MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE
67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON FISH AND GAME

Call to Order: Vice Chair Brown, on March 25, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 422 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present in the Committee Room:
     Sen. Bob Brown, Vice Chair (R)
     Sen. Tom Jacobson, Vice Chair (D)
     Sen. Jill Cohenour (D)
     Sen. Greg Hertz (R)

Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:
     Sen. Steve Hinebauch, Chair (R)
     Sen. Pat Flowers (D)
     Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty (D)

Members Excused:
     Sen. Mark Blasdel (R)
     Sen. Jason W. Ellsworth (R)
     Sen. David Howard (R)
     Sen. Bob Keenan (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Izmerai Alvarado, Committee Secretary
             Joe Kolman, Legislative Branch
             Heather Vande-Sandt 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 382, 3/22/2021; SB 384, 3/22/2021

HEARING ON SB 384

Opening Statement by Sponsor:
15:00:51   Sen. John Esp (R), SD 30, opened the hearing on SB384, Revise laws related to Aquatic Invasive Species hydroelectric fee.

Proponents' Testimony:
15:03:16   Tom Ebzery, Avista Corporation
EXHIBIT(fis59a01)

15:08:02   Jan Rouse, NorthWestern Energy
15:08:52   Sen. Mike Cuffe, SD1
15:10:00   Hank Worsech, director, Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)
15:10:43   Amanda Kaster, director, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
15:12:19   Krista Lee Evens, Senior Water Rights Coalition

Opponents' Testimony:
15:13:35   Clayton Elliot, Montana Trout Unlimited; also speaking on behalf of Bob Gilbert, Walleyes Unlimited
15:15:01   Mike Bias, Montana Fishing Outfitters Association
15:17:36   Matt Leow, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
15:19:26   Jordan Thompson, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
15:21:15   Ethan Kunard, Montana Watershed Coordination Council
15:21:38   Steve Tyrrel, CEO, Integrated AG Services
15:23:15   Liv Holt, Central and Eastern Montana Invasive Species Team
EXHIBIT(fis59a02)

15:24:06   Eric Clewis, Montana Wildlife Federation
15:24:58   Andrew Gorder, Clark Fork Coalition

15:27:19   Amy Seamen, Montana Audubon
EXHIBIT(fis59a03)

15:29:36   Phil Matson, research coordinator, Flathead Lake Biological Research Station, University of Montana

Additional Testimony Received:
EXHIBIT(fis59a04)

Informational Testimony:
15:33:12   Mark Bostrom, Conservation Resource Development Division administrator, DNRC
15:33:39   Stephanie Criswell, Montana Invasive Species Council coordinator; AIS Grant Program manager
15:34:06   Kate Wilson, Upper Columbia Conservation Commission
EXHIBIT(fis59a05)

15:34:31   Steve Myers, Invasive Species Program, senior program manager, Pacific
             Northwest Economic Region

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:
15:35:19   Sen. Flowers
15:36:41   Eileen Ryce, FWP
15:37:16   Dustin Temple, deputy director, FWP
15:37:26   Sen. Flowers
15:38:07   Mr. Temple
15:38:55   Sen. Flowers
15:39:27   Mr. Temple
15:39:42   Sen. Flowers
15:40:17   Mr. Temple
15:41:38   Chair Brown
15:42:13   Sen. Cuff
15:44:18   Chair Brown
15:45:38   Ms. Kaster, DNRC
15:45:56   Mr. Temple
15:46:21   Sen. Jacobson
15:46:56   Mr. Temple
15:47:20   Sen. Jacobson
15:47:45   Mr. Temple
15:48:16   Sen. Jacobson
15:48:41   Mr. Temple
15:49:07   Sen. Jacobson
15:49:13   Mr. Temple
15:49:17   Sen. Jacobson

Closing by Sponsor:
15:49:29   Sen. Esp

HEARING ON SB 382

Opening Statement by Sponsor:
15:51:43   Sen. Theresa Manzella (R), SD 44, opened the hearing on SB382, Repeal
             hydroelectric AIS fees.

Proponents' Testimony:
15:53:53   Jennifer Fielder, Public Service Commission (PSC)
15:59:06   Tony Rausch, Great Falls
16:00:26   Jan Rouse, NorthWestern Energy
16:01:12   Robin Arnold, PSC
16:02:22   Linda Madsen, Great Falls
16:03:22   Maurice Cameron, Great Falls
16:04:37   Randy Pinocci, PSC

Opponents' Testimony:
16:07:50   Sen. Mike Cuffe, SD1
16:10:24   Rebecca Boslough, Montana Association of Conservation Districts
16:11:22   Jordan Thompson, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

16:12:05   Matt Leow, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
16:13:32   Mike Bias, Fishing Outfitters Association of Montana
16:17:33   Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited; also speaking on behalf of Bob Gilbert, Walleyes Unlimited
16:18:24   Amanda Kaster, director, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
16:20:10   Hank Worsech, director, Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks
16:20:55   Ethan Kunard, executive director, Montana Watershed Coordination Council
16:22:02   Steve Tyrrel, CEO, Integrated AG Services
EXHIBIT(fis59a06)

16:23:19   Liv Holt, Central and Eastern Montana Invasive Species Team
EXHIBIT(fis59a07)

16:23:53   Eric Clewis, Montana Wildlife Federation
16:24:18   Andrew Gorder, Clark Fork Coalition
16:24:54   Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon
EXHIBIT(fis59a08)

16:26:13   Phil Matson, research coordinator, Flathead Lake Biological Research Station, University of Montana

Additional Testimony Received:
EXHIBIT(fis59a09)

Informational Testimony:
16:29:19   Mark Bostrom, Conservation Resource Development Division administrator, DNRC
16:29:46   Stephanie Criswell, Montana Invasive Species Council coordinator; AIS Grant Program manager
16:30:06   Kate Wilson, Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC3)
16:30:30   Steve Myers, senior program manager, Pacific Northwest Economic Region

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:
16:30:50   Sen. Cohenour
16:31:26   Ms. Wilson, UC3
16:31:46   Sen. Cohenour
16:32:16   Ms. Wilson
16:32:31   Sen. Cohenour
16:33:05   Sen. Cuff
16:34:31   Sen. Cohenour
16:34:42   Sen. Cuff
16:37:25   Sen. Hertz
16:38:12   Ms. Fielder, PSC
16:40:39   Sen. Hertz
16:41:05   Ms. Fielder
16:41:37   Sen. Jacobson
16:42:10   Ms. Fielder
16:43:40   Sen. Hinebauch

16:44:18   Joe Kolman, Legislative Services Division
EXHIBIT(fis59a10)

Closing by Sponsor:
16:44:45   Sen. Manzella

16:49:09   Sen. Hinebauch
16:49:32   Chair Brown

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:49 PM

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Izmerai Alvarado, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT(fis59aad.pdf)