

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chair Jeffrey W. Welborn, on February 17, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 303 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present in the Committee Room:

Sen. Jeffrey W. Welborn, Chair (R)
Sen. Pat Flowers, Vice Chair (D)
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. Tom Jacobson (D)
Sen. Mike Lang (R)
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)

Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:

Sen. JP Pomnichowski (D)

Members Excused: None

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 180, 2/11/2021; SJ 6, 2/11/2021
Executive Action: SB 163 - Do Pass as Amended

HEARING ON SJ 6

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:05:18 Sen. Janet Ellis (D), SD 41, opened the hearing on SJ6, Resolution on floodplain permit process.

15:05:25 Sen. Lynch left the meeting.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:10:51 Jeff Ryan, chairman, Lewis and Clark Conservation District; executive committee, Missouri River Conservation Districts Council

15:15:51 Karl Christians, citizen; former floodplain program manager, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

EXHIBIT(nas33a01)

15:19:05 Dan Rostad, Boulder River Watershed Association; Sweetgrass County Conservation District; Yellowstone River Conservation District Council

15:20:48 Rebecca Boslough, Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD)

15:22:03 Liv Holt, Missouri River Conservation Districts Council

EXHIBIT(nas33a02)

Additional Testimony Received:

EXHIBIT(nas33a03)

Opponents' Testimony:

EXHIBIT(nas33a04)

Informational Testimony:

15:26:57 Traci Sears, National Flood Insurance Program manager, DNRC

15:28:32 Steve Story, chief, Water Operations Bureau, DNRC

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:29:31 Sen. Brown

15:33:48 Mr. Story, DNRC

15:35:08 Sen. Lang

15:35:42 Mr. Christians, citizen

15:36:48 Sen. Hoven

15:40:17 Mr. Christians

Closing by Sponsor:

15:41:58 Sen. Ellis

HEARING ON SB 180

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:44:14 Sen. Pat Flowers (D), SD 32, opened the hearing on SB180, Establish an interim committee on soil health.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:51:02 Cole Mannix, Grow Montana Food Policy Coalition

15:54:14 Bob Quinn, farmer and rancher, Big Sandy

EXHIBIT(nas33a05)

15:57:48 Rachel Prevost, Montana Farmers Union

15:58:39 Jordan Thompson, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation

16:00:19 Scott Brown, director, Montana Salinity Control Association

EXHIBIT(nas33a06)

16:02:11 Mark Bostrum, administrator, Conservation and Resource Development Division, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

EXHIBIT(nas33a07)

16:03:38 Rebecca Boslough, Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD)

16:06:36 Buzz Mattelin, farmer, Culbertson

EXHIBIT(nas33a08)

16:08:46 Lila Livingston, Sunrise Movement Gallatin Valley

EXHIBIT(nas33a09)

16:11:25 Carmen Borchelt, Montana Audubon

EXHIBIT(nas33a10)

16:12:53 Jim Amonette, Sweetgrass County

EXHIBIT(nas33a11)

16:15:31 Greg Jergeson, urban supervisor, Blaine County Conservation District (BCCD), Chinook; education committee member, MACD

16:20:27 Jeff Schahczenski, National Center for Appropriate Technology

16:24:09 Vern Smith, Emigrant

16:26:05 Tony Hartshorn, Bozeman

EXHIBIT(nas33a12)

Additional Testimony Received:

EXHIBIT(nas33a13)

Informational Testimony:

16:31:04 Patrick Hatfield, professor, Montana State University Animal and Range Sciences Department

Opponents' Testimony:

16:32:06 Mitch Konen, president, Montana Grain Growers Association (MGGA)

EXHIBIT(nas33a14)

Informational Testimony:

16:35:32 Ian Foley, Agricultural Sciences Division administrator, Department of Agriculture

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:36:40 Sen. Gillespie
 16:40:04 Mr. Quinn, Big Sandy
 16:40:55 Sen. Cohenour
 16:41:35 Sen. Flowers
 16:42:47 Sen. Hoven
 16:44:05 Mr. Konen, MGGA
 16:46:15 Sen. Cohenour
 16:46:55 Mr. Jergeson, BCCD, MACD
 16:48:04 Sen. Brown
 16:49:17 Sen. Flowers

Closing by Sponsor:

16:51:36 Sen. Flowers

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 163

16:54:21 **Motion:** Sen. Small moved that **SB 163 DO PASS.**

16:54:58 **Motion:** Sen. Pomnichowski moved that **SB 163 BE AMENDED.**
[EXHIBIT\(nas33a15\)](#)

Discussion:

16:55:58 Sen. Hoven
 16:56:08 Sen. Pomnichowski
 16:56:34 Sen. Hoven
 16:56:45 Jason Mohr, Legislative Services Division
 16:56:50 Sen. Cohenour
 16:56:59 Chair Welborn
 16:57:23 Sen. Lang
 16:58:16 Sen. Pomnichowski
 16:59:49 Sen. Lang
 17:00:10 Chair Welborn

17:00:58 **Vote:** Motion carried 9-3 by roll call vote with Sen. Ankney, Sen. Brown and Sen. Hoven voting no. Sen. Lynch voted by proxy.

17:01:43 **Motion:** Sen. Small moved that **SB 163 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

17:01:50 **Motion:** Sen. Pomnichowski moved that **SB 163 BE AMENDED.**
[EXHIBIT\(nas33a16\)](#)

Discussion:

17:02:56 Sen. Cohenour
 17:03:27 Sen. Brown
 17:04:38 Sen. Cohenour

17:05:08 **Vote:** Motion carried 10-2 by roll call vote with Sen. Brown and Sen. Welborn voting no. Sen. Lynch voted by proxy.

17:06:01 **Motion:** Sen. Small moved that **SB 163 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

17:06:20 Sen. Brown

17:06:30 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Lynch voted by proxy.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:07 PM

Lauren de Paepe, Secretary

ld

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([nas33aad.pdf](#))