

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 64th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON LONG-RANGE PLANNING

Call to Order: Chair Mike Cuffe, on January 19, 2015 at 8:01 AM, in Room 317B Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Mike Cuffe, Chair (R)
Sen. Rick Ripley, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Dave Hagstrom (R)
Sen. Cary Smith (R)
Rep. Mitch Tropila (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Rae Peppers (D)
Sen. Jon C. Sesso (D)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Catherine Duncan, Legislative Branch
Mary Ann Mackay, Committee Secretary
Christine Hultin-Brus, Office of Budget and Program Planning

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 5, 1/9/2015
Irrigation Cooperation in the Musselshell Valley - Bill Milton
Renewable Resources Grant and Loan Program (RRGL) Irrigation Projects Hearings

00:01:23 Chair Cuffe
 00:02:39 Cathy Duncan, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)
 00:03:52 Chair Cuffe

Renewal Resources Grant and Loan Program (RRGL) Irrigation Grants

00:05:39 Alice Stanley, Bureau Chief, Resource Development, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

[EXHIBIT\(jlh11a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(jlh11a02\)](#)

00:06:52 Rep. Peppers arrived.
 00:08:14 Sen. Sesso arrived.
 00:09:42 Pam Smith, Program Manager, Renewable Resources Grant and Loan Program (RRGLP), Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

Irrigation Cooperation in Musselshell Valley, Musselshell Water Coalition

00:10:24 Bill Milton, rancher, Roundup
 00:27:47 Chair Cuffe

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:28:01 Chair Cuffe
 00:28:02 Bill Milton, Roundup
 00:28:05 Chair Cuffe
 00:28:09 Bill Milton, Roundup
 00:28:17 Chair Cuffe

Bitterroot Conservation District, Bitterroot CD Supply Diversion Improvement

00:28:26 Pam Smith, DNRC
 00:28:52 Chair Cuffe
 00:29:00 Rep. Hagstrom
 00:29:34 Howard Eldredge, Chairman, Bitterroot Conservation District

[EXHIBIT\(jlh11a03\)](#)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:34:55 Rep. Tropila
 00:35:18 Howard Eldredge, Chairman
 00:35:39 Molly Skorpik, Engineer, Morrison-Maierle
 00:37:16 Chair Cuffe
 00:37:26 Molly Skorpik, Engineer
 00:37:47 Chair Cuffe
 00:38:08 Pam Smith, DNRC

Montana Water Resources Association (MWRA)

00:38:26 Mike Murphy, MWRA

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:40:19 Rep. Tropila
 00:40:34 Mike Murphy, MWRA
 00:40:51 Cathy Duncan, LFD
 00:41:17 Rep. Hagstrom
 00:41:42 Molly Skorpik, Engineer

00:42:29 Rep. Hagstrom
 00:42:35 Molly Skorpik, Engineer
 00:42:42 Rep. Hagstrom
 00:42:54 Molly Skorpik, Engineer
 00:43:29 Chair Cuffe

Bitterroot Irrigation District, Siphon 1, Phase 3 Improvements

00:43:36 Pam Smith, DNRC
 00:44:17 John Crowley, Manager, Bitterroot Irrigation District
EXHIBIT(jlh11a04)
 00:49:29 Molly Skorpik, Engineer
 00:50:40 Chair Cuffe

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:50:51 Rep. Tropila
 00:51:12 Sen. Sesso
 00:51:22 John Crowley, Manager
 00:51:27 Sen. Sesso
 00:51:36 Chair Cuffe
 00:51:38 Cathy Duncan. LFD
 00:51:51 Chair Cuffe
 00:52:02 John Crowley, Manager
 00:52:06 Chair Cuffe
 00:52:14 Anna Miller, Financial Advisor, Conservation and Resource Development
 Division, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
 00:53:15 Sen. Sesso
 00:53:48 Anna Miller, DNRC
 00:54:10 Chair Cuffe
 00:54:14 Sen. Sesso
 00:54:55 John Crowley, Manager
 00:55:17 Chair Cuffe
 00:55:24 Rep. Hagstrom
 00:56:02 John Crowley, Manager
 00:56:23 Rep. Hagstrom
 00:56:50 John Crowley, Manager
 00:57:15 Rep. Hagstrom
 00:57:32 Sen. Sesso
 00:57:46 John Crowley, Manager
 00:58:11 Chair Cuffe
 00:58:20 John Crowley, Manager
 00:58:28 Chair Cuffe

Missoula Irrigation District, Missoula Irrigation District Water Conservation

00:58:33 Pam Smith, DNRC
 00:58:49 Molly Skorpik, Engineer, Morrison-Maierle
 01:02:18 Chair Cuffe

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:02:23 Sen. Ripley

01:02:28 Molly Skorpik, Engineer

01:02:42 Chair Cuffe

Missoula Irrigation District, Continuation:

01:02:48 Tim Supola, Ditch Rider, Missoula

01:04:03 Chair Cuffe

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:04:06 Rep. Hagstrom

01:04:29 Tim Supola, Ditch Rider

01:04:37 Rep. Hagstrom

01:04:45 Tim Supola, Ditch Rider

01:04:57 Chair Cuffe

Missoula Irrigation District, Continuation:

01:05:06 Victoria A. Parks, property owner, Missoula

01:06:43 Chair Cuffe

Petroleum Conservation District, Musselshell Watershed Prioritized Projects Initiative

01:06:59 Pam Smith, DNRC

01:07:38 Laura Nowlin, Coordinator, Musselshell Watershed Coalition

EXHIBIT(jlh11a05)

01:10:11 Chair Cuffe left.

01:12:31 Chair Ripley

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:12:37 Rep. Tropila

01:13:16 Chair Ripley

01:18:26 Chair Ripley

01:13:20 Pam Smith, DNRC

01:13:28 Rep. Tropila

01:13:32 Laura Nowlin, Coordinator

01:13:46 Chair Ripley

Pondera County Conservation District, Wasteway Rehabilitation and Water Quality

Improvement Project

01:13:57 Pam Smith, DNRC

01:14:18 Vern Stokes, Manager, Pondera County Canal and Wasteway

EXHIBIT(jlh11a06)

01:16:47 Russ Anderson, Engineer

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:18:32 Chair Ripley

01:19:13 Rep. Hagstrom

01:19:57 Chair Ripley

01:20:06 Jack Judisch, Superintendent, Pondera Conservation District

Milk River Joint Board of Control, Hydrometric Gauging Station Expansion and Upgrade Project

01:20:45 Pam Smith, DNRC
 01:21:03 Shawn Higley, on behalf of Milk River Project

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:22:54 Chair Ripley
 01:22:58 Sen. Sesso
 01:23:15 Chair Cuffe returned.
 01:23:33 Shawn Higley, on behalf of Milk River Project
 01:24:02 Chair Cuffe

Pondera County Conservation District, Pondera CD C-5 Canal Conversion Project

01:24:12 Pam Smith, DNRC
 01:24:36 Vern Stokes, Manager
EXHIBIT(jlh11a07)
 01:25:56 Matthew Selvic, WWC Engineering, Pondera County Conservation District

Questions from Committee Members and Responses

01:27:25 Chair Cuffe
 01:27:29 Sen. Sesso
 01:27:40 Matthew Selvic, WWC Engineering
 01:27:45 Sen. Sesso
 01:27:51 Matthew Selvic, WWC Engineering
 01:27:56 Rep. Hagstrom
 01:28:07 Vern Stokes, Manager
 01:28:28 Rep. Hagstrom
 01:28:43 Vern Stokes, Manager
 01:28:45 Rep. Hagstrom
 01:28:56 Vern Stokes, Manager
 01:29:04 Rep. Hagstrom
 01:29:22 Vern Stokes, Manager
 01:29:24 Rep. Hagstrom
 01:29:27 Vern Stokes, Manager
 01:29:34 Chair Cuffe
 01:30:01 Jack Judish, Supervisor, Pondera County Canal Company
 01:30:27 Chair Cuffe

Sweet Grass County Conservation District, Electric Light Ditch Irrigation Diversion Rehabilitation

01:30:36 Pam Smith, DNRC
 01:30:52 Dan Rostad, Project Manager, Sweet Grass County Conservation District
EXHIBIT(jlh11a08)
 01:36:20 Chair Cuffe
 01:36:26 Dan Rostad, Project Manager

Questions from Committee Members and Responses

01:36:30 Rep. Hagstrom
 01:36:54 Dan Rostad, Project Manager
 01:37:08 Rep. Hagstrom

01:37:12 Dan Rostad, Project Manager
 01:37:25 Chair Cuffe
 01:37:40 Dan Rostad, Project Manager

Buffalo Rapids Irrigation Project, District 1, Lateral 19.3 Pipeline Conversion Project, Phase 1

01:38:14 Pam Smith, DNRC
 01:38:34 Scott Aspenlieder, Project Engineer, representing Buffalo Rapids Irrigation District
 01:38:58 Chair Cuffe
 01:39:03 Scott Aspenlieder, Project Engineer
 01:43:48 Chair Cuffe

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:44:14 Scott Aspenlieder, Project Engineer
 01:44:36 Chair Cuffe
 01:44:41 Scott Aspenlieder, Project Engineer

Buffalo Rapids Irrigation Project and Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project, District 1

01:44:49 Sen. Matthew Rosendale (R), SD 18

Questions from Committee members and Responses:

01:48:16 Rep. Tropila
 01:48:36 Sen. Rosendale
 01:48:42 Rep. Tropila
 01:49:01 Sen. Rosendale
 01:49:24 Rep. Tropila
 01:49:32 Sen. Rosendale

Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project, Lower Yellowstone Irrigation District Wasteway Project

01:49:39 Pam Smith, DNRC
 01:50:11 Chair Cuffe
 01:50:14 Robbie Neihart, WWC Engineering
EXHIBIT(jlh11a09)
 01:50:50 James Brower, Manager of four Districts in Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project
 01:51:34 Chair Cuffe
 01:51:39 James Brower, Manager
 01:59:44 Chair Cuffe
 02:00:03 Rep. Scott Staffanson (R), HD 35

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:00:59 Rep. Tropila
 02:01:18 James Brower, Manager
 02:01:48 Rep. Tropila
 02:01:54 James Brower, Manager
 02:02:00 Rep. Tropila
 02:02:07 James Brower, Manager
 02:02:14 Chair Cuffe
 02:02:17 Sen. Sesso

02:02:30 James Brower, Manager
 02:02:41 Sen. Ripley
 02:03:02 James Brower, Manager
 02:03:13 Sen. Ripley
 02:03:19 James Brower, Manager
 02:03:25 Chair Cuffe

02:03:37 Recessed.
 02:13:01 Reconvened.

02:13:17 Chair Cuffe

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) East Fork Rock Creek Main Canal Lining Project

02:13:50 Pam Smith, DNRC
 02:14:04 Jeff Tiberi, Montana Association of Conservation Districts

Daly Ditches Irrigation District, Preservation and Conservation of Resources

02:14:56 Mary Rodriguez, Daly Ditches Irrigation District
[EXHIBIT\(jlh11a10\)](#)
 02:17:59 Chair Cuffe

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:18:11 Sen. Ripley
 02:18:28 Mary Rodriguez, Daly Ditches
 02:18:43 Molly Skorpik, Engineer, Morrison and Maierle
 02:19:29 Sen. Ripley
 02:19:36 Molly Skorpik, Engineer
 02:20:03 Chair Cuffe

Buffalo Rapids Irrigation Project, District 2, Main Canal Rehabilitation

02:20:20 Pam Smith, DNRC
 02:20:42 Scott Aspenlieder, Consulting Engineer, Performance Engineering
 02:24:07 Chair Cuffe

Sidney Water Users Irrigation District, High Canal Phase 5 Project

02:24:13 Pam Smith, DNRC
 02:24:25 Raymond Bell, landowner and Project Manager, Sidney Water Users Irrigation Project
 02:28:46 Chair Cuffe

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:28:50 Sen. Ripley
 02:29:15 Raymond Bell, Project Manager
 02:30:08 Rep. Tropila
 02:30:33 Raymond Bell, Project Manager
 02:31:06 Chair Cuffe

Lower Musselshell County Conservation District, DMWUA South Canal Pre Tunnel Lining Project

02:31:14 Pam Smith, DNRC

02:31:32 Chair Cuffe

02:31:41 Lynn Rettig, Manager, Lower Musselshell Conservation District, Delphia and Melstone Canals

EXHIBIT(jlh11a11)

02:37:23 Chair Cuffe

Clinton Irrigation District, Canal Wasteway Rehabilitation

02:37:35 Pam Smith, DNRC

02:37:52 Scott Dunkelberger, Clinton Irrigation District

EXHIBIT(jlh11a12)**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

02:39:42 Chair Cuffe

02:40:00 Scott Dunkelberger, Clinton Irrigation District

02:40:24 Rep. Tropila

02:40:45 Scott Dunkelberger, Clinton Irrigation District

02:41:05 Chair Cuffe

Helena Valley Irrigation District, Irrigation Efficiency and Water Conservation Project

02:41:11 Pam Smith, DNRC

02:41:40 Robbie Neihart, WWC Engineering

EXHIBIT(jlh11a13)

02:42:01 Chair Cuffe

02:42:53 Paul Barteni, Operations and Maintenance Manager, Helena Valley Irrigation District

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:43:14 Rep. Tropila

02:43:21 Paul Barteni, Operations and Maintenance Manager

02:43:33 Rep. Tropila

02:43:41 Robbie Neihart, WWC Engineering

02:44:00 Chair Cuffe

02:44:05 Rep. Tropila

02:44:28 Robbie Neihart, WWC Engineering

02:44:39 Rep. Tropila

02:44:48 Robbie Neihart, WWC Engineering

02:45:08 Chair Cuffe

02:45:25 Paul Barteni, Operations and Maintenance Manager

02:45:42 Chair Cuffe

Fort Shaw Irrigation District, Fort Shaw Irrigation District's Reduce Waste

02:45:50 Pam Smith, DNRC

02:46:01 Rich Boyle, Manager, Fort Shaw Irrigation District

02:47:02 Chair Cuffe

02:47:03 Rich Boyle, Manager

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:47:32 Chair Cuffe
 02:47:42 Rich Boyle, Manager
 02:48:00 Chair Cuffe

Fort Shaw Irrigation District, Continuation:

02:48:05 Erling Juel, Engineer, Thomas, Dean & Hoskins (TDH) Engineering
 02:50:20 Chair Cuffe
 02:50:26 Erling Juel, Engineer
 02:50:32 Allen Rollo, Sun River Watershed Group, in support of Fort Shaw project
 02:51:00 Chair Cuffe

Hysham Irrigation District, Re-Lift Canal Improvement Project

02:51:07 Pam Smith, DNRC
 02:51:24 Bert Icopini, Chairman, Hysham Irrigation District and landowner
[EXHIBIT\(jlh11a14\)](#)
 02:56:01 Chair Cuffe

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:56:18 Rep. Hagstrom
 02:57:05 Alice Stanley, DNRC
 02:59:19 Chair Cuffe

Hysham Irrigation District, Continuation:

02:59:29 Sen. Duane Ankney (R), SD 20
 03:01:42 Chair Cuffe
 03:01:46 Sen. Ankney
 03:01:50 Chair Cuffe
 03:01:57 Rep. Geraldine Custer (R), HD 39
 03:03:03 Chair Cuffe
 03:03:15 Nicholas Kraus, Civil Engineer, Morrison and Maierle, on behalf of Hysham Irrigation District

Fort Peck Tribes, Lateral L-42M Rehabilitation, Phase 1

03:03:44 Pam Smith, DNRC
 03:04:02 Russ Anderson, Engineer, Morrison and Maierle
[EXHIBIT\(jlh11a15\)](#)
 03:06:17 Chair Cuffe

Toston Irrigation District, Canal Rehabilitation Project

03:06:43 Pam Smith, DNRC
 03:06:59 Franklin Slifka, President, Toston Irrigation District
[EXHIBIT\(jlh11a16\)](#)
 03:09:39 Chair Cuffe
 03:09:45 Shawn Higley, Engineer, WWC Engineering
 03:11:02 Chair Cuffe

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

03:11:06 Rep. Hagstrom
 03:11:19 Shawn Higley, Engineer

03:11:53 Rep. Hagstrom
 03:12:00 Shawn Higley, Engineer
 03:12:08 Chair Cuffe
 03:12:11 Shawn Higley, Engineer
 03:12:35 Chair Cuffe

Lockwood Irrigation District, Pump Station Rehabilitation

03:12:41 Pam Smith, DNRC
 03:12:55 Scott Aspenlieder, Consulting Engineer, Performance Engineering

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

03:16:22 Chair Cuffe
 03:16:35 Scott Aspenlieder, Engineer
 03:16:55 Chair Cuffe
 03:16:57 Rep. Tropila
 03:17:47 Scott Aspenlieder, Engineer
 03:20:38 Rep. Hagstrom
 03:20:49 Scott Aspenlieder, Engineer
 03:21:00 Rep. Hagstrom
 03:21:03 Scott Aspenlieder, Engineer
 03:21:10 Gary Forrester, Lockwood
 03:23:44 Chair Cuffe
 03:23:47 Sen. Ripley
 03:24:18 Gary Forrester, Lockwood
 03:24:25 Chair Cuffe

Greenfields Irrigation District, J-Lake Rehabilitation and Water Quality Improvements

03:24:32 Pam Smith, DNRC
 03:24:46 Erling Juel, Engineer, representing users and management of Greenfields Irrigation District

EXHIBIT(jlh11a17)

03:26:27 Russ Anderson, Engineer
 03:29:39 Chair Cuffe
 03:29:49 Allan Rollo, Sun River Watershed Group
 03:30:34 Chair Cuffe

Malta Irrigation District, Exeter Siphon Replacement Project

03:30:44 Pam Smith, DNRC
 03:31:08 Tara Taborsky, Manager, Malta Irrigation District
 03:32:24 Chair Cuffe
 03:32:28 Erling Juel, Engineer, representing Malta Irrigation District

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

03:33:58 Rep. Tropila
 03:34:26 Tara Taborsky, Manager
 03:35:10 Chair Cuffe

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Water Resources Division

Musselshell Basin Instrumentation Project

03:35:15 Pam Smith, DNRC

03:35:35 Tim Davis, Administrator, Water Resources Division, Departments of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

EXHIBIT(jlh11a18)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

03:36:43 Chair Cuffe
03:36:56 Rep. Tropila
03:37:04 Tim Davis, DNRC
03:37:36 Rep. Tropila
03:37:58 Tim Davis, DNRC

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Water Resources Division, East Fork Rock Creek Main Canal Lining

03:38:49 Pam Smith, DNRC
03:38:58 Tim Davis, DNRC

EXHIBIT(jlh11a19)

03:40:15 Chair Cuffe

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Willow Creek Access

03:40:23 Pam Smith, DNRC
03:40:44 Tim Davis, DNRC

EXHIBIT(jlh11a20)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

03:42:25 Rep. Tropila
03:43:01 Pam Smith, DNRC

Committee Business:

03:43:15 Chair Cuffe
03:43:42 Cathy Duncan, LFD
h03:44:34 Chair Cuffe
03:45:55 Anna Miller, DNRC
03:46:56 Chair Cuffe
03:47:00 Rep. Tropila
03:47:07 Chair Cuffe
03:47:11 Cathy Duncan, LFD
03:47:48 Rep. Tropila
03:47:57 Cathy Duncan, LFD
03:48:01 Chair Cuffe
03:49:14 Cathy Duncan, LFD
03:49:25 Chair Cuffe

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 03:49:34

Mary Ann Mackay, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([jlh11aad.pdf](#))