

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 64th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chair Chas Vincent, on January 30, 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)
Sen. Jennifer Fielder (R) - arrived after roll call
Sen. Bradley Hamlett (D)
Sen. Brian Hoven (R)
Sen. Christine Kaufmann (D) - arrived after roll call
Sen. Jim Keane (D)
Sen. Cliff Larsen (D) - arrived after roll call
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 118, 1/26/2015; SB 188, 1/26/2015; SB 201, 1/26/2015

00:01:20 Vice Chair Ripley assumes role as Chair.

HEARING ON SB 188

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:33 Sen. Chas Vincent (R), SD 1, opened the hearing on SB 188, Revise liability for forest or range fires.

00:03:09 Sen. Kaufmann entered the hearing.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:03:29 Gary Wiens, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA)
EXHIBIT(nas21a01)

00:06:45 Sen. Fielder entered the hearing.

00:09:21 Julia Altemus, Montana Wood Products Association (MWPA)

00:13:05 Mark Lambrecht, executive director, Treasure State Resource Industry Association (TSRIA)

00:15:04 John Fitzpatrick, Northwestern Energy Corporation

00:16:37 Jacob Cowgill, Montana Farmers Union

00:17:06 Gary Forrester, Montana-Dakota Utilities (MDU)

00:17:35 Bonnie Lorang, Montana Independent Telecommunication Systems

00:18:13 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA)

00:18:46 Geoff Feiss, general manager, Montana Telecommunications Association (MTA)

00:19:10 Chelcie Cremer, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

00:19:55 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association (MWRA)

Opponents' Testimony:

00:20:35 Al Smith, Montana Trial Lawyers Association (MTLA)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:24:17 Sen. Brenden

00:24:47 Mr. Smith, MTLA

00:25:00 Sen. Brenden

00:25:16 Mr. Smith

00:25:26 Sen. Phillips

00:26:05 Sen. Vincent

00:26:10 Sen. Phillips

00:26:48 Sen. Vincent

00:29:00 Sen. Phillips

00:30:01 Sen. Vincent

00:30:49 Sen. Connell

00:32:27 Mr. Wiens, MECA

00:33:07 Sen. Connell
 00:33:46 Mr. Wiens
 00:34:14 Sen. Fielder
 00:34:30 Mr. Wiens
 00:35:04 Sen. Fielder
 00:35:27 Mr. Wiens
 00:35:38 Sen. Fielder
 00:36:00 Ms. Altemus, MWPA
 00:36:06 Sen. Fielder
 00:36:10 Ms. Altemus
 00:36:29 Sen. Fielder
 00:36:33 Ms. Altemus
 00:36:39 Sen. Fielder
 00:36:44 Vice Chair Ripley
 00:36:49 Sen Fielder
 00:37:00 Ms. Altemus
 00:37:58 Sen. Hamlett
 00:38:33 Sen. Vincent
 00:38:44 Sen. Keane
 00:39:22 Mr. Smith

Closing by Sponsor:

00:40:18 Sen. Vincent
 00:40:51 Sen. Vincent assumes role as Chair.

HEARING ON SB 201

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:41:37 Sen. Duane Ankney (R), SD 20, opened the hearing on SB 201, Require evidence of septic pumping within 3 years before sale of real property.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:46:06 Sen. Ripley
 00:46:24 Sen. Ankney
 00:46:28 Sen. Ripley
 00:47:11 Sen. Ankney
 00:47:25 Sen. Hoven
 00:47:38 Sen. Ankney
 00:48:14 Sen. Keane
 00:48:34 Sen. Ankney

00:48:46 Sen. Phillips
 00:49:04 Sen. Ankney
 00:49:10 Sen. Fielder
 00:49:34 Sen. Ankney
 00:49:38 Sen. Fielder
 00:49:44 Chairman Vincent
 00:49:49 Sonja Nowakowski, research analyst, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
 00:49:59 Chairman Vincent
 00:50:04 Sen. Ankney
 00:50:19 Sen. Ripley
 00:50:33 Chairman Vincent
 00:51:24 Sen. Ankney

Closing by Sponsor:

00:52:29 Sen. Ankney

HEARING ON SB 118

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:53:05 Sen. Bradley Hamlett (D), SD 15, opened the hearing on SB 118, Clarify water right not abandoned if conveyance disrupted.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony:

00:54:05 Holly Franz, Senior Water Rights Coalition (SWRC)
 00:57:58 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association (MWRA)
 00:58:47 Chelcie Cremer, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBR)
 00:59:14 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA) and Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators (AGAI)
 01:00:05 Tim Davis, administrator, Water Resource Division, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:00:52 Sen. Fielder
 01:01:13 Sen. Hamlett
 01:01:22 Sen. Fielder
 01:01:32 Sen. Hamlett
 01:01:47 Sen. Fielder
 01:01:56 Sen. Hamlett
 01:02:47 Sen. Phillips
 01:03:23 Mr. Davis, DNRC
 01:04:02 Sen. Ripley
 01:05:27 Sen. Hamlett

01:06:18 Sen. Keane
01:06:57 Ms. Franz, SWRC
01:08:02 Chairman Vincent
01:09:33 Ms. Franz
01:11:36 Sen. Ripley
01:12:40 Ms. Franz
01:13:18 Chairman Vincent

Closing by Sponsor:

01:13:31 Sen. Hamlett

Committee Business:

01:14:30 Chairman Vincent

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:17 P.M.

Taylor Fridrich, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([nas21aad.pdf](#))