

## MINUTES

### MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 62nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

**Call to Order:** Chairman Gordon R. Hendrick, on January 19, 2011 at 3:00 PM, in Room 472 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Rep. Gordon R. Hendrick, Chairman (R)  
Rep. Brian Hoven, Vice Chairman (R)  
Rep. Betsy Hands, Vice Chairman (D)  
Rep. Dick Barrett (D)  
Rep. Gerald (Jerry) Bennett (R)  
Rep. Pat Connell (R)  
Rep. Virginia Court (D)  
Rep. Kelly Flynn (R)  
Rep. Alan Hale (R)  
Rep. Cleve J. Loney (R)  
Rep. Mike Miller (R)  
Rep. Michele Reinhart (D)  
Rep. Wendy Warburton (R)  
Rep. Kathleen Williams (D)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Bill Harris (R)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Lauren Head, Committee Secretary  
Joe Kolman, 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:**

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 24 , 1/14/2011; HB 196, 1/14/2011; HB 232, 1/14/2011

**HEARING ON HB 196****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:02:43 Rep. Pat Connell (R), HD 87, opened the hearing on HB 196, Provide that Dept. of Commerce assist local gov't with fed land management props.

00:15:46 Rep. Hands left the meeting.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:19:01 Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

00:20:49 Alan Wright, self

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:22:44 Rep. Barrett

00:23:31 Rep. Hands rejoined the meeting.

00:24:23 Rep. Connell

00:25:15 Rep. Bennet left the meeting.

00:28:12 Rep. Barrett

00:28:40 Rep. Connell

00:29:20 Rep. Flynn

00:29:45 Rep. Bennett rejoined the meeting.

00:30:05 Rep. Connell

00:31:39 Rep. Flynn

00:32:06 Rep. Connell

00:33:40 Rep. Court

00:34:20 Rep. Connell

00:35:00 Chairman Hendrick left the meeting and Vice Chairman Hoven assumed the Chair.

00:36:10 Rep. Court

00:36:21 Rep. Connell

00:37:13 Rep. Williams

00:38:20 Rep. Connell

00:39:26 Rep. Williams

00:39:45 Rep. Connell

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:40:28 Rep. Connell

**HEARING ON HB 24****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:41:57 Rep. Bill McChesney (D), HD 40, opened the hearing on HB 24, Revise aquifer recharge and mitigation laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:47:49 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Coalition (SWRC), Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators (AGAI)

00:51:28 Rep. Harris joined the meeting.

00:53:06 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association (MWRA)

00:54:43 John Youngberg, Montana Farm Bureau (MFB)

00:56:46 Mary Sexton, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

**EXHIBIT(nah14a01)**

00:59:13 Holly Franz, PPL Montana

01:02:05 Stan Bradshaw, Montana Trout Unlimited (MTU)

01:03:52 Bob Lane, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)

**EXHIBIT(nah14a02)**

01:05:39 Don MacIntire, Mountain Water Company

**Opponents' Testimony:**

01:07:53 Clayton Elliott, Northern Plains Resource Council

**EXHIBIT(nah14a03)**

01:12:23 Abigail St. Lawrence, Montana Association of Realtors (MAR)

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:16:10 Rep. Loney

01:16:52 Mrs. Sexton

01:17:18 Rep. Loney

01:17:23 Mrs. Sexton

01:17:55 Rep. Loney

01:18:01 Mrs. Sexton

01:18:11 Rep. Miller left the meeting.

01:18:27 Rep. Court

01:18:39 Mrs. Sexton

01:19:26 Rep. Flynn

01:20:02 Rep. McChesney

01:20:08 Rep. Reinhart

01:20:37 Mrs. Sexton

01:21:00 Rep. Reinhart

01:21:03 Mrs. Sexton

01:21:19 Rep. Reinhart

01:21:29 Mrs. Sexton

01:21:42 Rep. Reinhart  
01:21:47 Terry McLaughlin, Water Rights Bureau, DNRC  
01:22:32 Rep. Reinhart  
01:23:06 Mrs. McLaughlin  
01:23:27 Rep. Miller rejoined the meeting.  
01:24:39 Rep. Reinhart  
01:24:52 Mrs. McLaughlin  
01:25:07 Rep. Hands  
01:25:34 Mrs. Sexton  
01:26:12 Mr. Youngberg  
01:26:39 Rep. Hands  
01:27:03 Rep. Williams  
01:27:38 Mrs. McLaughlin  
01:29:41 Rep. Williams  
01:30:05 Mrs. McLaughlin  
01:32:20 Rep. Harris  
01:33:46 Mrs. McLaughlin  
01:35:24 Rep. Williams  
01:35:32 Rep. Hands left the meeting.  
01:35:40 Mrs. McLaughlin

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:36:31 Rep. McChesney

**HEARING ON HB 232**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:41:41 Rep. Pat Connell (R), HD 87, opened the hearing on HB 232, Revise Montana environmental policy act for local government consult.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:49:38 Ron Devlin, Northwestern Energy, (NWE)

**EXHIBIT(nah14a04)**

01:53:05 Rep. Hands rejoined the meeting.

01:54:42 John Fitzpatrick, NWE

**EXHIBIT(nah14a05)**

**EXHIBIT(nah14a06)**

02:01:38 Leo Berry, Great Northern Properties (GNP)

02:04:38 Debbie Shea, Executive Director, Montana Mining Association (MMA)

02:05:47 Ann Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

02:09:35 Don Allen, Western Environmental Trade Association (WETA)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

02:12:22 Peter Scott, Gough, Shanahan, Johnson, and Waterman Attorneys at Law

**EXHIBIT(nah14a07)**

02:23:33 Tom Lythgowe, Jefferson County Commissioner  
02:29:53 Leonard Wortman, Chair of Jefferson County Commission  
02:36:31 Charles Wideman, self

**EXHIBIT(nah14a08)**

02:42:16 Debra Hanneman, self

**EXHIBIT(nah14a09)**

02:45:28 Colleen Teeling, Aspen Valley Landowners Association  
02:50:25 Bob Haseman, self  
02:51:33 Harold Blattie, MACo

**EXHIBIT(nah14a10)**

02:57:47 Alan Wright, self

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

02:59:09 Rep. Reinhart  
02:59:30 Mr. Scott  
03:00:46 Rep. Reinhart  
03:00:55 Mr. Scott  
03:01:22 Rep. Reinhart  
03:01:36 Mr. Scott  
03:03:06 Rep. Reinhart  
03:03:30 Mr. Scott  
03:05:53 Rep. Reinhart  
03:06:06 Mr. Scott

**Closing by Sponsor:**

03:07:55 Rep. Connell  
03:12:18 Vice Chairman Hoven

**ADJOURNMENT**

03:12:43      Adjournment

---

Lauren Head, Secretary

lh

**Additional Exhibits:**

**[EXHIBIT\(nah14a11\)](#)**

**[EXHIBIT\(nah14a12\)](#)**

Additional Documents:

**[EXHIBIT\(nah14aad.pdf\)](#)**