

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chair Steve Gunderson, on March 19, 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. 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. Brian Putnam (R)

Members Excused:

Rep. Robert Farris-Olsen (D)
Rep. Mark Noland (R)
Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R)
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present:

Cristen Friede, Committee Secretary
Joe Kolman, Legislative Branch

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 29, 3/10/2021; SB 40, 3/10/2021; SB 165, 3/10/2021; SB 249,
3/10/2021

14:34:42 Joe Kolman, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
14:42:19 Chair Gunderson
14:42:32 Rep. Galloway
14:43:31 Chair Gunderson

14:44:08 Recess
15:11:37 Reconvened

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 63

15:11:46 **Motion:** Rep. R. Knudsen moved that **SB 63 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

15:12:02 Vice Chair Knudsen

15:12:21 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Farris-Olsen, Rep. Noland, Rep. Walsh and Rep. Weatherwax voted by proxy. Rep. Putnam will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 163

15:13:28 **Motion:** Rep. R. Knudsen moved that **SB 163 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

15:13:32 Rep. Farris-Olsen joined the meeting

15:13:56 Vice Chair Knudsen

15:14:39 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. R. Knudsen moved that **SB 163 BE AMENDED.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Noland, Rep. Walsh and Rep. Weatherwax voted by proxy.

EXHIBIT(nah55a01)

15:15:35 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. R. Knudsen moved that **SB 163 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.** Motion carried 10-5 by roll call vote with Rep. Curdy, Rep. Farris-Olsen, Rep. France, Rep. Marler and Rep. Weatherwax voting no. Rep. Fielder, Rep. Noland, Rep. Walsh and Rep. Weatherwax voted by proxy. Rep. Fitzgerald will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 164

15:17:12 **Motion:** Rep. R. Knudsen moved that **SB 164 BE CONCURRED IN.**

15:17:25 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. R. Knudsen moved that **SB 164 BE AMENDED.** Motion carried 10-5 by roll call vote with Rep. Curdy, Rep. Farris-Olsen, Rep. France, Rep. Marler and Rep. Weatherwax voting no. Rep. Fielder, Rep. Marler, Rep. Noland, Rep. Walsh and Rep. Weatherwax voted by proxy.

EXHIBIT(nah55a02)

15:18:55 **Motion:** Rep. R. Knudsen moved that **SB 164 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

15:19:22 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Rep. Fitzgerald made a substitute motion that **SB 164 BE TABLED**. Substitute Motion failed 7-8 by roll call vote with Rep. Curdy, Rep. Farris-Olsen, Rep. Fitzgerald, Rep. France, Rep. Marler, Rep. Putnam and Rep. Weatherwax voting aye. Rep. Noland and Rep. Walsh voted by proxy.

15:20:35 Chair Gunderson

15:21:50 **Vote:** Motion carried 8-7 by roll call vote with Rep. Curdy, Rep. Farris-Olsen, Rep. Fitzgerald, Rep. France, Rep. Marler, Rep. Putnam and Rep. Weatherwax voting no. Rep. Noland and Rep. Walsh voted by proxy. Rep. Fielder will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 231

15:22:07 **Motion:** Rep. R. Knudsen moved that **SB 231 BE CONCURRED IN**.

Discussion:

15:22:18 Vice Chair Knudsen

15:23:09 **Motion:** Rep. R. Knudsen moved that **SB 231 BE AMENDED**.
EXHIBIT(nah55a03)

Discussion:

15:23:27 Rep. Malone

15:23:59 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Rep. Noland, Rep. Walsh and Rep. Weatherwax voted by proxy.

15:25:02 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. R. Knudsen moved that **SB 231 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED**. 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. Noland, Rep. Walsh and Rep. Weatherwax voted by proxy. Rep. Malone will carry the bill.

HEARING ON SB 40

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:27:57 Sen. Janet Ellis (D), SD 41, opened the hearing on SB 40, Revise membership of the Montana Invasive Species Council.

15:31:12 Rep. Putnam left the meeting

Proponents' Testimony:

15:33:07 Clayton Elliot, Montana Trout Unlimited

15:33:48 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stock Growers Association (MAGA)

15:34:19 Patrick Yawakie, Black Feet Tribe

15:35:38 Stephanie Criswell, Montana Association of Invasive Species

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

15:39:30 Sen. Ellis

HEARING ON SB 29

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:40:16 Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R), SD 9, opened the hearing on SB 29, Revise weather modification and control laws.

15:42:47 Rep, Noland joined the meeting

Proponents' Testimony:

15:44:07 Jim Hagenbarth, self

[EXHIBIT\(nah55a04\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(nah55a05\)](#)

15:50:10 Kristalee Evens, Association of Gallatin Agriculture Irrigators (AGAI)

15:51:24 Former Representative Ray Shaw, self

15:53:15 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association (MWRA)

15:53:48 Clayton Elliot, Montana Trout Unlimited

15:55:15 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stock Growers Association (MSGA)

15:55:47 Mark Tylor, Lone Mountain Land Company

Opponents' Testimony:

15:56:58 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

Informational Testimony:

15:58:13 Paul Azevedo, Water Management Division Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

15:58:45 Derek Blestrud, Idaho Power

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:59:07 Rep. Galloway

15:59:55 Derek Blestrud, Idaho Power

16:01:18 Rep. Fielder

16:02:38 Paul Azevedo, DNRC

16:03:31 Rep. Gist

16:03:54 Paul Azevedo, DNRC

16:04:27 Rep. Malone

16:05:37 Sen. Gillespie

16:05:59 Rep. Noland

16:07:07 Jim Hegenbarth, self

16:08:23 Rep. Galloway

16:08:51 Jim Hegenbarth, self

16:11:25 Derek Blestrud, Idaho Power

16:12:10 Rep. Noland
 16:14:04 Rep. Fitzgerald
 16:15:12 Derek Blestrud, Idaho Power
 16:15:23 Rep. Galloway
 16:16:10 Paul Azevedo, DNRC
 16:18:12 Rep. Gist
 16:20:50 Paul Azevedo, DNRC
 16:21:42 Rep. Galloway
 16:24:32 Kristalee Evens, AGAI
 16:24:48 Rep. France
 16:26:22 Derek Blestrud, Idaho Power
 16:28:39 Rep. Gist
 16:29:34 Jim Hegenbarth, self
 16:29:43 Derek Blestrud, Idaho Power
 16:30:02 Rep. Fielder
 16:30:24 Rachel Cone, MFBF
 16:30:49 Rep. Galloway
 16:31:29 Paul Azevedo, DNRC
 16:32:39 Chair Gunderson

Closing by Sponsor:

16:33:09 Sen. Gillespie

HEARING ON SB 165**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

16:35:08 Sen. Carl Glimm (R), SD 2, opened the hearing on SB 165, Generally revise laws related to the department of environmental quality.

Proponents' Testimony:

16:42:32 Jeff Larson, self
 16:44:28 Ron Warrner, Sanders and Mineral Counties
 16:46:34 Nathan Lucke, self
 16:49:10 Abigail St. Lawrence, Montana Building Industry Association (MBIA)
 16:50:41 Phillip Mitchell, self
 16:53:51 Sam Sill, Montana Association of Realtors (MAR)
 16:54:30 Shawn Rowland, self
 16:57:56 Commissioner Randy Brodehl, Flathead County
 17:00:00 Commissioner Brad Abell, Flathead County
 17:02:10 Commissioner Pamela Holmquist, Flathead County
 17:03:21 Rick Breckenridge, self
 17:06:34 Tobias Liechti, self

Opponents' Testimony:

17:07:38 Shannon Therriault, Montana Environmental Health Association
 17:11:31 Derf Johnson, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)
 17:14:58 Kevin Smith, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
 17:18:21 Kelly Lynch, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)
 17:20:13 Mayre Flowers, Montana Smart Growth Coalition (MSGC)
 17:24:33 Daniel Cohen, self

17:26:26 John Rundquist, self
17:28:02 Vice Chair Knudsen assumed the chair

Informational Testimony:

17:29:00 Eric Regensborger, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

17:29:39 Rep. Gist
17:30:12 Sen. Glimm
17:32:53 Rep. Gist
17:34:53 Jeff Larson, self
17:35:09 Rep. Malone
17:37:21 Jeff Larson, self
17:37:56 Rep. Galloway
17:38:13 Jeff Larson, self
17:40:05 Rep. Galloway
17:40:26 Jeff Larson, self
17:40:33 Vice Chair Curdy
17:42:04 Kevin Smith, DEQ
17:42:10 Chair Gunderson resumed the Chair

Closing by Sponsor:

17:44:15 Sen. Glimm

HEARING ON SB 249**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

17:46:02 Sen. Mike Lang (R), SD 17, opened the hearing on SB2 49, Revise funding for the Montana greater sage-grouse stewardship act.

Proponents' Testimony:

17:48:36 Quintin Kujala, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (MFWP)

[EXHIBIT\(nah55a06\)](#)

17:49:16 Raylee Honeucutt, Montan Stock Growers Association (MSGA)
17:49:45 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bueru's Federation (MFBF)
17:50:27 Glenn Marx, Montana Association of Land Trusts
17:51:30 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

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

17:52:20 Amanda Kaster, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None**Closing by Sponsor:**

17:53:19 Sen. Lang

17:54:01 Rep. Fitzgerald
17:54:14 Rep. Walsh joined the meeting
17:54:28 Rep. Walsh
17:55:23 Chair Gunderson
17:55:34 Rep. Galloway

17:55:38 Recess
18:08:59 Reconvened

18:09:06 Chair Gunderson
18:09:20 Rep. Farris-Olsen
18:09:32 Chair Gunderson
18:10:01 Rep. Farris-Olsen
18:10:15 Chair Gunderson
18:10:27 Rep. Farris-Olsen
18:10:48 Chair Gunderson

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 18:11:01

Cristen Friede, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([nah55aad.pdf](#))