

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chair Jeffrey W. Welborn, on January 18, 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. Bob Brown (R)
Sen. Jill Cohenour (D)
Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)
Sen. Brian Hoven (R)
Sen. Tom Jacobson (D)
Sen. Mike Lang (R)
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)

Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:

Sen. Pat Flowers, Vice Chair (D)

Members Excused:

Sen. Duane Ankney (R)
Sen. JP Pomnichowski (D)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Lauren de Paepe, Committee Secretary
Jason Mohr, Legislative Branch
Jacquie Simmons, 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 55, 1/11/2021
Executive Action: SB 55

HEARING ON SB 55

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:04:18 Sen. Jill Cohenour (D), SD 42, opened the hearing on SB55, Revise the Process for Water Right Ownership Updates.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:07:56 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Coalition; Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators

EXHIBIT(nas11a01)

15:10:06 Sen. Lang entered the meeting.

15:13:08 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association; Montana Cattlemen

15:15:14 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

15:16:48 Bill Gowen, Montana Land Title Association

EXHIBIT(nas11a02)

15:18:12 Steve Brown, assistant water judge, Montana Water Court

EXHIBIT(nas11a03)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

15:20:23 Anna Pakenham Stevenson, Water Resources Division administrator, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

15:24:10 Chair Welborn

15:24:46 Jason Mohr, Legislative Services Division

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:25:26 Sen. Gillespie

15:26:01 Sen. Hoven

15:26:26 Sen. Cohenour

15:27:05 Chair Welborn

15:27:25 Sen. Cohenour

15:27:45 Chair Welborn

15:28:08 Mr. Mohr

15:28:58 Chair Welborn

Closing by Sponsor:

15:29:07 Sen. Cohenour

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 55

15:30:38 **Motion:** Sen. Cohenour moved that **SB 55 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

15:30:59 Sen. Brown

15:31:48 Chair Welborn

15:32:40 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Ankney and Sen. Pomnichowski voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 40

15:33:32 **Motion:** Sen. Flowers moved that **SB 40 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

15:33:52 Mr. Mohr

15:34:36 Chair Welborn

15:34:59 Without objection, Sen. Flowers withdrew the DO PASS motion.

15:35:08 Sen. Cohenour

15:35:20 Chair Welborn

Committee Business:

15:35:41 Chair Welborn

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 3:36 PM

Lauren de Paepe, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([nas11aad.pdf](#))