

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Call to Order: Chair Joshua Kassmier, on March 25, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 137
Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Joshua Kassmier, Chair (R)
Rep. Andrea Olsen, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Fred Anderson (R)
Rep. Michele Binkley (R)
Rep. Willis Curdy (D)
Rep. Moffie Funk (D)
Rep. Brandon Ler (R)
Rep. Marty Malone (R)
Rep. Ron Marshall (R)
Rep. Frank Smith (D)
Rep. Katie Sullivan (D)
Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R)

Members Excused:

Rep. Julie Dooling, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Becky Beard (R)
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)
Rep. Wendy McKamey (R)
Rep. Rynalea Whiteman Pena (D)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present:

Jacquelynn Bomgardner, Committee Secretary
Corina Hach, Legislative Branch
Hallie Swain, 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 307, 3/22/2021

15:16:37 Recess
15:31:55 Reconvened with Rep. McKamey present and Rep. Sullivan excused.

15:32:06 Vice Chair Olsen
EXHIBIT(agh59a01)

15:34:01 Chair Kassmier
15:34:10 Corina Hach, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
15:35:18 Rep. Malone
15:35:51 Vice Chair Olsen
15:36:18 Rep. Malone
15:36:32 Chair Kassmier
15:37:36 Corina Hach, LSD
15:37:59 Chair Kassmier
15:38:44 Rep. Curdy
15:39:17 Vice Chair Olsen
15:39:48 Rep. McKamey
15:42:13 Chair Kassmier
15:42:20 Rep. Ler
15:42:38 Chair Kassmier
15:42:46 Vice Chair Olsen
15:43:38 Chair Kassmier
15:47:18 Rep. McKamey
15:50:07 Vice Chair Olsen
15:50:34 Chair Kassmier
15:50:43 Vice Chair Olsen
15:51:17 Chair Kassmier
15:52:26 Rep. McKamey
15:52:40 Chair Kassmier

HEARING ON SB 307

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:53:01 Sen. Mike Lang (R), SD 17, opened the hearing on SB 307, Revise liability limits for irrigation operators.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:54:26 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association (MWRA)
15:56:18 Mitch Konen, Montana Grain Growers Association (MGGA)

EXHIBIT(agh59a02)

15:57:55 John Crowley, Bitter Root irrigation District (BRID)
16:00:06 Ryan Hall, Montana Electric Cooperative Association

EXHIBIT(agh59a03)

EXHIBIT(agh59a04)

16:00:46 Holly Franz, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)
16:01:42 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Association (SrWRA); Association of Gallatin Agriculture Irrigators (AGAI)
16:02:30 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

16:03:12 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA)

[EXHIBIT\(agh59a05\)](#)

16:04:56 Bill Fanning, self

16:07:51 Cole Peebles, self

16:09:37 James Brower, Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project (LYIP)

[EXHIBIT\(agh59a06\)](#)

16:13:56 Matthew Peterson, self

[EXHIBIT\(agh59a07\)](#)

16:15:17 Erling Juel, Greenfields Irrigation District (GID)

[EXHIBIT\(agh59a08\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony:

16:18:26 Al Smith, Montana Trial Lawyers Association (MTLA)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:21:41 Rep. Marshall

16:22:46 Jay Bodner, MSGA

16:23:19 Holly Franz, NWE

16:23:57 Rep. McKamey

16:25:21 Jay Bodner, MSGA

16:25:51 Rep. McKamey

16:27:53 Mike Murphy, MWRA

16:28:33 Rep. McKamey

16:29:15 Erling Juel, GID

16:32:05 Rep. McKamey

16:32:31 Vice Chair Dooling joined the meeting.

16:33:20 Erling Juel, GID

16:34:54 Rep. McKamey

16:35:21 Erling Juel, GID

16:36:52 Vice Chair Olsen

16:41:47 Bill Fanning

16:42:03 Vice Chair Olsen

16:42:42 Mike Murphy, MWRA

16:43:42 Rep. Curdy

16:46:47 Mike Murphy, MWRA

16:47:20 Rep. Curdy

16:48:37 Rep. Malone

16:49:40 Sen. Lang

16:50:28 Rep. F. Smith

16:52:08 Mike Murphy, MWRA

16:52:30 Rep. F. Smith

Closing by Sponsor:

16:52:56 Sen. Lang

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:54:38

Jacquelynn Bomgardner, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([agh59aad.pdf](#))