

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chair Steve Gunderson, on March 31, 2021 at 3:30 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. 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. Tom France (D)
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: HB 695, 3/30/2021; HJ 27, 3/29/2021; SB 302, 3/29/2021; SB
284, 3/29/2021

HEARING ON HJ 27**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:37:14 Rep. Kenneth Holmlund (R), HD 38, opened the hearing on HJ 27, Study the funding of conservation districts.

15:38:17 Rep. France joined the meeting.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:40:12 Rebecca Boslough, Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD)
[EXHIBIT\(nah63a01\)](#)

15:42:56 Jim Simpson, Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD)

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

15:45:01 Anna Miller, Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC)

15:45:40 Stacey Barta, Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:46:09 Rep. France

15:49:18 Rebecca Boslough, MACD

15:53:01 Rep. Galloway

15:53:15 Rep. Malone

15:53:54 Rep. Holmlund

15:54:39 Chair Gunderson

15:56:25 Rebecca Boslough, MACD

Closing by Sponsor:

15:56:48 Rep. Holmlund

HEARING ON SB 284**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:57:57 Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel (R), SD 14, opened the hearing on SB 284, Generally revise county gravel pit permitting.

[EXHIBIT\(nah63a02\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(nah63a03\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

16:02:45 Commissioner Larry Hendrickson, Liberty County

16:03:28 Commissioner Joette Woods, Liberty County

16:03:46 Eric Bryson, Montana Associations of Counties (MACo)

16:06:23 Commissioner Doug Martens, Rosebud County

Opponents' Testimony:

16:07:07 Glenn Marx, Montana Association of Land Trust (MALT)

16:12:54 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

16:16:01 Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

Informational Testimony:

16:17:35 David Klemp, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

16:18:23 Christopher Cronin, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:18:54 Rep. Walsh

16:19:33 David Klemp, DEQ

16:19:54 Rep. Walsh

16:20:08 Chair Gunderson

16:20:47 Rep. Malone

16:22:10 Sen. Tempel

16:22:40 Rep. Fitzgerald

16:27:19 Eric Bryson, MACo

16:28:16 Vice Chair Curdy

16:29:26 Glenn Marx, MALT

16:31:59 Chair Gunderson

16:33:14 Edward Coleman, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

16:33:32 Chair Gunderson

16:34:14 Christopher Cronin, DEQ

16:34:26 Chair Gunderson

16:34:36 Vice Chair R. Knudsen

16:35:25 Sen. Tempel

16:35:37 Chair Gunderson

Closing by Sponsor:

16:35:58 Sen. Tempel

HEARING ON SB 302

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

16:37:52 Sen. Walt Sales (R), SD 35, opened the hearing on SB 302, Extend authorization deadline for use of navigable riverbed.

Proponents' Testimony:

16:39:11 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Coalition (SrWRC); Association of Gallatin Agriculture Irrigators (AGAI)

16:40:02 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association (MWRA)

16:40:52 RayLee Honeycutt, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA)

16:41:28 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

16:42:09 Colin Cooney, Trout Unlimited (TU)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

16:42:53 Shawn Thomas, Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC)

[EXHIBIT\(nah63a04\)](#)

16:43:27 Brian Bramblett, Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:43:51 Rep. Putnam
16:45:05 Shawn Thomas, DNRC
16:45:16 Rep. Putnam
16:45:27 Krista Lee Evans, SrWRC; AGAI
16:46:59 Chair Gunderson
16:47:17 Krista Lee Evans, SrWRC; AGAI
16:48:53 Chair Gunderson
16:49:10 Shawn Thomas, DNRC
16:49:33 Rep. Galloway
16:50:22 Shawn Thomas, DNRC

Closing by Sponsor:

16:50:58 Sen. Sales

16:52:50 Recess
17:00:21 Reconvened with Rep. Weatherwax and Rep. Malone excused.

HEARING ON HB 695**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

17:00:37 Rep. Denley Loge (R), HD 14, opened the hearing on HB 695, Generally revise environmental laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

17:02:13 Alan Olson, self
17:03:20 Rep. Malone joined the meeting.

Opponents' Testimony:

17:04:40 Abigail St. Lawrence, Montana Building Industry Association (MBIA)
17:07:17 Derf Johnson, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)
17:10:24 Mikindra Morin, Northern Plains Resources Council (NPRC)
17:12:01 Colin Cooney, Trout Unlimited (TU)
17:12:35 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

Informational Testimony: None

17:14:22 Angie Colamaria, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

17:14:47 Rep. Fielder
17:15:44 Rep. Loge
17:16:13 Rep. Malone
17:18:49 Derf Johnson, MEIC
17:19:38 Rep. Marler
17:21:07 Rep. Loge
17:21:36 Rep. Marler
17:22:05 Rep. France
17:22:11 Rep. Weatherwax joined the meeting.
17:23:12 Angie Colamaria, DEQ
17:23:46 Rep. France

17:24:28 Rep. Loge
17:24:58 Chair Gunderson
17:25:17 Derf Johnson, MEIC
17:26:28 Rep. Galloway
17:26:55 Abigail St. Lawrence, MBIA

Closing by Sponsor:

17:27:48 Rep. Loge

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:30:07

Jacquelynn Bomgardner, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([nah63aad.pdf](#))