

## MINUTES

### MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Call to Order:** Chair Geraldine Custer, on March 9, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 472  
Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Rep. Geraldine Custer, Chair (R)  
Rep. Larry Brewster, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Mary Ann Dunwell, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R)  
Rep. Dave Fern (D)  
Rep. Frank Fleming (R)  
Rep. Steven Galloway (R)  
Rep. Steve Gist (R)  
Rep. Derek J. Harvey (D)  
Rep. Donavon Hawk (D)  
Rep. Scot Kerns (R)  
Rep. Kelly Kortum (D)  
Rep. Mark Thane (D)  
Rep. Jeremy Trebas (R)  
Rep. Kathy Whitman (R)  
Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R)

**Members Excused:**

Rep. Steve Gunderson (R)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:**

Cristen Friede, Committee Secretary  
Toni Henneman, Legislative Branch  
Jacquie Simmons, 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: SB 161, 3/5/2021; SB 221, 3/5/2021

**HEARING ON SB 221****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:01:21 Sen. Terry Gauthier (R), SD 40, opened the hearing on SB 221, Provide process to dissolve a rural special improvement district.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:02:59 Eric Bryson, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)  
15:05:25 Nicho Hash, self

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

15:07:05 Rep. Trebas  
15:07:39 Eric Bryson, MACo  
15:07:48 Nicho Hash, self  
15:08:22 Rep. Fern  
15:10:11 Eric Bryson, MACo  
15:11:09 Rep. Trebas  
15:11:36 Nicho Hash, self

**Closing by Sponsor:**

15:12:31 Sen. Gaurthier

**HEARING ON SB 161****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:13:12 Sen. John Esp (R), SD 30, opened the hearing on SB 161, Allow certain subdivisions to qualify for an expedited review.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:17:36 Alan McCormick, Montana Association of Realtors (MAR)  
15:25:43 Spencer Worth, self  
15:26:33 Adam Hertz, self  
15:27:12 Charles Lapp, self  
15:28:57 Kelly Lynch, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)  
15:33:48 Andrew Hagemeyer, Montana Association of Planners (MAP)  
15:37:32 Kevin Smith, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)  
15:38:10 Abigail St. Lawrence, Montana Building Industry Association (MBIA)  
15:38:55 Sam Sill, Montana Association of Realtors (MAR)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

15:41:00 Mayre Flowers, Montana Smart Growth Coalition (MSGC)

**[EXHIBIT\(loh47a01\)](#)**

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:46:54 Vice Chair Brewster  
15:50:07 Alan McCormick, MAR  
15:51:51 Rep. Fleming  
15:54:24 Alan McCormick, MAR  
15:56:49 Rep. Dunwell  
16:01:54 Kevin Smith, DEQ  
16:02:17 Rep. Thane  
16:02:56 Alan McCormick, MAR  
16:04:29 Rep. Fern  
16:07:34 Alan McCormick, MAR  
16:09:52 Rep. Galloway  
16:12:07 Alan McCormick, MAR  
16:13:16 Rep. Whitman  
16:13:50 Rep. Zolnikov left the meeting  
16:14:55 Alan McCormick, MAR  
16:15:36 Vice Chair Brewster  
16:16:03 Alan McCormick, MAR

**Closing by Sponsor:**

16:16:37 Sen. Esp  
  
16:17:42 Chair Custer

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 16:18:20

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Cristen Friede, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([loh47aad.pdf](#))