

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 66th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chair Jeffrey W. Welborn, on February 18, 2019 at 2:59 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. John Esp (R)
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)
Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)
Sen. Brian Hoven (R)
Sen. Tom Jacobson (D)

Members Excused: 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: HB 56, 2/13/2019; HB 57, 2/13/2019; HB 220, 2/13/2019

Executive Action: HB 57 - Be Concurred In
HB 56 - Be Concurred In
HB 220 - Be Concurred In
HB 70 - Be Concurred In
SB 252 - Do Pass

HEARING ON HB 56

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:01:01 Rep. Jim Keane (D), HD 73, opened the hearing on HB 56, Revise and clarify voluntary clean-up laws and extend groundwater cleanup time.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:02:06 Aimee Reynolds, Department of Environmental Quality

15:04:27 Sen. Cohenour entered the hearing.

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

15:06:27 Rep. Keane

HEARING ON HB 220

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:07:05 Rep. Walt Sales (R), HD 69, opened the hearing on HB 220, Revise time period for Water Court decrees.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:08:59 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Coalition; Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators

15:10:06 Brian Ohs, Montana Stockgrowers Association

15:10:30 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association

15:10:46 Liv Stavick, Montana Farm Bureau

15:11:06 John Peterson, Adjudication Bureau chief, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

15:11:26 Colin Cooney, Trout Unlimited; Rocky Mountain Stockgrowers

15:11:47 Holly Franz, NorthWestern Energy

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

15:12:26 Russ McElyea, chief water judge, Montana Water Court

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

15:13:00 Rep. Sales

HEARING ON HB 57

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:13:45 Rep. Zach Brown (D), HD 63, opened the hearing on HB 57, Clarify placement of definitions in water law.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:14:55 Millie Heffner, Water Rights Bureau chief, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

15:15:29 Holly Franz, NorthWestern Energy

15:15:53 Colin Cooney, Trout Unlimited

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

15:16:18 Rep. Brown

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 57

15:17:20 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Pomnichowski moved that **HB 57 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried 11-0 by voice vote. Sen. S. Sales was excused. Sen. Pomnichowski will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 56

15:18:23 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Pomnichowski moved that **HB 56 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. S. Sales voted by proxy. Sen. Richmond will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 220

15:19:40 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Richmond moved that **HB 220 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. S. Sales voted by proxy. Sen. Cohenour will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 70

15:20:33 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Richmond moved that **HB 70 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. S. Sales voted by proxy. Sen. Gillespie will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 252

15:21:35 **Motion:** Sen. Ankney moved that **SB 252 DO PASS**.

Discussion:

15:22:00 Sen. Pomnichowski

EXHIBIT(nas34a01)

15:22:55 Sen. Esp

15:23:33 Sen. Barrett

15:24:47 Sen. Cohenour

15:26:11 Sen. Hoven

15:27:03 Sen. Ankney

15:28:55 Sen. Gillespie

15:29:37 **Vote:** Motion carried 8-4 by roll call vote with Sen. Barrett, Sen. Cohenour, Sen. Flowers and Sen. Pomnichowski voting no. Sen. S. Sales voted by proxy.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 3:31 PM

Mary Vandebosch, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([nas34aad.pdf](#))