

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Vice Chair R. Knudsen, on March 24, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 172
Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

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. Marilyn Marler (D)
Rep. Brian Putnam (R)
Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R)
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D)

Members Excused:

Rep. Steve Gunderson, Chair (R)
Rep. Mark Noland (R)

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: SB 348, 3/10/2021; SB 352, 3/10/2021; SB 136, 3/12/2021

15:02:17 Rep. Fitzgerald left the meeting.
15:03:40 Vice Chair Curdy

HEARING ON SB 136

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:04:10 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, opened the hearing on SB 136, Clarify criteria for permits and water right changes.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:06:39 Holly Franz, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)
15:07:28 Krista Lee Evens, Senior Water Rights Coalition (SrWRC), Association of Gallatin Agriculture Irrigators (AGAI)
15:08:03 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association (MWRA)
15:08:25 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGGA)
15:08:47 Racheal Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

15:10:05 Brian Bramblett, Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC)
15:10:22 Rep. Gunderson joined the meeting.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

15:10:41 Sen. Fitzpatrick

15:10:58 Rep. Gunderson assumed the Chair.

HEARING ON SB 352

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:11:21 Sen. John Esp (R), SD 30, opened the hearing on SB 352, Clarify objections to water rights.

EXHIBIT(nah58a01)

Proponents' Testimony:

15:13:44 Alan Redfield, self
15:16:41 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Right Coalition (SrWRC); Association of Gallatin Agriculture Irrigators (AGAI)
15:18:21 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGGA)
15:19:22 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association (MWRA)
15:20:03 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)
15:20:43 Holly Franz, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)

Opponents' Testimony:

15:21:56 Clayton Elliott, Trout Unlimited (TU)
15:23:28 Ross Morgan, Rocky Montana Stockgrowers Association (RMSGGA)
15:25:22 Andrew Gorder, Clark Fork Coalition (CFC)

15:28:42 Rep. Fitzgerald rejoined the meeting.
15:29:20 Jared Sousa, Montana Smart Growth Coalition (MSGC)

EXHIBIT(nah58a02)

Informational Testimony:

15:30:29 Millie Heffner, Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:30:57 Rep. Gist
15:31:56 Millie Heffner, DNRC
15:32:16 Rep. Malone
15:32:38 Millie Heffner, DNRC
15:33:01 Rep. Malone
15:33:39 Andrew Gorder, CFC
15:34:38 Rep. Malone
15:35:29 Clayton Elliott, TU
15:35:48 Rep. France
15:39:18 Andrew Gorder, CFC
15:40:16 Clayton Elliott, TU
15:41:02 Sen. Esp
15:41:39 Rep. France
15:41:51 Sen. Esp
15:42:10 Rep. Walsh
15:42:31 Vice Chair R. Knudsen left the meeting.
15:42:54 Millie Heffner, DNRC
15:43:23 Vice Chair Curdy
15:44:02 Andrew Gorder, CFC
15:44:30 Vice Chair Curdy
15:44:37 Andrew Gorder, CFC
15:44:47 Joe Kolman, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
15:46:37 Rep. Malone
15:47:31 Ross Morgan RMSGA
15:48:12 Rep. Malone
15:48:50 Alan Redfield, self
15:49:01 Rep. Putnam
15:49:33 Holly Franz, NWE
15:50:07 Rep. Gist
15:50:28 Alan Redfield, self
15:51:10 Chair Gunderson
15:51:48 Andrew Gorder, CFC
15:52:56 Chair Gunderson
15:53:30 Rep. Malone
15:53:42 Chair Gunderson

Closing by Sponsor:

15:54:04 Sen. Esp

HEARING ON SB 348**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:55:11 Sen. Walt Sales (R), SD 35, opened the hearing on SB 348, Revise laws for use of reclaimed wastewater for snowmaking.

15:57:38 Rep. Weatherwax left the meeting.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:58:23 Rich Chandler, Lone Mountain Land Company (LMLC)

16:00:07 Krista Lee Evans, Association of Gallatin Agriculture Irrigators (AGAI)

16:01:15 Clayton Elliott, Trout Unlimited (TU)

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

16:02:17 Eric Sivers, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

16:02:37 Millie Heffner, Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:03:00 Rep. Gist

16:03:19 Rep. Galloway

16:03:46 Sen. Sales

16:04:11 Eric Sivers, DEQ

16:04:35 Rep. Galloway

16:04:49 Rep. Putnam

16:05:05 Rich Chandler, LMLC

16:05:45 Rep. Walsh

16:06:28 Sen. Sales

EXHIBIT(nah58a03)

16:07:49 Rep. Galloway

16:08:56 Rich Chandler, LMLC

16:09:13 Vice Chair Curdy

16:11:07 Eric Sivers, DEQ

16:11:45 Rep. Noland joined the meeting.

16:12:45 Chair Gunderson

16:14:15 Rich Chandler, LMLC

Closing by Sponsor:

16:14:51 Sen. Sales

16:16:29 Chair Gunderson

16:16:22 Rep. Walsh left the meeting.

16:17:13 Brief Recess

16:33:01 Reconvened

16:33:14 Chair Gunderson

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:33:46

Jacquelynn Bomgardner, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([nah58aad.pdf](#))