

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chair Jeffrey W. Welborn, on January 8, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 303 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present in the Committee Room:

Sen. Jeffrey W. Welborn, Chair (R)
Sen. Jason D. Small, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Duane Ankney (R)
Sen. Bob Brown (R)
Sen. Jill Cohenour (D)
Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)
Sen. Brian Hoven (R)
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)

Members Present by Zoom Video Teleconference:

Sen. Pat Flowers, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. JP Pomnichowski (D)

Members Excused:

Sen. Mike Lang (R)
Sen. Tom Jacobson (D)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Lauren de Paepe, Committee Secretary
Jason Mohr, 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 13, 1/6/2021; SB 53, 1/6/2021
Adopted the committee rules of procedure.

RULES DISCUSSION AND AGENCY INTRODUCTIONS:

15:02:27 Chair Welborn
 15:03:44 Jason Mohr, Legislative Services Division
 15:04:08 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stockgrowers Association
 15:04:48 Chair Welborn
 15:05:03 Sen. Pomnichowski
 15:05:17 Chair Welborn
 15:05:25 Lauren de Paepe, committee secretary
 15:06:10 Chair Welborn

EXHIBIT(nas05a01)

15:06:47 **Motion:** Sen. Cohenour moved that **SECTION II (D) BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

15:08:05 Sen. Pomnichowski
 15:08:55 Chair Welborn
 15:09:16 Mr. Mohr

15:10:08 Without objection, Sen. Cohenour withdrew the BE AMENDED motion.

15:10:14 **Motion:** Sen. Cohenour moved that **THE COMMITTEE RULES OF PROCEDURE BE ADOPTED.**

Discussion:

15:10:49 Sen. Brown
 15:11:12 Chair Welborn
 15:11:40 Sen. Brown
 15:13:02 Mr. Mohr
 15:14:09 Chair Welborn
 15:15:04 Sen. Pomnichowski
 15:15:33 Sen. Ankney
 15:16:01 Sen. Pomnichowski
 15:17:14 Chair Welborn
 15:17:23 Mr. Mohr
 15:17:33 Chair Welborn

15:18:09 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Jacobson, Sen. Lang, and Sen. Lynch were excused.

15:18:23 Chair Welborn
 15:19:17 Sen. Small
 15:19:35 Chair Welborn
 15:20:07 Mr. Mohr
 15:20:40 Chair Welborn

HEARING ON SB 13

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:21:07 Sen. Jill Cohenour (D), SD 42, opened the hearing on SB13, Revise DNRC adjudication benchmarks.

15:23:53 Chair Welborn

Proponents' Testimony:

15:24:07 Krista Lee Evans, Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators and Senior Water Rights Coalition

15:25:09 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited

15:26:09 Hon. Russ McElyea, chief water judge, Montana Water Court

EXHIBIT(nas05a02)

15:27:04 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stockgrowers Association

15:27:44 Anna Pakenham Stevenson, Water Resources Division administrator, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

EXHIBIT(nas05a03)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

15:30:29 Sen. Cohenour

Chair Welborn gave the duties of the chair to Vice Chair Small.

HEARING ON SB 53

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:31:48 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn (R), SD 36, opened the hearing on SB53, Revise permitting laws for rock products mining.

15:32:32 Sen. Lynch entered the meeting.

15:34:44 Chair Small

Proponents' Testimony:

15:34:58 Tammy Johnson, executive director, Montana Mining Association (MMA)

15:38:14 Chair Small

15:38:44 Dan Walsh, Hardrock Mining Bureau chief, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

EXHIBIT(nas05a04)

15:40:55 Chair Small

Opponents' Testimony:

15:41:26 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited

15:43:47 Chair Small

15:44:18 Derf Johnson, Clean Water Program director/staff attorney, Montana Environmental Information Center

15:48:57 Chair Small

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:49:30 Sen. Pomnichowski
15:52:34 Mr. Walsh, DEQ
15:53:02 Sen. Pomnichowski
15:53:32 Sen. Welborn
15:53:51 Sen. Cohenour
15:54:58 Mr. Walsh
15:55:36 Chair Small
15:55:41 Sen. Brown
15:56:10 Mr. Walsh
15:56:44 Sen. Gillespie
15:57:27 Sen. Welborn
15:57:52 Mr. Walsh
15:58:25 Sen. Cohenour
15:59:17 Mr. Walsh
15:59:43 Chair Small
15:59:57 Mr. Walsh
16:00:14 Sen. Flowers
16:02:29 Mr. Walsh
16:03:11 Sen. Flowers
16:03:39 Sen. Cohenour
16:06:37 Ms. Johnson, MMA
16:07:26 Sen. Cohenour
16:08:54 Mr. Walsh

Closing by Sponsor:

16:09:44 Sen. Welborn

Sen. Welborn resumed the duties of the chair.

16:10:31 Chair Welborn

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:11 PM

Lauren de Paepe, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

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EXHIBIT([nas05aad.pdf](#))