

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chair Steve Gunderson, on February 24, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 172 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Steve Gunderson, Chair (R)
Rep. Willis Curdy, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Paul Fielder (R)
Rep. Ross H. Fitzgerald (R)
Rep. Tom France (D)
Rep. Steven Galloway (R)
Rep. Steve Gist (R)
Rep. Marty Malone (R)
Rep. Marilyn Marler (D)
Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R)

Members Excused:

Rep. Rhonda Knudsen, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Robert Farris-Olsen (D)
Rep. Mark Noland (R)
Rep. Brian Putnam (R)
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present:

Jacquelynn Bomgardner, Committee Secretary
Joe Kolman, Legislative Branch
Rachael Foe, Remote Meeting Coordinator

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 518, 2/22/2021; HJ 15, 2/22/2021; HB 498, 2/22/2021; HB 418, 2/22/2021
Executive Action on; HB 418; HJ 15; HB 498

15:01:28 Rep. Walsh left the meeting.

HEARING ON HB 518

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:02:26 Rep. Denley Loge (R), HD 14, opened the hearing on HB 518, Generally revise flood plain delineation, review, and regulations.

15:02:28 Rep. Galloway left the meeting.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:05:17 Lance Jasper, City of St. Regis; St. Regis Resort Board

15:09:51 Rick Jasper, self

15:12:14 Abigail St. Lawrence, Montana Building Industry Association (MBIA)

Opponents' Testimony:

15:14:17 Pamela Vosen, Association of Montana Floodplain Managers (AMFM)

[**EXHIBIT\(nah39a01\)**](#)

15:17:26 Derf Johnson, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

15:18:52 John Rundquist, self

[**EXHIBIT\(nah39a02\)**](#)

15:19:44 Chad Berginnis, Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM)

[**EXHIBIT\(nah39a03\)**](#)

15:23:12 Dannette Cremer, Program for Public Information of Miles City (PPI)

Informational Testimony:

15:26:19 Steve Story, Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC)

[**EXHIBIT\(nah39a04\)**](#)

15:27:28 Traci Sears, Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:28:24 Rep. Fitzgerald

15:29:15 Pamela Vosen, AMFM

15:29:33 Steve Story, DNRC

15:30:50 Rep. Walsh rejoined the meeting.

15:33:12 Rep. Fitzgerald

15:34:15 Lance Jasper, City of St. Regis; St. Regis Resort Board

15:35:38 Rep. Putnam rejoined the meeting.

15:38:30 Rep. France

15:39:36 Rep. Loge

15:41:13 Rep. France

15:42:10 Traci Sears, DNRC

15:42:55 Rep. France

15:43:18 Steve Story, DNRC

15:43:43 Rep. Galloway rejoined the meeting.

15:44:16 Rep. Malone

15:45:36 Rep. Loge
15:46:44 Rep. Walsh left the meeting.
15:46:47 Chair Gunderson
15:49:01 Traci Sears, DNRC

Closing by Sponsor:

15:49:43 Rep. Loge

HEARING ON HJ 15

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:52:00 Rep. Marilyn Marler (D), HD 90, opened the hearing on HJ 15, Resolution to recognize benefits of connected trail networks across Montana.

[EXHIBIT\(nah39a05\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

15:54:15 Marty Bannon, Montana Trail 406 Association

[EXHIBIT\(nah39a06\)](#)

15:56:34 Noah Marion, Montana Wilderness Association (MWA)

15:57:35 Rep. Farris-Olsen joinen the meeting

15:58:05 Amy Grisak, Montana Trail 406 Association

[EXHIBIT\(nah39a07\)](#)

16:00:51 Jim D Gurden, Montana Trail 406 Association

[EXHIBIT\(nah39a08\)](#)

16:01:22 Rep. Gist left the meeting.

16:04:21 Laurie Jo Richards, Montana Trail 406 Association

[EXHIBIT\(nah39a09\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:07:06 Rep. Galloway

16:08:56 Marty Bannon, Montana Trail 406 Association

16:09:50 Rep. Galloway

16:10:16 Rep. Fielder

16:10:59 Rep. Marler

16:11:58 Rep. Galloway

16:12:45 Rep. Marler

16:13:06 Chair Gunderson

16:14:58 Rep. Marler

Closing by Sponsor:

16:15:40 Rep. Marler

16:17:17 Rep. Fitzgerald assumed the Chair.

HEARING ON HB 498

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

16:18:20 Rep. Steve Gunderson (R), HD 1, opened the hearing on HB 498, Clarify jurisdiction of board of oil and gas conservation.

Proponents' Testimony:

16:19:26 Alan Olsen, Montana Petroleum Association (MPA)

[EXHIBIT\(nah39a10\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(nah39a11\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:28:10 Rep. Malone

16:28:36 Alan Olsen, MPA

16:29:21 Joe Kolman, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

Closing by Sponsor:

16:30:05 Rep. Gunderson

HEARING ON HB 418

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

16:31:36 Rep. Steve Gunderson (R), HD 1, opened the hearing on HB 418, Establish the public lands access act.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony:

16:35:29 Noah Marion, Montana Wilderness Association (MWA)

16:38:57 Jake Brown, Montana Conservation Voters (MCV)

16:39:16 Colin Cooney, Trout Unlimited (TU)

16:39:53 Graham Coppes, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Angler (BHA)

16:43:18 Laurie Little Dog, slef

16:43:57 Rep. Walsh rejoined the meeting.

16:44:32 Nick Gevock, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:45:17 Rep. Putnam

16:49:43 Rep. Gunderson

16:51:30 Rep. Farris-Olsen

16:55:19 Rep. Gunderson

16:56:03 Rep. Curdy
16:56:22 Rep. Farris-Olsen left the meeting.
16:56:39 Graham Coppes, BHA
16:59:49 Rep. Marler
17:00:53 Rep. Gunderson
17:01:13 Rep. Marler
17:01:30 Rep. Malone
17:02:23 Rep. Gunderson
17:02:44 Rep. France

17:07:00 Rep. Gunderson

Closing by Sponsor:

17:07:26 Rep. Gunderson

17:09:52 Rep. Gunderson assumed the Chair.

17:10:25 Recess
17:24:21 Reconvened

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 418

17:25:23 **Motion:** Rep. Fielder moved that **HB 418 DO PASS.**

17:25:32 **Motion:** Rep. Fielder moved that **HB 418 BE AMENDED.**
EXHIBIT(nah39a12)

Discussion:

17:25:54 Vice Chair Curdy
17:26:06 Joe Kolman, LSD

17:26:50 **Vote:** Motion carried 14-1 by voice vote with Rep. France voting no. Rep. Farris-Olsen, Rep. Gist, Rep. R. Knudsen, Rep. Noland and Rep. Weatherwax voted by proxy.

17:28:07 **Motion:** Rep. Fielder moved that **HB 418 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

17:28:12 Rep. Farris-Olsen joined the meeting.
17:28:24 Rep. Marler
17:28:42 Vice chair Curdy
17:29:26 Rep. Malone
17:29:55 Rep. Galloway

17:30:16 **Vote:** Motion carried 9-6 by roll call vote with Rep. Curdy, Rep. Farris-Olsen, Rep. France, Rep. Marler, Rep. Putnam and Rep. Weatherwax voting no. Rep. Gist, Rep. R. Knudsen, Rep. Noland and Rep. Weatherwax voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 498

17:31:49 **Motion:** Rep. Fielder moved that **HB 498 DO PASS**.

Discussion:

17:31:56 Rep. Malone

17:32:16 **Vote:** Motion carried 9-6 by roll call vote with Rep. Curdy, Rep. Farris-Olsen, Rep. France, Rep. Marler, Rep. Putnam and Rep. Weatherwax voting no. Rep. Gist, Rep. R. Knudsen, Rep. Noland and Rep. Weatherwax voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 15

17:33:26 **Motion:** Rep. Fielder moved that **HJ 15 DO PASS**.

Discussion:

17:33:38 Rep. Malone

17:34:01 Chair Gunderson

17:34:15 **Vote:** Motion carried 14-1 by voice vote with Rep. Malone voting no. Rep. Gist, Rep. R. Knudsen, Rep. Noland and Rep. Weatherwax voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 518

17:35:31 **Motion:** Rep. Fielder moved that **HB 518 DO PASS**.

Discussion:

17:35:40 Rep. Gist joined the meeting

17:35:44 Rep. Fitzgerald

17:36:27 Joe Kolman, LSD

17:37:24 Rep. Galloway

17:41:07 Joe Kolman, LSD

17:41:15 Chair Gunder

17:41:20 Joe Kolman, LSD

17:42:39 Chair Gunderson

17:43:18 Without objection, Rep. Fielder withdrew the **DO PASS** motion.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:43:52

Jacquelynn Bomgardner, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([nah39aad.pdf](#))