

## MINUTES

### MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

**Call to Order:** Chair Ross H. Fitzgerald, on April 13, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 172  
Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Rep. Ross H. Fitzgerald, Chair (R)  
Rep. Robert Farris-Olsen, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Seth Berglee (R)  
Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R)  
Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R)  
Rep. Denley M. Loge (R)  
Rep. Marilyn Marler (D)  
Rep. Bob Phalen (R)  
Rep. Brian Putnam (R)  
Rep. Linda Reksten (R)  
Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R)

**Members Excused:**

Rep. Neil Duram, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Paul Fielder (R)  
Rep. Tom France (D)  
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)  
Rep. Sara Novak (D)  
Rep. Tyson T. Running Wolf (D)  
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:**

Joanne Kauzlarich, Committee Secretary  
Hope Stockwell, Legislative Branch  
Taylor Tyson, 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 384, 4/9/2021; SB 153, 4/13/21  
Executive Action: SB 153; SB 384

**Committee Business:**

15:08:52 Chair Fitzgerald  
15:10:25 Vice Chair Farris-Olsen  
15:10:28 Chair Fitzgerald  
15:11:38 Hope Stockwell, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
15:11:44 Chair Fitzgerald  
15:11:49 Rep. Putnam  
15:11:53 Chair Fitzgerald  
  
15:12:30 Recessed  
15:28:23 Reconvened with Rep. Novak, Rep. France, and Rep. Running Wolf present.

**HEARING ON SB 384****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:28:43 Sen. John Esp (R), SD 30, opened the hearing on SB 384, Revise laws related to Aquatic Invasive Species hydroelectric fee.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:31:33 Hank Worsch, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)  
15:32:02 Amanda Kaster, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)  
15:33:32 Tom Ebzery, Avista Corporation

**EXHIBIT(fih70a01)**

15:35:41 Jan Rouse, Northwestern Energy (NWE)  
15:36:13 Rebecca Boslough, Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD)  
15:36:40 Robin Arnold, Public Service Commission (PSC)  
15:37:42 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Coalition (SRWRC)  
15:38:22 Colin Cooney, Trout Unlimited (TU)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

15:39:24 Colson Williams, Hydrodynamics, Inc.

**Informational Testimony:**

15:41:10 Stephanie Criswell, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:41:47 Rep. Reksten  
15:42:56 Jan Rouse, NWE  
15:43:06 Rep. Reksten  
15:43:30 Jan Rouse, NWE  
15:43:36 Rep. Reksten  
15:43:59 Rep. Putnam  
15:44:23 Hank Worsch, FWP  
15:44:32 Rep. Reksten  
15:45:07 Jan Rouse, NWE  
15:45:19 Rep. Reksten  
15:45:33 Jan Rouse, NWE  
15:45:47 Rep. Loge

15:46:05 Hank Warsech, FWP  
15:46:25 Leena Havron, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)  
15:47:05 Rep. Loge  
15:47:17 Leena Havron, FWP  
15:47:27 Rep. Berglee  
15:48:00 Sen. Esp  
15:48:33 Chair Fitzgerald  
15:48:52 Sen. Esp

**Closing by Sponsor:**

15:49:33 Sen. Esp

**HEARING ON SB 153****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:51:08 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn (R), SD 36, opened the hearing on SB 153, Generally revising laws re: administration of FWP lands/waters.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:53:27 Sen. Bob Brown  
15:56:02 Colin Cooney, Trout Unlimited (TU)  
15:59:31 Noah Marion, Montana Wilderness Association (MWA)  
16:00:23 Eric Melson, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (Montana BHA)  
16:01:03 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

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

16:02:48 Ron Jendro, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

16:03:20 Rep. R. Knudsen  
16:04:02 Ron Jendro, FWP  
16:04:14 Lena Havron, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)  
16:04:37 Rep. R. Knudsen  
16:07:48 Lena Havron, FWP  
16:08:08 Ron Jendro, FWP  
16:08:25 Rep. R. Knudsen  
16:08:33 Ron Jendro, FWP  
16:08:46 Chair Fitzgerald  
16:09:01 Ron Jendro, FWP  
16:09:32 Rep. Loge  
16:10:06 Ron Jendro, FWP  
16:10:12 Vice Chair Duram joined the meeting.  
16:10:53 Rep. Loge  
16:11:57 Lena Havron, FWP  
16:12:20 Rep. Loge  
16:12:33 Lena Havron, FWP

16:13:01 Rep. Berglee  
16:14:01 Sen. Welborn  
16:17:05 Rep. France  
16:18:14 Sen. Welborn  
16:19:20 Rep. R. Knudsen  
16:19:50 Sen. Welborn  
16:21:33 Rep. R. Knudsen  
16:21:52 Sen. Welborn  
16:22:48 Rep. Putnam  
16:23:30 Sen. Welborn  
16:23:50 Rep. Putnam  
16:24:01 Sen. Welborn  
16:24:34 Ron Jendro, FWP  
16:24:56 Hope Stockwell, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
16:25:23 Rep. Loge  
16:25:55 Ron Jendro, FWP  
16:26:46 Rep. R. Knudsen  
16:27:28 Ron Jendro, FWP  
16:28:51 Rep. R. Knudsen  
16:29:03 Ron Jendro, FWP  
16:29:31 Vice Chair Duram  
16:30:32 Hope Stockwell, LSD

**Closing by Sponsor:**

16:30:58 Sen. Welborn  
  
16:31:33 Recessed  
16:46:44 Reconvened

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 153**

16:46:51 **Motion:** Rep. Duram moved that **SB 153 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

16:47:23 Rep. France  
16:48:00 Chair Fitzgerald  
16:48:08 Rep. France  
16:50:11 Rep. Marler  
16:50:59 Rep. Berglee  
  
16:53:49 **Vote:** Motion failed 8-10 by roll call vote with Rep. Berglee, Rep. Fitzgerald, Rep. Loge, Rep. Marler, Rep. Novak, Rep. Putnam, Rep. Reksten and Rep. Seekins-Crowe voting aye. Rep. Fielder, Rep. J. Hinkle and Rep. Mitchell voted by proxy.  
  
16:55:41 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Duram moved that **SB 153 BE TABLED.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Fielder, Rep. Mitchell and Rep. Weatherwax voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 384**

16:56:44 **Motion:** Rep. Duram moved that **SB 384 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

16:57:08 Rep. Novak  
16:57:50 Rep. France  
16:58:47 Rep. Berglee  
17:00:20 Rep. Marler  
17:01:05 Rep. Running Wolf  
17:01:25 Vice Chair Farris-Olsen  
17:04:46 Rep. Reksten  
17:05:10 Chair Fitzgerald  
17:05:23 Rep. Reksten  
17:05:29 Chair Fitzgerald  
17:05:50 Tom Ebzery, Avista Corporation  
17:06:59 Hope Stockwell, LSD  
17:07:27 Chair Fitzgerald  
17:07:34 Hope Stockwell, LSD

17:09:33 **Vote:** Motion failed 7-11 by roll call vote with Rep. Berglee, Rep. Fitzgerald, Rep. R. Knudsen, Rep. Loge, Rep. Phalen, Rep. Reksten and Rep. Seekins-Crowe voting aye. Rep. Fielder, Rep. J. Hinkle and Rep. Mitchell voted by proxy.

17:12:27 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Duram moved that **SB 384 BE TABLED.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Fielder, Rep. Mitchell and Rep. Weatherwax voted by proxy.

**Committee Business:**

17:13:35 Chair Fitzgerald

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 17:15:51

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Joanne Kauzlarich, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([fih70aad.pdf](#))