

## MINUTES

### MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 66th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

**Call to Order:** Chair Kerry White, on March 20, 2019 at 3:00 PM, in Room 172 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Rep. Willis Curdy, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Theresa Manzella, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Bob Brown (R)  
Rep. Zach Brown (D)  
Rep. Robert Farris-Olsen (D)  
Rep. Ross H. Fitzgerald (R)  
Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter (D)  
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)  
Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R)  
Rep. Marilyn Marler (D)  
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Kerry White, Chair (R)  
Rep. Steve Gunderson (R)  
Rep. Dale Mortensen (R)  
Rep. Mark Noland (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: HB 31, 2/28/2019; SB 41, 2/28/2019; SB 151, 2/28/2019

15:02:45 Vice Chair Manzella assumed the Chair.

**HEARING ON SB 151**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:03:21 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, opened the hearing on SB151, Clarify notice procedures for exempt right claims.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:06:28 Holly Franz, Northwestern Energy (NWE)

15:08:06 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Coalition (SrWRC), Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators (AGAI)

15:08:50 Liv Stavick, Montana Farm Bureau (MFB)

15:09:10 Brian Ohs, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA)

15:09:32 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association (MWRA)

15:09:59 Cindy Palmer, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

15:10:31 John Peterson, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:10:51 Rep. Zach Brown

15:11:17 Mr. Peterson, DNRC

**Closing by Sponsor:**

15:12:06 Sen. Fitzpatrick

**HEARING ON SB 41**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:13:06 Sen. Tom Richmond (R), SD 28, opened the hearing on SB41, Allow written bids for state trust land oil and gas leases.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:14:26 Trevor Taylor, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

15:17:26 Rep. Weatherwax left the meeting.

15:18:02 Shelby DeMars, Montana Association of Oil, Gas and Coal Counties

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:19:10 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter  
 15:19:48 Mr. Taylor, DNRC  
 15:20:44 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter  
 15:20:54 Mr. Taylor, DNRC  
 15:21:27 Rep. Zach Brown  
 15:21:40 Mr. Taylor, DNRC  
 15:22:09 Monty Mason, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)  
 15:22:53 Rep. Bob Brown  
 15:23:27 Mr. Taylor, DNRC  
 15:24:02 Rep. Rhonda Knudsen  
 15:24:31 Mr. Taylor, DNRC  
 15:25:15 Rep. Rhonda Knudsen  
 15:25:45 Mr. Taylor, DNRC  
 15:26:07 Rep. Rhonda Knudsen  
 15:26:27 Vice Chair Manzella  
 15:26:48 Mr. Taylor, DNRC  
 15:27:39 Rep. Bob Brown  
 15:28:29 Mr. Taylor, DNRC  
 15:28:59 Rep. Bob Brown  
 15:29:10 Mr. Taylor, DNRC  
 15:29:33 Vice Chair Manzella

**Closing by Sponsor:**

15:29:51 Sen. Richmond

**HEARING ON HB 31****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:32:16 Rep. Willis Curdy (D), HD 98, opened the hearing on HB31, Revise fire assessment fees.

[EXHIBIT\(nah57a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(nah57a02\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(nah57a03\)](#)

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:**

15:49:19 Liv Stavick, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)  
 15:50:08 Lyle Benjamin, Montana Graingrowers Association (MGGA)  
 15:52:12 Brian Ohs, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGGA)  
 15:55:56 Leonard Lundby, self  
 16:00:45 Eric Briyson, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)  
 16:03:44 Krista Lee Evans, Lehrelute Colonies  
 16:04:28 Harold Blattie, self

**Informational Testimony:**

16:09:54 Michael Degrosky, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)  
16:10:25 Bryce Kaatz, Montana Department of Revenue

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

16:10:53 Rep. Marler  
16:11:34 Mr. Degrosky, DNRC  
16:11:58 Rep. Marler  
16:12:24 Mr. Degrosky, DNRC  
16:13:08 Rep. Marler  
16:13:31 Mr. Degrosky, DNRC  
16:14:26 Rep. Fitzgerald  
16:15:04 Mr. Degrosky, DNRC  
16:15:28 Rep. Fitzgerald  
16:16:16 Mr. Degrosky, DNRC  
16:16:31 Rep. Bob Brown  
16:18:03 Mr. Degrosky, DNRC  
16:18:33 Rep. Bob Brown  
16:18:54 Mr. Degrosky, DNRC  
16:19:11 Rep. Bob Brown  
16:19:27 Mr. Degrosky, DNRC  
16:19:38 Rep. Fitzgerald  
16:20:42 Rep. Curdy  
16:21:21 Joe Kolman, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
16:22:05 Rep. Fitzgerald  
16:22:37 Rep. Curdy  
16:22:52 Mr. Kaatz, Montana Department of Revenue  
16:24:43 Rep. Fitzgerald  
16:24:50 Joe Kolman, LSD  
16:26:24 Rep. Fitzgerald  
16:27:57 Rep. Curdy  
16:31:49 Rep. Fitzgerald  
16:32:34 Mr. Degrosky, DNRC  
16:33:05 Vice Chair Manzella  
16:33:37 Mr. Degrosky, DNRC  
16:33:50 Vice Chair Manzella  
16:34:28 Rep. Curdy  
16:34:42 Vice Chair Manzella  
16:35:05 Mr. Kaatz, Montana Department of Revenue  
16:35:37 Joe Kolman, LSD  
16:35:43 Mr. Kaatz, Montana Department of Revenue  
16:36:14 Rep. Rhonda Knudsen  
16:37:14 Rep. Curdy  
16:38:49 Rep. Rhonda Knudsen  
16:39:38 Rep. Curdy  
16:41:04 Vice Chair Manzella  
  
16:41:30 Chair White arrived to the meeting.

**Closing by Sponsor:**

16:41:46 Rep. Curdy

[EXHIBIT\(nah57a04\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(nah57a05\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(nah57a06\)](#)

16:49:48 Rep. Farris-Olsen left the meeting.

16:53:58 Vice Chair Manzella

16:54:13 Chair White resumed the Chair.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 16:55:42

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Jacie Vonada, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([nah57aad.pdf](#))