

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**  
**COMMITTEE ON (H) NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Call to Order:** Chair Rep. Steve Gunderson-R, on January 09, 2023 at 3:03 PM, in 172

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Rep. Steve Gunderson, Chair (R)  
Rep. Steve Gist, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Marilyn Marler, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Jill Cohenour (D)  
Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R)  
Rep. Tom France (D)  
Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R)  
Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D)  
Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R)  
Rep. Marty Malone (R)  
Rep. Russel Miner (R)  
Rep. Gary Parry (R)  
Rep. Sue Vinton (R)  
Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R)  
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D)

**Staff Present:** LJ Jennings, Secretary  
Joe Kolman, Research Analyst  
John Olson, Attorney

**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:

HB 54 12/28/2022  
HB 122 12/28/2022  
HB 141 12/28/2022

Executive Action:

HB 88 DO PASS  
HB 85 DO PASS AS AMENDED

**HEARING ON HB 141 - Revise Blackfeet mitigation fund laws**

**Opening Statement:**

15:03:22 Rep. Llew Jones (R), HD 18, opened the hearing on HB 141, Revise Blackfeet mitigation fund laws.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:05:20 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe

15:06:00 Meaghan Bjerke, Water Resources Division Financial Manager, Department of Natural Resources and Conservations, (DNRC)

15:07:25 Cole Peebles, Pondera County Canal & Reservoir Company

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

None

**Closing Statement:**

15:08:30 Rep. Llew Jones (R), HD 18, closed the hearing on HB 141.

**HEARING ON HB 54 - Revise laws related to petroleum brownfields**

**Opening Statement:**

15:09:17 Rep. Joe Read (R), HD 93, opened the hearing on HB 54, Revise laws related to petroleum brownfields.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:10:06 Amy Steinmetz, Waste Management and Remediation Division Manager, Dept. Environmental Quality (DEQ)

[EXHIBIT\(230109NAHa1\)](#)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:12:55 Rep. Steve Gunderson

15:13:05 Rep. Kenneth Walsh

15:13:29 Amy Steinmetz, DEQ

15:15:35 Rep. Gary Parry

**Closing Statement:**

15:19:54 Rep. Joe Read (R), HD 93, closed the hearing on HB 54.

**HEARING ON HB 122 - Revise solicitation requirements for water projects**

**Opening Statement:**

15:23:54 Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R), HD 71, opened the hearing on HB 122, Revise solicitation requirements for water projects.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:27:18 Brian Holling, Bureau Chief, State Water Projects Bureau, Dept. Natural Resources and Conservations, (DNRC)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:30:01 Rep. Steve Gunderson

15:30:03 Rep. Jill Cohenour

15:30:11 Brian Holling, DNRC  
15:32:22 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle  
15:33:53 Rep. Tom France  
15:35:56 Rep. Steve Gist  
15:37:48 Rep. Sue Vinton  
15:39:26 Rep. Rhonda Knudsen

**Closing Statement:**

15:41:09 Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R), HD 71, closed the hearing on HB 122.

15:53:15 **Recessed**

16:15:31 **Reconvened**

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 88 - Revise third-party permission at state superfund sites**

16:15:39 **Motion:** Rep. Steve Gist moved that **HB 88 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

16:15:48 Rep. Steve Gunderson

**Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 85 - Expand MEPA categorical exclusions**

16:17:00 **Motion:** Rep. Steve Gist moved that **HB 85 DO PASS.**

16:17:28 **Motion:** Rep. Tom France moved that **HB 85 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

Rep. Steve Gunderson

Rep. Tom France

Rep. Marty Malone

Rep. Marilyn Marler

Rep. Steve Gist

Rep. Tom France

Rep. Jedediah Hinkle

Rep. Jill Cohenour

Joe Kolman

Rep. Gary Parry

**Vote:** Motion failed 10 - 5 by roll call vote with Rep. Cohenour, Rep. France, Rep. Karlen, Rep. Marler, Rep. Weatherwax, voting yes.

16:34:55 **Motion:** Rep. Steve Gist moved that **HB 85 BE AMENDED.**

**Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

16:35:55 **Motion:** Rep. Steve Gist moved that **HB 85 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

**Vote:** Motion carried 14 - 1 by roll call vote with Rep. France, voting no.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 16:38:12

---

LJ Jennings, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230109NAHaad\)](#)