

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 64th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chair Chas Vincent, on January 14, 2015 at 3:00 PM, in Room 303
Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Chas Vincent, Chair (R)
Sen. Rick Ripley, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Duane Ankney (R)
Sen. John Brenden (R)
Sen. Pat Connell (R) - arrived after roll call
Sen. Jennifer Fielder (R)
Sen. Bradley Hamlett (D)
Sen. Brian Hoven (R)
Sen. Christine Kaufmann (D)
Sen. Jim Keane (D)
Sen. Cliff Larsen (D)
Sen. Mike Phillips (D)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Taylor Fridrich, Committee Secretary
Sonja Nowakowski, 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: SB 34, 1/8/2015; SB 47, 1/8/2015; SB 57, 1/8/2015

Executive Action: Do Pass - SB 58

HEARING ON SB 47

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:23 Sen. JP Pomnichowski (D), SD 33, opened the hearing on SB 47, Increase assessments on owners of classified forest land.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:04:51 Bob Harrington, administrator, Forest Division, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

00:09:17 Julia Altimus, Montana Wood Products Association (MWPA)

00:10:54 Mark Baker, attorney, Plum Creek Timber Company (PCTC)

00:12:24 Leonard Lundby, Montana Fire Alliance (MFA)

00:13:47 Harold Blattie, director, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

Opponents' Testimony:

00:14:42 Dave Wood, Lewis and Clark County resident

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:18:08 Sen. Hoven

00:18:41 Mr. Harrington, DNRC

00:20:59 Sen. Hoven

00:21:09 Mr. Harrington

00:22:19 Sen. Ripley

00:22:46 Mr. Harrington

00:23:00 Sen. Ripley

00:23:33 Mr. Harrington

00:24:03 Sen. Ripley

00:24:19 Mr. Harrington

00:24:45 Sen. Fielder

00:24:59 Mr. Harrington

00:25:26 Sen. Fielder

00:25:41 Mr. Harrington

00:26:30 Sen. Fielder

00:26:57 Mr. Harrington

00:27:10 Sen. Fielder

00:27:31 Mr. Harrington

00:27:40 Sen. Connell entered the hearing.

00:28:05 Sen. Larsen

00:28:32 Mr. Harrington

00:30:02 Sen. Brenden

00:30:34 Mr. Harrington

00:30:38 Sen. Brenden

00:30:45 Mr. Harrington
00:30:56 Sen. Brenden
00:31:05 Mr. Harrington
00:31:15 Sen. Fielder
00:31:44 Mr. Harrington
00:32:19 Sen. Fielder
00:32:32 Mr. Harrington
00:32:52 Sen. Fielder
00:33:00 Mr. Harrington
00:33:30 Sen. Fielder
00:33:41 Mr. Harrington
00:34:14 Mr. Blattie, MACo
00:35:59 Sen. Hoven
00:36:17 Mr. Harrington
00:36:43 Sen. Ripley
00:37:04 Mr. Blattie
00:37:18 Chairman Vincent
00:38:23 Mr. Harrington

Closing by Sponsor:

00:42:41 Sen. Pomnichowski

HEARING ON SB 34

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:44:07 Sen. Tom Facey (D), SD 50, opened the hearing on SB 34, Facilitate cabin and home-site sales.

EXHIBIT(nas08a01)

00:57:42 Sen. Brenden
00:57:52 Chairman Vincent
00:58:15 Sen. Fielder
00:58:25 Chairman Vincent
00:58:42 Sen. Facey

Proponents' Testimony:

01:00:32 John Grimm, bureau chief, Real Estate Management Bureau, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
01:02:39 Margaret Morgan, Montana State Leaseholders Association (MSLA)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:06:30 Sen. Brenden
 01:07:14 Sen. Facey
 01:07:58 Sen. Brenden
 01:08:30 Sen. Facey
 01:08:36 Mr. Grimm, DNRC
 01:08:56 Sen. Brenden
 01:09:20 Mr. Grimm
 01:09:42 Sen. Brenden
 01:10:32 Mr. Grimm
 01:11:08 Sen. Brenden
 01:11:15 Sen. Facey
 01:12:45 Sen. Fielder
 01:13:15 Mr. Grimm
 01:13:56 Sen. Fielder
 01:14:13 Mr. Grimm
 01:14:43 Sen. Fielder
 01:15:07 Mr. Grimm
 01:15:27 Sen. Facey
 01:17:10 Sen. Fielder
 01:17:54 Sen. Facey
 01:18:04 Mr. Grimm
 01:19:48 Sen. Fielder
 01:20:00 Mr. Grimm
 01:20:52 Sen. Ripley
 01:22:30 Mr. Grimm
 01:23:45 Sen. Keane
 01:24:20 Ms. Morgan, MSLA
 01:25:24 Sen. Keane
 01:26:20 Ms. Morgan
 01:26:28 Sen. Hoven
 01:26:57 Sen. Facey
 01:27:55 Sen. Ankney
 01:28:13 Chairman Vincent

Closing by Sponsor:

01:28:29 Sen. Facey
 01:30:18 Sen. Ripley assumed the role as chair.

HEARING ON SB 57

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:30:54 Sen. Chas Vincent (R), SD 1, opened the hearing on SB 57, Revise water adjudication funding and benchmarks.

[EXHIBIT\(nas08a02\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

01:34:05 Tim Davis, administrator, Water Resources Division, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

EXHIBIT(nas08a03)

01:36:27 Russ McElyea, chief water judge, Montana Water Court (MWC)
 01:37:57 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Coalition (SWRC) and Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators (AGAI)
 01:39:22 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association (MWRA)
 01:40:29 Holly Franz, PPL Montana (PPL)
 01:40:57 Chelcie Cremer, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)
 01:41:39 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:42:28 Sen. Fielder
 01:43:36 Mr. Davis, DNRC
 01:43:57 Sen. Fielder
 01:44:12 Mr. Davis
 01:44:37 Sen. Larsen
 01:44:58 Mr. Davis
 01:45:17 Sen. Larsen
 01:45:38 Mr. Davis

Closing by Sponsor:

01:46:03 Sen. Vincent
 01:47:42 Sen. Vincent resumed the role as chair.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 58

01:48:33 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Connell moved that **SB 58 DO PASS**. Motion carried 12-0 by voice vote. Sen. Hamlett voted by proxy.

Committee Business:

01:50:55 Sen. Phillips
 01:51:14 Sen. Brenden
 01:51:42 Sen. Larsen
 01:52:07 Sen. Kaufmann
 01:52:45 Sen. Ripley

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:56 pm

Taylor Fridrich, Secretary

tf

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([nas08aad.pdf](#))