

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 66th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chair Kerry White, on March 25, 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. 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. Rhonda Knudsen (R)
Rep. Marilyn Marler (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Steve Gunderson (R)
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)
Rep. Dale Mortensen (R)
Rep. Mark Noland (R)
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D)

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 299, 3/1/2019; HB 736, 3/22/2019; HB 722, 3/21/2019; HB 708, 3/21/2019

15:27:04 Chair White

HEARING ON HB 708

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:28:21 Rep. Bradley Hamlett (D), HD 23, opened the hearing on HB 708, Revise volume for groundwater exemption.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:31:33 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited (MTU)

Opponents' Testimony:

15:32:28 Abigail St. Lawrence, Montana Building Industry Association (MBIA)

15:34:43 Jan Langel, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

15:36:03 Kreh Germane, self

15:37:41 Rep. Casey Knudson arrived to the meeting.

15:37:51 Sam Sill, Montana Association of Realtors

15:38:30 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Coalition (SrWRC), Association of Gallatin Irrigators (AGAI)

15:40:05 Ronda Wiggers, Montana Water Well Drillers Association

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:41:52 Chair White

15:42:22 Mr. Elliott, MTU

15:43:00 Chair White

15:43:42 Rep. Weatherwax arrived to the meeting.

15:43:54 Rep. Gunderson arrived to the meeting.

15:44:07 Mr. Elliott, MTU

15:44:29 Rep. Zach Brown

15:44:46 Ms. Evans, SrWRC, AGAI

15:45:12 Rep. Zach Brown

15:45:37 Rep. Hamlett

15:46:09 Rep. Fitzgerald

15:46:55 Rep. Hamlett

15:47:16 Chair White

15:48:09 Ms. Evans, SrWRC, AGAI

15:48:54 Vice Chair Curdy

15:49:25 Mr. Langel, DNRC

15:49:40 Vice Chair Curdy

15:49:58 Ms. Evans, SrWRC, AGAI

Closing by Sponsor:

15:51:23 Rep. Hamlett

HEARING ON SB 299**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:55:17 Sen. Mike Lang (R), SD 17, opened the hearing on SB 299, Generally revise laws related to sage grouse conservation.

Proponents' Testimony:

16:01:24 Alan Olson, Montana Petroleum Association (MPA)
16:03:17 Doug Hardy, Montana Electric Cooperatives Association (MECA)
16:04:44 Gary Forrester, Montana Dakota Utility Resources Group (MDUR)
16:05:32 Geoff Feiss, Montana Telecommunication Association (MTA)
16:08:39 Liv Stavick, Montana Farm Bureau (MFB)
16:09:32 Shelby DeMars, Montana Association of Oil, Gas and Coal Counties
16:11:08 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA)
16:12:33 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association (TSRA)
16:13:38 Jerry Collins, Garfield County Commission

Opponents' Testimony:

16:14:21 John Tubbs, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
16:16:17 Glenn Marx, Montana Association of Land Trusts
16:19:25 Ben Lamb, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF), National Wildlife Federation (NWF)
16:21:49 Steve Platt, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
16:22:41 Ben Deeble, Big Sky Upland Bird
16:25:19 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon
16:27:25 Tim Nixdorf, self

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

16:30:53 Vice Chair Curdy
16:31:56 Director Tubbs, DNRC
16:35:17 Chair White
16:35:32 Director Tubbs, DNRC
16:35:58 Chair White
16:36:05 Director Tubbs, DNRC
16:36:14 Chair White
16:36:57 Director Tubbs, DNRC
16:37:29 Vice Chair Manzella
16:38:20 Mr. Nixdorf, self
16:40:51 Chair White
16:41:23 Sen. Lang
16:41:38 Chair White
16:43:04 Mr. Olson, MPA
16:44:35 Chair White
16:45:12 Mr. Marx, Montana Association of Land Trusts
16:45:54 Chair White
16:46:01 Mr. Marx, Montana Association of Land Trusts
16:46:11 Chair White

16:46:42 Mr. Marx, Montana Association of Land Trusts
16:46:48 Chair White
16:47:14 Mr. Marx, Montana Association of Land Trusts
16:47:33 Chair White
16:48:18 Sen. Lang
16:49:09 Chair White
16:49:55 Sen. Lang
16:50:32 Vice Chair Curdy
16:51:01 Sen. Lang

16:50:40 Rep. Noland arrived to the meeting.

16:51:37 Rep. Fitzgerald
16:52:52 Director Tubbs, DNRC
16:54:34 Rep. Fitzgerald
16:55:18 Director Tubbs, DNRC
16:56:10 Rep. Fitzgerald
16:56:40 Director Tubbs, DNRC
16:58:29 Chair White
16:59:01 Director Tubbs, DNRC
16:59:31 Mr. Hardy, MECA
17:00:25 Chair White
17:00:42 Director Tubbs, DNRC
17:00:59 Chair White
17:01:53 Director Tubbs, DNRC
17:02:50 Chair White
17:03:22 Sen. Lang

Closing by Sponsor:

17:06:02 Sen. Lang

17:11:00 Recessed

17:22:49 Reconvened

17:22:50 Rep. Casey Knudsen left the meeting.
17:22:52 Rep. Farris-Olsen left the meeting.
17:22:53 Rep. Weatherwax left the meeting.

17:23:01 Chair White

HEARING ON HB 736**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

17:23:11 Rep. Tom Woods (D), HD 62, opened the hearing on HB 736, Establish liability for fires caused by transmission lines.

Proponents' Testimony:

17:26:33 Al Smith, Montana Trial Lawyers Association (MTLA)

Opponents' Testimony:

17:27:54 John Alke, Northwestern Energy (NWE)

17:33:30 Aimee Grmoljez, Montana Dakota Utility Resources Group (MDUR)

17:34:50 Bridger Mahlum, Montana Chamber of Commerce

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

17:35:30 Chair White

17:36:43 Rep. Woods

17:38:04 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter

17:38:31 Rep. Woods

17:39:25 Vice Chair Curdy

17:40:03 Mr. Smith, MTLA

17:40:54 Rep. Fitzgerald

17:41:44 Mr. Alke, NWE

17:44:25 Chair White

17:45:24 Rep. Woods

Closing by Sponsor:

17:45:47 Rep. Woods

HEARING ON HB 722**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

17:47:44 Rep. Steve Gunderson (R), HD 1, opened the hearing on HB 722, Allow transfer of hard rock mining permit.

EXHIBIT(nah61a01)

Proponents' Testimony:

17:52:35 Tammy Johnson, Montana Mining Association (MMA)

17:56:19 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resource Association (TSRA)

17:57:09 Bridger Mahlum, Montana Chamber of Commerce

Opponents' Testimony:

17:57:42 Bonnie Gestring, self

EXHIBIT(nah61a02)

EXHIBIT(nah61a03)

18:03:32 Derf Johnson, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

18:06:42 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

Informational Testimony:

18:07:22 Dan Walsh, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

18:07:53 Chair White
18:09:22 Ms. Seaman, Montana Audubon
18:10:55 Chair White
18:12:21 Ms. Seaman, Montana Audubon
18:12:51 Chair White
18:13:19 Ms. Seaman, Montana Audubon
18:13:39 Chair White
18:14:20 Ms. Seaman, Montana Audubon

18:14:29 Rep. Zach Brown left the meeting.

18:14:41 Rep. Bob Brown
18:15:49 Rep. Gunderson
18:17:08 Rep. Bob Brown
18:17:33 Rep. Gunderson
18:17:48 Rep. Bob Brown
18:18:04 Rep. Gunderson
18:18:27 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter
18:19:38 Ms. Johnson, MMA
18:21:10 Chair White
18:21:34 Ms. Johnson, MMA
18:22:12 Chair White
18:22:40 Ms. Johnson, MMA
18:23:35 Rep. Manzella
18:24:21 Ms. Johnson, MMA
18:25:47 Chair White
18:26:59 Mr. Walsh, DEQ
18:27:14 Chair White
18:27:36 Mr. Walsh, DEQ
18:29:36 Chair White

Closing by Sponsor:

18:30:03 Rep. Gunderson

18:32:16 Chair White
18:34:08 Vice Chair Manzella
18:34:26 Chair White

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 18:35:21

Jacie Vonada, Secretary

jv

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([nah61aad.pdf](#))