

**MINUTES**

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
COMMERCE**

**Call to Order:** By Chairman Rick Ripley, on January 30, 2007 at  
8:00 A.M., in Room 317-C Capitol.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Rick Ripley, Chairman (R)  
Sen. Ken (Kim) Hansen, Vice Chairman (D)  
Rep. John L. Musgrove (D)  
Sen. Bill Tash (R)  
Sen. Mitch Tropila (D)  
Rep. Craig Witte (R)

**Members Excused:** None.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Eileen Rose, Office of Budget and Program Planning  
Christie Messer, Committee Secretary  
Barbara Smith, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They  
provide a list of participants and a record of official action  
taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the  
meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Subjects Addressed: DNRC Decision Packages  
Executive Action: None

**Department of Natural Resources**

00:00:19 Sen. Tropila  
00:00:55 Mary Sexton, Director, Department of Natural Resources  
and Conservation (DNRC)  
00:02:04 Sen. Tropila  
00:02:08 Ms. Sexton  
00:03:19 Sen. Tropila  
00:03:38 Ms. Sexton  
00:03:42 Barbara Smith

**EXHIBIT (jnh20a01)**

00:04:25 Rep. Ripley  
00:04:40 Susan Cottingham, Administrator, DNRC Reserve Water  
Rights-division overview and DPs

**EXHIBIT (jnh20a02)**

**DP 2502-RWRCC Operating Adjustment**

00:22:04 Ms. Cottingham

**DP 2501-RWRCC Contracted Services OTO**

00:22:51 Ms. Cottingham  
00:28:22 Sen. Tash  
00:29:09 Ms. Cottingham  
00:30:03 Rep. Ripley  
00:30:28 Ms. Cottingham  
00:32:59 Rep. Ripley  
00:33:02 Ms. Cottingham  
00:33:43 John Tubbs, Administrator, DNRC Water Resources  
Division-division overview and DPs

**EXHIBIT (jnh20a03)**

00:57:19 Rep. Witte  
00:57:45 Mr. Tubbs

**DP 2401-Water Resources Operating Adjustment IT**

01:02:32 Mr. Tubbs

**DP 2402-State Water Projects Rehabilitation BIE/OTO**

01:05:01 Mr. Tubbs  
01:05:24 Sen. Tash  
01:06:17 Rep. Ripley  
01:06:24 Mr. Tubbs  
**EXHIBIT (jnh20a04)**  
01:10:19 Sen. Tropila  
01:11:02 Mr. Tubbs

01:11:10 Ms. Smith  
01:11:27 Mr. Tubbs  
01:16:47 Rep. Ripley  
01:16:52 Mr. Tubbs  
01:16:57 Sen. Tropila  
01:17:11 Mr. Tubbs  
01:20:17 Rep. Ripley  
01:20:21 Mr. Tubbs  
01:20:26 Rep. Ripley

**DP 2404-Community Assistance Program (CAP) Federal**

01:21:54 Mr. Tubbs  
01:21:57 Sen. Tash

**DP 2408-Flathead Basin Commission Operating Adjustment IT**

01:22:57 Mr. Tubbs  
01:23:16 Sen. Tropila  
01:23:23 Mr. Tubbs

**DP 2409-BWWC Operating Adjustment**

01:24:23 Mr. Tubbs  
01:24:41 Sen. Hansen  
01:25:07 Mr. Tubbs  
01:26:19 Sen. Hansen  
01:26:45 Rep. Ripley  
01:26:51 Mr. Tubbs  
01:27:41 Rep. Ripley  
01:27:51 Mr. Tubbs  
01:28:48 Sen. Tash  
01:28:53 Mr. Tubbs  
01:29:39 Sen. Tash  
01:30:01 Mr. Tubbs  
01:31:32 Sen. Tash  
01:31:36 Mr. Tubbs

**DP 2403-Water Rights Records Optical Imaging ITSD**

01:32:43 Mr. Tubbs  
01:33:14 Rep. Ripley  
01:33:19 Mr. Tubbs

**DP 2405-Yellowstone Compact Study and Hydrologist RST**

01:35:44 Mr. Tubbs

01:38:02 Rep. Ripley

**DP 2406-St. Mary Administrative Position**

01:43:16 Mr. Tubbs  
01:43:19 Rep. Musgrove  
01:43:23 Mr. Tubbs

**DP 2407-Upper Clark Fork Steering Committee**

01:45:34 Mr. Tubbs

**DP 2411-Map Modernization Program State Match IT**

01:47:00 Mr. Tubbs

**DP 2412-Surface Water/Ground Water Permitting Process**

01:48:32 Mr. Tubbs

**DP 2413-DFWP Dam Engineer**

01:53:41 Mr. Tubbs  
01:53:54 Ms. Smith  
01:53:58 Mr. Tubbs  
01:57:22 Rep. Ripley  
01:58:30 Mr. Tubbs

**Public Comment**

02:01:49 Gerald Mueller, Facilitator of the Upper Clark Fork  
Basin Authority Steering Committee proponent of DP  
2407

**EXHIBIT (jnh20a05)**

02:09:41 Holly Franz, PPL Montana, Upper Clark Fork Steering  
Committee, proponent of DP 2407  
02:11:48 Stan Bradshaw, Trout Unlimited, Upper Clark Fork  
Steering Committee, proponent of DP 2407  
02:14:13 Lindley Hall, Tongue River Water Users  
02:15:56 Mr. Tubbs  
  
02:16:55 Break  
02:33:38 Reconvene  
  
02:34:02 Bob Harrington, DNRC Forestry Division  
02:54:32 Rep. Musgrove  
02:54:39 Rep. Ripley left hearing

02:56:38 Sen. Tash  
02:57:21 Mr. Harrington  
02:58:35 Sen. Hansen

**DP 3505-Inmate Fire Suppression Crews (requires legislation)**

03:00:46 Mr. Harrington  
03:00:52 Rep. Musgrove  
03:01:53 Mr. Harrington  
03:01:59 Sen. Tash  
03:04:01 Mr. Harrington  
03:04:13 Sen. Hansen  
03:04:18 Mr. Harrington

**DP 3506-Forestry Operating Adjustment (requires legislation)**

03:07:14 Mr. Harrington  
03:07:19 Sen. Tropila  
03:08:03 Mr. Harrington  
03:08:52 Sen. Tropila  
03:08:58 Mr. Harrington  
03:09:03 Ms. Smith  
03:09:34 Sen. Tropila  
03:09:58 Ms. Smith  
03:10:01 Sen. Tropila  
03:10:06 Eileen Rose

**DP 3507-Interagency Fire Support**

03:11:32 Mr. Harrington  
03:13:57 Rep. Musgrove  
03:15:20 Mr. Harrington  
03:15:27 Rep. Musgrove  
03:15:36 Mr. Harrington  
03:16:14 Sen. Hansen

**DP 3508-Forestry Equipment Replacement IT OTO**

03:17:31 Mr. Harrington

**DP 3501-Radio Communication IT (RST)**

03:19:47 Mr. Harrington

**DP 3502-Urban Forestry Funding Change**

03:20:45 Mr. Harrington

**DP 3503-Fire Fighting Equipment RST/BIEN/OTO**

03:25:16 Mr. Harrington  
03:26:23 Sen. Hansen  
03:26:31 Mr. Harrington  
03:27:19 Ms. Smith  
03:27:57 Rep. Witte  
03:28:27 Mr. Harrington  
03:30:15 Sen. Hansen  
03:30:56 Mr. Harrington  
03:31:58 Sen. Tropila  
03:33:42 Mr. Harrington

**DP 3504-On Going General Fund Support for Fire Fighting**

03:37:06 Mr. Harrington

**DP 3549-Woody Biomass Utilization Program-OTO**

03:39:41 Mr. Harrington  
**EXHIBIT (jnh20a06)**  
03:43:08 Rep. Musgrove  
03:43:32 Sen. Hansen  
03:44:33 Mr. Harrington  
03:44:38 Sen. Tash  
03:48:54 Rep. Witte  
03:48:59 Mr. Harrington

**Technical Amendment on Fire Suppression-to put back in Base  
Budget**

03:51:31 Mr. Harrington  
03:51:39 Ms. Smith  
03:53:02 Sen. Hansen

**Public Comment**

03:53:28 Larry Bonner, Mayor of Shelby, proponent of Urban  
Forestry Program  
03:55:11 Jeff Brandt, Deputy Chief Information Officer of the  
Information Technology Services Division within the  
Department of Administration-proponent of DP 3501.

**EXHIBIT (jnh20a07)**

03:58:05 Rick Sheely, proponent of DP 3549  
04:01:11 Sen. Tash  
04:01:54 Rep. Witte  
04:02:35 Mr. Brandt  
04:02:40 Rep. Witte

**ADJOURNMENT**

04:02:45 Adjournment

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REP. RICK RIPLEY, Chairman

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CHRISTIE MESSER, Secretary

RR/cm

Additional Exhibits:

**[EXHIBIT \(jnh20aad.pdf\)](#)**