

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: By Chairman Walter McNutt, on March 16, 2007 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 472 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Walter McNutt, Chairman (R)
Rep. Ron Erickson, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Ralph Heinert, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Duane Ankney (R)
Rep. Debby Barrett (R)
Rep. Jill Cohenour (D)
Rep. Sue Dickenson (D)
Rep. Betsy Hands (D)
Rep. Gordon R. Hendrick (R)
Rep. Carol Lambert (R)
Rep. Scott Mendenhall (R)
Rep. JP Pomnichowski (D)
Rep. John (Jack) W. Ross (R)
Rep. Veronica Small-Eastman (D)
Rep. Chas Vincent (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Kendall Van Dyk (D)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Krista Lee Evans, Legislative Branch
Nancy Kraft, Committee Secretary

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:

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 51, 3/13/2007; SB 103,
3/13/2007; SB 293, 3/13/2007
Executive Action: None

HEARING ON SB 51

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:02:10 Sen. Bob Hawks (D), SD 33, opened the hearing on SB 51,
Revise land use laws concerning fire and wildland fire.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:09:09 Michael Kakuk, Montana Association of Realtors

EXHIBIT(nah56a01)

00:16:04 Scott Waldron, Montana Fire Chiefs & Fire Wardens
Committee

00:17:35 Mary Sexton, Department of Natural Resources and
Conservation (DNRC)

00:24:09 Dustin Stewart, Montana Building Industries'
Association

EXHIBIT(nah56a02)

00:25:34 Tim Davis, Montana Smart Growth Coalition

00:28:35 Molly Immen, Montana Audubon

00:29:28 Everett Stiger, Retired Forest Service Worker

00:31:53 Myra Shults, Land Use Consultant; and for
Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties

00:34:06 Robert Drake, Tri-Lakes Volunteer Fire Department,
Helena, Montana

Opponents' Testimony:

00:35:18 Linda Stoll, Missoula County

00:43:17 Tim Ravndal, Montana Multiple Use Association

Informational Testimony:

00:46:39 Dave Cook, Department of Labor and Industry

00:47:03 Jerry Meyer, Forest Service Liaison

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:47:24 Rep. Lambert

00:50:25 Mr. Kakuk

00:50:46 Ms. Sexton

00:52:58 Rep. Dickenson

00:53:17 Bob Harrington, DNRC

00:59:00 Rep. Erickson

01:01:28 Mr. Kakuk

01:05:50 Rep. Ross

01:06:03 Ms. Sexton

01:07:34 Mr. Harrington

01:08:09 Rep. Ross

01:08:19 Mr. Harrington
01:08:56 Rep. Ross
01:09:15 Mr. Kakuk
01:09:22 Rep. Heinert
01:09:44 Sen. Hawks
01:10:44 Rep. Pomnichowski
01:11:20 Sen. Hawks
01:12:03 Mr. Davis
01:12:35 Rep. Pomnichowski
01:13:10 Mr. Harrington
01:14:57 Mr. Cook
01:15:31 Rep. Pomnichowski
01:16:23 Ms. Shults
01:18:33 Mr. Kakuk
01:20:09 Rep. Mendenhall
01:22:27 Mr. Kakuk
01:23:25 Rep. Hendrick
01:23:53 Mr. Kakuk
01:25:48 Rep. Lambert
01:26:56 Mr. Harrington

Closing by Sponsor:

01:27:43 Sen. Hawks

HEARING ON SB 293

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:30:38 Sen. Rick Laible (R), SD 44, opened the hearing on SB 293, Establish state forest management policy.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:34:21 Bob Harrington, Montana State Forester, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
01:41:09 Molly Immen, Montana Audubon
01:41:36 Tim Ravndal, Montana Multiple Use Association
01:43:30 Peter Kolb, Society of American Foresters; and for Montana Forest Owners' Association
01:49:08 Ellen Engstedt, Montana Wood Products Association; and for Gordon Sanders, Pyramid Mountain Lumber Company, Seeley Lake, Montana
01:51:22 Jason Todhunter, Montana Logging Association

Opponents' Testimony:

01:52:41 Mike McGinley, Beaverhead County Commissioner

Informational Testimony:

01:57:46 Jerry Meyer, Forest Service Liaison

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:59:36 Rep. Cohenour
01:59:59 Mr. Harrington
02:00:48 Rep. Cohenour
02:01:06 Krista Evans
02:01:40 Rep. Lambert
02:02:09 Sen. Laible
02:02:58 Rep. Erickson
02:04:14 Mr. Harrington
02:05:45 Sen. Laible
02:05:59 Rep. Vincent
02:06:49 Mr. Harrington
02:08:20 Jerry Meyer
02:08:37 Rep. Barrett
02:09:19 Mr. Harrington
02:10:31 Rep. Barrett
02:14:49 Sen. Laible
02:16:15 Mr. Harrington
02:16:46 Mr. Meyer
02:17:49 Rep. Ross
02:18:50 Mr. Harrington
02:20:15 Rep. Cohenour
02:20:49 Mr. McGinley

Closing by Sponsor:

02:21:30 Sen. Laible

02:23:17 Break

HEARING ON SB 103

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:44:04 Sen. Greg Lind (D), SD 50, opened the hearing on SB
103, Revise local government fire protection laws.

[EXHIBIT \(nah56a03\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

02:48:47 Brett Waters, Central Valley Fire District, Belgrade-
Bozeman Area

[EXHIBIT \(nah56a04\)](#)

02:52:43 Scott Waldron, Montana Fire Chiefs' Association

02:53:50 Jerry Shepherd, Fire Chief, West Valley Volunteer Fire
Department, Helena, Montana
02:54:20 John Semple, Fire Alliance; and for Doug Neal, Montana
State Fireman's Assoc and Montana State Council of
Professional Firefighters
02:54:57 Cheryl Wood, Montana Association of Counties

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:55:56 Rep. Hendrick
02:56:43 Mr. Waldron
02:57:57 Rep. Hands
02:59:02 Mr. Waldron
03:00:07 Rep. McNutt

Closing by Sponsor:

03:00:35 Sen. Lind

Additional Exhibits:

Document pertaining to SB 51; Hearing 03/16/07

[EXHIBIT\(nah56a05\)](#)

Document pertaining to HB 753; Hearing 03/09/07

[EXHIBIT\(nah56a06\)](#)

ADJOURNMENT

03:02:33 Adjournment: 6:10 P.M.

REP. WALTER MCNUTT, Chairman

NANCY KRAFT, Secretary

WM/nk

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([nah56aad.pdf](#))