

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chair Kerry White, on March 28, 2017 at 5:00 P.M., in Room 172 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Kerry White, Chair (R)
Rep. Zach Brown, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Kim Abbott (D)
Rep. Bob Brown (R)
Rep. Virginia Court (D)
Rep. Willis Curdy (D)
Rep. Ross H. Fitzgerald (R)
Rep. Kelly Flynn (R)
Rep. Wylie Galt (R)
Rep. Mark Noland (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Theresa Manzella, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. John Fleming (D)
Rep. Steve Gunderson (R)
Rep. Dale Mortensen (R)
Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Lexi Goble, 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 659, 3/27/2017

Executive Action on: HB 659, 3/28/2017

HEARING ON HB 659**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:37 Rep. Bradley Hamlett (D), HD 23, opened the hearing on HB 659, Revise exempt well laws.

Proponents' Testimony: None**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:05:40 Krista Lee Evans, Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators (AGAI); Senior Water Rights Coalition (SWRC)

00:06:44 Abigail St. Lawrence, Montana Building Industry Association (MBIA), Montana Association of Realtors (MAR)

00:07:30 Jan Langel, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

00:08:49 Bill Schenk, Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

EXHIBIT(nah64a01)

00:09:26 Rep. Manzella joined the meeting

00:09:59 Brian Ohs, Montana Trout Unlimited (MTU)

00:10:34 Jeff Barber, Montana Smart Growth Coalition (MSGC)

00:10:35 Levi Ostberg, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)

00:10:52 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association (MWRA)

00:11:10 Chelsie Cargill, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

00:11:33 Kori Anderson, Montana Stock Growers Association (MSGGA)

00:11:53 Ronda Wiggers, Montana Water Well Drillers (MWWD)

Informational Testimony:

00:12:21 John Metesh, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology (MBMG)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:12:43 Chair White

00:13:19 John Metesh, MBMG

00:13:47 Rep. B. Brown

00:14:12 Rep. Galt left the meeting

00:15:24 Rep. Hamlett

Closing by Sponsor:

00:16:02 Rep. Hamlett

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 659

00:20:14 **Motion:** Rep. Manzella moved **HB 659 BE CONCEPTUALLY AMENDED, RESTORING LINES 29 & 30.**

00:20:57 **Vote:** Motion carried 14-1 by voice vote with Rep. Z. Brown voting no. Rep. Fleming, Rep. Galt, Rep. Gunderson, Rep. Mortensen and Rep. Windy Boy voted by proxy.

00:22:04 **Motion:** Rep. Manzella moved that **HB 659 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

00:23:02

Substitute Motion/Vote: Rep. Flynn made a substitute motion that **HB 659 BE TABLED**. Substitute Motion carried 11-4 by roll call vote with Rep. Z. Brown, Rep. Court, Rep. Curdy and Rep. White voting no. Rep. Fleming, Rep. Galt, Rep. Gunderson, Rep. Mortensen and Rep. Windy Boy voted by proxy.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment:
00:23:43

Lexi Goble, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([nah64aad.pdf](#))