

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 66th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chair Kerry White, on March 18, 2019 at 3:00 PM, in Room 172 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Kerry White, Chair (R)
Rep. Willis Curdy, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Bob Brown (R)
Rep. Zach Brown (D)
Rep. Robert Farris-Olsen (D)
Rep. Ross H. Fitzgerald (R)
Rep. Steve Gunderson (R)
Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter (D)
Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R)
Rep. Marilyn Marler (D)
Rep. Mark Noland (R)
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Theresa Manzella, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)
Rep. Dale Mortensen (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Joe Kolman, Legislative Branch
Jacie Vonada, Committee Secretary

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 32, 2/28/2019; SB 48, 3/6/2019; SJ 4, 2/28/2019

15:09:33 Chair White

HEARING ON SB 32

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:11:23 Sen. Sen. Jon Sesso (D), SD 37, opened the hearing on SB 32, Create stream gauge oversight work group.

EXHIBIT(nah55a01)

Proponents' Testimony:

15:15:15 Rep. Willis Curdy (D), HD 98

15:18:10 Erin Farris-Olsen, Montana Watershed Coordination Council (MWCC)

15:22:03 Bill Milton, self

EXHIBIT(nah55a02)

15:25:24 Dan McGowan, Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD)

15:27:27 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited

15:28:21 Cindy Palmer, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)

15:28:44 Brian Ohs, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA), Montana Water Resources Association (MWRA), Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators (AGAI)

15:29:49 Erling Juel, Greenfield Irrigation District

15:32:42 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

15:35:13 Paul Azevedo, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:35:53 Chair White

15:37:01 Sen. Sesso

15:38:30 Chair White

15:39:19 Sen. Sesso

15:39:59 Chair White

15:40:15 Sen. Sesso

15:41:02 Chair White

15:43:22 Sen. Sesso

15:45:44 Chair White

15:47:20 Sen. Sesso

15:50:26 Chair White

15:50:50 Mr. McGowan, MACD

15:50:58 Chair White

15:52:22 Mr. McGowan, MACD

15:53:48 Chair White

15:55:03 Mr. Azevedo, DNRC

15:56:34 Rep. Zach Brown

15:57:09 Ms. Farris-Olsen, MWCC

15:57:40 Chair White

15:58:12 Pedro Marques, Big Hole Watershed Committee

15:59:55 Rep. Zach Brown
16:00:04 Mr. Marques, Big Hole Watershed Committee
16:01:39 Rep. Zach Brown
16:02:12 Mr. Milton, self
16:04:09 Chair White
16:06:06 Mr. Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited
16:06:47 Chair White
16:07:20 Mr. Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited
16:07:42 Rep. Marler
16:08:13 Sen. Sesso
16:08:54 Chair White
16:09:47 Rep. Rhonda Knudsen
16:11:01 Sen. Sesso
16:13:02 Rep. Rhonda Knudsen
16:13:12 Sen. Sesso
16:14:05 Rep. Rhonda Knudsen
16:14:48 Sen. Sesso
16:18:38 Chair White

Closing by Sponsor:

16:18:52 Sen. Sesso

16:19:39 Chair White

HEARING ON SJ 4

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

16:20:22 Sen. Sen. Jon Sesso (D), SD 37, opened the hearing on SJ324, Resolution to reauthorize of surface mining control and reclamation act.

Proponents' Testimony:

16:22:49 Bill Snoddy, Department of Environmental Quality

[EXHIBIT\(nah55a03\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(nah55a04\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(nah55a05\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(nah55a06\)](#)

16:27:49 Tim Ranf, Pioneer Technical Services
16:30:32 Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)
16:30:45 Cody Ferguson, Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC)
16:31:31 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

16:32:47 Sen. Sesso
16:33:32 Chair White

HEARING ON SB 48**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

16:34:01 Tom Richmond (R), SD 28, opened the hearing on SB3248, Revise variances to water quality standards.
16:36:08 Rep. Marler left the meeting.
16:37:44 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter left the meeting.

Proponents' Testimony:

16:37:46 Tim Davis, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
EXHIBIT(nah55a07)
16:42:00 Rep. Weatherwax left the meeting.
16:43:41 Tammy Johnson, Montana Mining Association (MMA)
16:45:03 Tim Burton, Montana League of Cities and Towns
16:48:20 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited
16:49:00 Daniel Reddish, Mayor, Phillipsburg, Montana
16:54:03 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association (TSRA)
16:54:42 Alan Olson, Montana Petroleum Association (MPA)

Opponents' Testimony:

16:55:17 Cody Ferguson, Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC)
16:57:38 Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)
17:01:43 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon
17:02:52 Anne Hedges, MEIC

Informational Testimony: None**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

17:03:29 Chair White
17:03:45 Mr. Davis, DEQ
17:04:10 Chair White
17:04:25 Mr. Davis, DEQ
17:04:33 Rep. Zach Brown
17:04:43 Rep. Casey Knudsen left the meeting.
17:04:43 Rep. Bob Brown left the meeting
17:04:55 Mr. Davis, DEQ
17:05:21 Rep. Rhonda Knudsen left the meeting.

17:05:26 Rep. Zach Brown
17:06:08 Joe Kolman, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
17:06:40 Rep. Zach Brown
17:06:53 Chair White
17:07:09 Vice Chair Curdy
17:07:28 Mr. Davis, DEQ

Closing by Sponsor:

17:08:04 Sen. Richmond

17:10:25 Chair White

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:10:38

Jacie Vonada, Secretary

jv

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([nah55aad.pdf](#))