

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

**Call to Order:** Chair Jeffrey W. Welborn, on February 22, 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. Tom Jacobson (D)  
Sen. Mike Lang (R)  
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)

**Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:**

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

**Members Excused:** None

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Lauren de Paepe, Committee Secretary  
Jason Mohr, Legislative Branch  
Coleen Street, 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 233, 2/19/2021; SB 324, 2/22/2021; SB 304, 2/19/2021 -  
Withdrawn at Sponsor's Request  
Executive Action: SJ 6 - Do Pass; SB 258 - Do Pass

**HEARING ON SB 324****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:01:57 Sen. Mike Cuffe (R), SD 1, opened the hearing on SB324, Repeal administrative rules related to selenium.

**EXHIBIT(nas37a01)**

15:07:37 Rep. Steve Gunderson, HD 1

**EXHIBIT(nas37a02)**

15:11:48 Sen. Cuffe

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:16:57 Josh Letcher, Lincoln County commissioner

15:19:57 Cam Foote, pastor, Troy Community Baptist Church

**Opponents' Testimony:**

15:22:32 Chris Dorrington, director, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

15:29:38 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited (MT TU)

**Informational Testimony:**

15:32:52 Myla Kelly, Water Quality Standards and Modeling section manager, DEQ

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:33:25 Sen. Hoven  
15:37:26 Mr. Dorrington, DEQ  
15:38:06 Sen. Cohenour  
15:42:35 Mr. Dorrington  
15:42:49 Ms. Kelly, DEQ  
15:43:47 Sen. Cohenour  
15:44:12 Mr. Elliott, MT TU  
15:44:51 Sen. Cohenour  
15:46:07 Ms. Kelly  
15:46:23 Sen. Gillespie  
15:47:51 Mr. Dorrington  
15:48:27 Sen. Gillespie  
15:50:09 Mr. Elliott  
15:51:14 Sen. Flowers  
15:52:12 Mr. Dorrington  
15:52:20 Ms. Kelly  
15:53:34 Sen. Flowers  
15:54:45 Mr. Dorrington  
15:55:51 Sen. Flowers  
15:59:00 Sen. Cuffe  
16:05:28 Chair Welborn  
16:05:50 Sen. Brown  
16:06:57 Mr. Dorrington  
16:07:08 Ms. Kelly  
16:07:31 Sen. Brown

16:08:23 Mr. Dorrington  
 16:08:33 Ms. Kelly  
 16:08:49 Sen. Lang  
 16:12:27 Ms. Kelly  
 16:13:06 Sen. Lang  
 16:13:38 Mr. Dorrington  
 16:15:16 Sen. Pomnichowski  
 16:17:40 Mr. Dorrington  
 16:19:18 Sen. Cohenour  
 16:20:28 Sen. Cuffe  
  
 16:22:07 Sen. Lynch left the meeting.  
  
 16:27:19 Sen. Cohenour  
 16:27:55 Sen. Brown  
 16:28:19 Mr. Dorrington  
 16:28:43 Sen. Hoven  
 16:29:12 Sen. Cuffe  
 16:30:39 Chair Welborn  
 16:31:07 Jerry Bennett, Lincoln County commissioner

**Closing by Sponsor:**

16:32:26 Sen. Cuffe  
  
 16:36:49 Recess  
  
 16:44:58 Reconvene

**HEARING ON SB 233**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

16:45:06 Sen. Duane Ankney (R), SD 20, opened the hearing on SB233, Generally revise the board of environmental review.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

16:48:39 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association  
 16:51:51 Alan Olson, executive director, Montana Petroleum Association  
 16:54:00 Shelby DeMars, Montana Association of Oil, Gas, & Coal Counties

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

16:55:03 George Mathieus, Department of Environmental Quality

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None

**Closing by Sponsor:**

16:55:44 Sen. Ankney  
  
 16:57:33 Sen. Gillespie left the meeting.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJ 6**

16:59:02 **Motion:** Sen. Flowers moved that **SJ 6 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

16:59:26 Sen. Flowers

17:00:18 **Vote:** Motion carried 10-0 by voice vote. Sen. Gillespie and Sen. Lynch were excused.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 258**

17:00:37 **Motion:** Sen. Small moved that **SB 258 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

17:00:57 Sen. Ankney

17:01:26 Sen. Brown

17:02:07 Sen. Gillespie entered the meeting.

17:02:18 **Vote:** Motion carried 11-0 by voice vote. Sen. Lynch was excused.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 5:02 PM

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Lauren de Paepe, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([nas37aad.pdf](#))