

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND IRRIGATION

**Call to Order:** Chair Mike Lang, on March 9, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 335 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present in the Committee Room:**

Sen. Mike Lang, Chair (R)  
Sen. Kenneth Bogner, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)  
Sen. Brian Hoven (R)  
Sen. Shannon O'Brien (D)  
Sen. Ryan Osmundson (R)  
Sen. Walt Sales (R)  
Sen. Daniel R. Salomon (R)

**Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:**

Sen. Janet Ellis (D)  
Sen. Susan Webber, Vice Chair (D)

**Members Excused:**

Sen. Ellie Boldman (D)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Olivia Hopkins, Committee Secretary  
Jason Mohr, Legislative Branch  
Cole Monte, 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: HJ 7, 2/26/2021; HB 294, 2/26/2021; HB 318, 2/26/2021

15:03:14 Sen. Webber  
15:03:23 Sen. Ellis entered the meeting.

**HEARING ON HJ 7**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:04:08 Rep. Casey Knudsen (R), HD 33, opened the hearing on HJ7, Joint resolution regarding the St. Mary and Milk River project.

**Presentations:**

15:05:45 Jennifer Patrick, Milk River Joint Board of Control

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:20:53 Marko Manoukian, St. Mary Rehabilitation working group

**[EXHIBIT\(ags47a01\)](#)**

15:27:07 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association

15:28:05 John Semple, Montana Grain Growers Association

15:28:33 Bob Gilbert, Walleyes Unlimited

15:29:24 Rachel Prevost, Montana Farmers Union

15:30:07 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stockgrowers Association

15:30:34 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Coalition

15:30:54 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

15:31:54 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited

15:33:18 Andrew Werk, Fort Belknap Indian Community Tribal Council

**[EXHIBIT\(ags47a02\)](#)**

15:36:14 Autumn Coleman, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

**[EXHIBIT\(ags47a03\)](#)**

15:41:05 Dean Rogge, Montana Association of Conservation Districts

**[EXHIBIT\(ags47a04\)](#)**

15:42:06 Liv Holt, Missouri River Conservation Districts Council

**[EXHIBIT\(ags47a05\)](#)**

15:42:54 Jeff Pattison, Milk River Watershed Alliance; Valley County Conservation District

**[EXHIBIT\(ags47a06\)](#)**

15:46:36 Greg Jergeson, Blaine County Conservation District

**Additional Testimony Received:**

**[EXHIBIT\(ags47a07\)](#)**

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

15:49:06 Christy Clark, Department of Agriculture

15:49:27 Chair Lang

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:50:00 Sen. Gillespie  
 15:50:39 Mr. Manoukian, St. Mary Rehabilitation working group  
 15:51:49 Sen. Gillespie  
 15:52:09 Mr. Manoukian  
 15:52:46 Sen. Gillespie  
 15:53:10 Chair Lang  
 15:53:25 Mr. Manoukian  
 15:54:19 Sen. Hoven  
 15:54:42 Mr. Manoukian  
 15:55:13 Sen. Hoven  
 15:55:37 Mr. Manoukian  
 15:56:44 Sen. Sales  
 15:57:04 Ms. Patrick, Milk River Joint Board of Control  
 15:57:22 Sen. Sales  
 15:57:36 Sen. Ellis  
 15:58:38 Rep. Knudsen  
 15:59:51 Sen. Webber  
 16:00:19 Rep. Knudsen  
 16:01:01 Mr. Manoukian

**Closing by Sponsor:**

16:02:25 Rep. Knudsen  
 16:05:30 Chair Lang

**HEARING ON HB 294**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

16:06:01 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R), HD 17, opened the hearing on HB294, Revise fees for agricultural seed licenses.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

16:07:30 Gord Pearse, Montana Seed Trade Association (MSTA)  
 16:11:21 Chad Becker, president, MSTA  
 16:13:41 Tyler Heupel, vice president, MSTA  
 16:14:47 Krista Lee Evans, Montana Agriculture Business Association  
 16:15:39 John Semple, Montana Grain Growers Association

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

16:16:21 Bob Ballensky, Department of Agriculture (MDA)  
 16:16:36 Christy Clark, MDA

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

16:17:00 Sen. Gillespie  
 16:17:43 Mr. Heupel, MSTA  
 16:18:48 Sen. Salomon  
 16:19:27 Ms. Clark, MDA

16:19:45 Mr. Ballensky, MDA  
16:21:04 Chair Lang  
16:21:36 Mr. Pearce, MSTA

**Closing by Sponsor:**

16:23:08 Rep. Fitzgerald  
  
16:23:29 Chair Lang  
16:24:03 Bob Gilbert, Walleyes Unlimited

**HEARING ON HB 318**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

16:24:50 Rep. Kenneth Holmlund (R), HD 38, opened the hearing on HB318, Clarify definition of bison.  
  
16:27:00 Chair Lang  
16:27:36 Rep. Holmlund

**Proponents' Testimony:**

16:28:01 Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties  
16:30:49 Jerry Collins, commissioner, Garfield County  
16:32:39 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation  
16:34:35 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stockgrowers Association  
16:35:12 Bob Gilbert, Phillips County  
16:36:44 Dean Rogge, Montana Association of Conservation Districts

**EXHIBIT(ags47a08)**

16:38:24 Jeff Pattison, Valley County Conservation District

**EXHIBIT(ags47a09)**

**Additional Testimony Received:**

**EXHIBIT(ags47a10)**

**Opponents' Testimony:**

16:40:20 Charles Headdress, Fort Peck Tribes  
16:42:43 Kaci Walette, Fort Peck Tribes  
16:44:10 Georgett Boggio, Fort Peck Tribes  
16:45:39 Chair Lang  
16:46:02 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

**EXHIBIT(ags47a11)**

16:48:30 Arnell Abold, InterTribal Buffalo Council  
16:51:53 James Bailey, Wild Bison Restoration Coalition

**EXHIBIT(ags47a12)**

16:58:01 Chamois Andersen, Defenders of Wildlife

**EXHIBIT(ags47a13)**

17:01:06 Eric Clewis, Montana Wildlife Federation  
17:01:49 Brooke Shifrin, Bozeman, Greater Yellowstone Coalition  
17:03:02 Dan Wenner, InterTribal Buffalo Council; Fort Peck Tribes  
17:04:46 Laurie Little Dog, citizen  
17:06:11 Justine Sanchez, Buffalo Field Campaign  
17:08:15 Darrell Geist, Buffalo Field Campaign

**EXHIBIT(ags47a14)**

17:10:48 Dennis Jorgensen, World Wildlife Fund  
17:12:45 Nancy Ostlie, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Bozeman Broadband

Additional Testimony Received:

**EXHIBIT(ags47a15)**

**Informational Testimony:**

17:20:37 Mike Honeycutt, Department of Livestock (DOL)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

17:21:15 Sen. Gillespie  
17:22:06 Mr. Honeycutt, DOL  
17:23:24 Sen. Webber  
17:24:17 Rep. Holmlund  
17:25:20 Sen. Webber  
17:25:49 Rep. Holmlund  
17:26:23 Sen. Ellis  
17:26:45 Mr. Honeycutt  
17:27:23 Sen. Ellis  
17:28:45 Mr. Honeycutt  
17:29:59 Sen. Webber  
17:30:49 Rep. Holmlund  
17:31:55 Sen. Webber  
17:32:54 Rep. Holmlund  
17:32:57 Sen. Webber  
17:33:10 Rep. Holmlund  
17:33:17 Sen. Webber  
17:33:48 Rep. Holmlund  
17:34:01 Chair Lang  
17:34:36 Ms. Boggio, Fort Peck Tribes  
17:35:22 Chair Lang  
17:35:33 Ms. Boggio  
17:36:16 Sen. Hoven  
17:36:46 Ms. Boggio  
17:38:16 Sen. Hoven  
17:38:38 Ms. Boggio  
17:38:47 Chair Lang  
17:39:15 Ms. Walette, Fort Peck Tribes  
17:39:33 Chair Lang  
17:39:42 Ms. Walle  
17:39:51 Mr. Honeycutt  
17:40:25 Chair Lang

17:40:47 Ms. Wallet

17:40:56 Chair Lang

**Closing by Sponsor:**

17:41:11 Rep. Holmlund

17:41:48 Chair Lang

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 5:43 P.M.

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Olivia Hopkins, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([ags47aad.pdf](#))