

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chair Steve Gunderson, on March 15, 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. Rhonda Knudsen, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Robert Farris-Olsen (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. Mark Noland (R)
Rep. Brian Putnam (R)

Members Excused:

Rep. Marilyn Marler (D)
Rep. Kenneth Walsh (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 627, 3/12/2021; SJ 7, 3/10/2021; SJ 16, 3/10/2021; SJ 21,
3/10/2021; SJ 6, 3/12/2021

14:59:44 Vice Chair R. Knudsen left the meeting.
14:59:48 Chair Gunderson left the meeting.
15:00:06 Rep. Fitzgerald assumed the Chair.

HEARING ON SJ 6

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:01:56 Sen. Janet Ellis (D), SD 41, opened the hearing on SJ 6, Resolution on floodplain permit process.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:05:28 Jeff Ryan, Lewis and Clark Conservation District (LCCD); Missouri River Conservation District Council (MRCDC)

[EXHIBIT\(nah51a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(nah51a02\)](#)

15:11:58 Jeff Claassen, self
15:14:11 Andrew Kretschmer, Lewis and Clark Conservation District (LCCD)
15:15:09 Rebecca Boslough, Montana association of Conservation Districts (MACD)
15:16:10 Ray Beck, Yellowstone Conservation District (YCD)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

15:17:56 Traci Sears, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:18:48 Rep. France
15:21:47 Jeff Ryan, LCCD; MRCDC
15:22:25 Vice Chair Curdy
15:23:04 Sen. Ellis
15:23:40 Rep. Noland left the meeting.
15:24:11 Vice Chair Curdy
15:24:22 Rep. Malone

Closing by Sponsor:

15:24:59 Sen. Ellis

HEARING ON SJ 7

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:26:16 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn (R), SD 36, opened the hearing on SJ 7, Resolution to remove Hidden Pasture Creek from WSA.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:28:18 Jeff Johnson, self

[EXHIBIT\(nah51a03\)](#)

15:31:26 Ryan Hall, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA)

EXHIBIT(nah51a04)

15:32:28 Byron Martinell, Beaverhead Conservation District (BCD)

EXHIBIT(nah51a05)**EXHIBIT(nah51a06)**

15:37:23 Commissioner Mike McGinley, Beaverhead County
15:38:08 Rep. Marler joined the meeting.
15:39:09 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)
15:39:54 Rep. Noland rejoined the meeting.
15:40:04 Raylee HoneyCutt, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA)
15:40:30 Shelby DeMars, United Property Owners of Montana (UPOM)
15:40:41 Vice Chair R. Knudsen rejoined the meeting.
15:41:13 Jim Simpson, Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD)

Opponents' Testimony:

15:43:29 Noah Marion, Montana Wilderness Association (MWA)
15:46:21 Colin Cooney, Trout Unlimited (TU)
15:47:26 Oliver Alan Weltzien, self
15:49:37 Michael Wilkinson, self

EXHIBIT(nah51a07)

15:50:26 Jack Kirkley, self

EXHIBIT(nah51a08)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:52:52 Rep. Gist
15:53:20 Noah Marion, MWA
15:54:06 Rep. Fielder
15:56:24 Noah Marion, MWA
15:56:52 Rep. Malone
15:57:19 Noah Marion, MWA
15:57:55 Rep. Gist
15:58:12 Rep. Fielder
15:58:22 Rep. France
15:59:32 Noah Marion, MWA
16:00:10 Rep. France
16:01:29 Sen. Welborn
16:05:03 Rep. France

Closing by Sponsor:

16:05:20 Sen. Welborn

16:06:20 Vice Chair Knudsen assumed the Chair.
16:06:56 Rep. Fitzgerald left the meeting.

HEARING ON SJ 16**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

16:07:25 Sen. Steve Hinebauch (R), SD 18, opened the hearing on SJ 16, Urge support for Keystone XL pipeline.

[EXHIBIT\(nah51a09\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(nah51a10\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

16:10:01 Alan Olson, Montana Petroleum Association (MPA)

16:14:11 Shelby DeMars, Montana Association of Oil Gas & Coal Counties (MAOGCC)

16:16:54 Ryan Hall, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA)

16:18:46 John Forkan, Montana State Building & Construction Trades Council (MSBCTC); Montana State Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters (MSAPP); International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 2 (IBT)

16:19:47 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

16:20:52 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association (TSRA)

16:21:53 Dave Galt, Montana Contractors Association (MCA)

16:22:53 Sen. Cuffe

16:23:45 Rep. Schillinger

Opponents' Testimony:

16:25:32 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe

[EXHIBIT\(nah51a11\)](#)

16:27:51 Rep. Noland left the meeting.

16:29:36 Rep. Whiteman Pena

[EXHIBIT\(nah51a12\)](#)

16:32:51 Rep. F. Smith

16:35:34 Jordan Thompson, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes (CSKT)

16:36:11 Laurie Little Dog, self

[EXHIBIT\(nah51a13\)](#)

16:38:53 Cari Kimball, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

16:40:18 Daliyah Killsback, Western Native Voice (WNV)

16:42:24 Benton Little Dog, self

[EXHIBIT\(nah51a14\)](#)

Informational Testimony:

16:43:08 Regina Mad Plume, self

[EXHIBIT\(nah51a15\)](#)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:45:01 Rep. Gist

16:46:14 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe

16:46:47 Rep. Fielder

16:47:11 Alan Olson, MPA

16:47:34 Rep. Gist

16:47:57 Alan Olson, MPA

Closing by Sponsor:

16:49:07 Sen. Hinebauch

16:49:21 Rep. Noland rejoined the meeting.

HEARING ON SJ 21

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

16:52:40 Sen. Mike Cuffe (R), SD 1, opened the hearing on SJ 21, Resolution on Columbia River Treaty.

17:00:21 Rep. Gunderson rejoined the meeting.

17:06:02 Rep. Gunderson assumed the Chair.

17:08:29 Rep. Fitzgerald rejoined the meeting.

Proponents' Testimony:

17:14:45 Colin Cooney, Trout Unlimited (TU)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

17:15:45 Rep. Putnam

17:16:25 Sen. Cuffe

17:16:38 Rep. Noland

17:17:15 Chair Gunderson

Closing by Sponsor:

17:17:29 Sen. Cuffe

HEARING ON HB 627

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

17:18:37 Rep. Scot Kerns (R), HD 23, opened the hearing on HB 627, Provide for non-fire type-3 all-hazard incident management team.

EXHIBIT(nah51a16)

17:22:34 Rep. Farris-Olsen left the meeting.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

17:23:09 Jake Ganieany, Montana Disaster & Emergency Services (MTDES)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

17:23:41 Vice Chair Curdy

17:24:59 Jake Ganieany, MTDES

17:25:20 Rep. Fitzgerald
17:27:02 Jake Ganieany, MTDES
17:27:37 Rep. Noland
17:27:59 Rep. Kerns
17:30:59 Vice Chair Curdy
17:32:05 Rep. Kerns
17:32:27 Chair Gunderson
17:34:07 Jake Ganieany, MTDES
17:34:28 Rep. Galloway
17:34:55 Jake Ganieany, MTDES

Closing by Sponsor:

17:35:23 Rep. Kerns

17:35:26 Rep. Noland left the meeting.
17:38:00 Chair Gunderson.

17:38:49 Brief Recess
17:45:40 Reconvened

17:45:52 Chair Gunderson

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:46:18

Jacquelynn Bomgardner, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([nah51aad.pdf](#))