forum Members.

Mr. Sipaila spoke about new, not so new, and emerging technologies available that the Forum should review and consider. He spoke about water storage and the different methods and the challenges of certain methods.

A full account of the discussion is captured in the audio recording, available on the Nevada Drought Forum's website ([www.drought.nv.gov](http://www.drought.nv.gov)).

**11) Public Comment: (Discussion)**

Chair Drozdoff asked for public comment. There was none.

**12) Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned by acclamation at 2:17 p.m.