

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 66th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chair Jeffrey W. Welborn, on January 11, 2019 at 3:04 PM, in Room 303 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Jeffrey W. Welborn, Chair (R)
Sen. JP Pomnichowski, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Tom Richmond, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Duane Ankney (R)
Sen. Dick Barrett (D)
Sen. Jill Cohenour (D)
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)
Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)
Sen. Brian Hoven (R)
Sen. Tom Jacobson (D)

Members Excused: Sen. John Esp (R)
Sen. Scott Sales (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Jason Mohr, Legislative Branch
Mary Vandenbosch, 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, 1/7/2019; SB 34, 1/7/2019; SB 45, 1/7/2019; SB 46, 1/7/2019

HEARING ON SB 32**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:05:52 Sen. Jon Sesso (D), SD 37, opened the hearing on SB 32, Create stream gauge oversight work group.

EXHIBIT(nas05a01)**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:10:23 Chairman Welborn

15:10:47 Rep. Willis Curdy (D), HD 98

15:14:04 Erin Farris-Olsen, executive director, Montana Watershed Coordination Council

EXHIBIT(nas05a02)

15:17:20 Jennifer Downing, Big Hole Watershed Committee

15:19:33 Erling Juel, manager, Greenfields Irrigation District

15:21:04 Dan McGowan, Montana Association of Conservation Districts

15:24:03 Jennifer Schoonen, water programs coordinator, Blackfoot Challenge

15:25:18 Tracy Wendt, Sun River Watershed Group

15:26:12 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association

15:27:51 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Coalition, Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators

15:28:18 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited

15:28:44 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

15:29:48 Julian Adler, Montana Public Interest Research Group

15:30:16 Cindy Palmer, Montana Farmers Union

Opponents' Testimony: None**Informational Testimony:**

15:30:45 John Tubbs, director, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:31:15 Sen. Pomnichowski

15:31:42 Sen. Sesso

15:33:30 Sen. Barrett

15:34:00 Mr. Tubbs, DNRC

15:35:40 Chairman Welborn

15:35:45 Sen. Gillespie

15:36:23 Sen. Sesso

Closing by Sponsor:

15:38:15 Sen. Sesso

HEARING ON SB 34

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:39:03 Sen. Pat Flowers (D), SD 32, opened the hearing on SB 34, Revise hearings process for change of water right application.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:41:18 Holly Franz, NorthWestern Energy
15:42:34 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Coalition, Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators
15:43:11 Millie Heffner, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:44:02 Sen. Pomnichowski
15:44:32 Ms. Heffner, DNRC

Closing by Sponsor:

15:45:14 Sen. Flowers

HEARING ON SB 45

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:46:16 Sen. Jill Cohenour (D), SD 42, opened the hearing on SB 45, Revise certain water right adjudication processes.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:48:451 Russ McElyea, chief water judge, Montana Water Court
15:57:11 John Peterson, Adjudication Bureau chief, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
15:58:30 Holly Franz, member, Water Court Advisory Committee
15:59:48 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Coalition, Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:01:24 Sen. Pomnichowski
16:01:57 Mr. McElyea
16:02:53 Sen. Pomnichowski
16:03:09 Mr. McElyea

Closing by Sponsor:

16:05:20 Sen. Cohenour

HEARING ON SB 46

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

16:06:29 Sen. Jill Cohenour (D), SD 42, opened the hearing on SB 46, Revise laws related to distribution lists.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

16:08:15 Becky Dockter, chief legal counsel, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)

16:08:46 Barbara Chillcott, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:09:09 Sen. Richmond

16:09:57 Ms. Chillcott, DNRC

16:10:27 Sen. Richmond

16:10:35 Ms. Chillcott

16:10:41 Sen. Flowers

16:11:01 Ms. Dockter, FWP

16:11:36 Sen. Flowers

16:11:46 Ms. Dockter

Closing by Sponsor:

16:12:41 Sen. Cohenour

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:14 PM

Mary Vandebosch, Secretary

mv

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([nas05aad.pdf](#))