

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

Call to Order: Chair Steve Gunderson-R, on March 20, 2023 at 3:02 PM, in 172

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Steve Gunderson, Chair (R)
Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R)
Rep. Tom France (D)
Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R)
Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D)
Rep. Marty Malone (R)
Rep. Russel Miner (R)
Rep. Gary Parry (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Jill Cohenour (D)
Rep. Steve Gist (R)
Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R)
Rep. Marilyn Marler (D)
Rep. Sue Vinton (R)
Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R)
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D)

Staff Present: LJ Jennings, Secretary
Joe Kolman, Research Analyst
John Olson, 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 17 03/09/2023
SB 237 03/15/2023
SJ 16 03/15/2023

Executive Action:

SJ 16

15:04:49 Rep. Walsh has arrived
15:05:33 Rep. Cohenour has arrived
15:06:13 Rep. Malone has left
15:07:36 Vice Chair Marler has arrived
15:07:56 Rep. Knudsen has arrived
15:17:51 Rep. France has left

HEARING ON SB 17 - Revise oversight of stream gauge network

Opening Statement:

15:03:35 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn (R), SD 36, opened the hearing on SB 17, Revise oversight of stream gauge network.

Proponent Testimony:

15:06:45 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited, (MTU)
15:10:11 Krista Lee Evans, Association of Gallatin County Irrigators, (AGAI)
15:11:25 Bill Schenk, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)
15:12:24 Rebecca Boslough-King, Montana Association Conservation Districts, (MACD)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:13:40 Paul Azevedo, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, (DNRC)

Questions from Committee:

15:14:27 Rep. Gary Parry
15:14:43 Clayton Elliott, MTU

15:15:12 Paul Azevedo, DNRC
15:16:00 Rep. Gary Parry
15:16:08 Paul Azevedo, DNRC
15:16:22 Rep. Gary Parry
15:16:36 Paul Azevedo, DNRC
15:17:20 Rep. Kenneth Walsh
15:17:47 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn-R
15:18:24 Rep. Kenneth Walsh
15:18:47 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn-R
15:19:02 Paul Azevedo, DNRC
15:19:45 Rep. Gary Parry
15:20:03 Paul Azevedo, DNRC
15:20:53 Rep. Gary Parry
15:21:00 Paul Azevedo, DNRC

Closing Statement:

15:22:11 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn (R), SD 36, closed the hearing on SB 17.

HEARING ON SB 237 - Require development plans for public water and wastewater system connections

Opening Statement:

15:24:41 Sen. Shelley Vance (R), SD 34, opened the hearing on SB 237, Require development plans for public water and wastewater system connections.

Proponent Testimony:

15:26:26 Tom Eastwood, City of Belgrade

15:27:41 Chris Dorrington, Department of Environmental Quality, (DEQ)

[EXHIBIT\(230320NAHa1\)](#)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:31:04 Rep. Gary Parry

15:31:29 Chris Dorrington, DEQ

Closing Statement:

15:32:18 Sen. Shelley Vance (R), SD 34, closed the hearing on SB 237.

15:32:30 Rep. Malone has arrived

15:34:06 Rep. Cohenour has left

15:37:28 Vice Chair Gist has arrived

HEARING ON SJ 16 - Resolution related to Columbia River Treaty

Opening Statement:

15:33:14 Sen. Mike Cuffe (R), SD 1, opened the hearing on SJ 16, Resolution related to Columbia River Treaty.

Proponent Testimony:

15:41:07 Michael Freeman, Office of the Governor

15:42:01 Mark Lambrecht, Montana Electrical Operatives ??

15:44:02 Colin Cooney, Montana Trout Unlimited, (MTU)

15:44:43 Rebecca Boslough-King, Montana Association of Conservation Districts, (MACD)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:46:11 Rep. Gary Parry
15:46:43 Sen. Mike Cuffe-R
15:52:34 Vice Chair Marilyn Marler
15:53:08 Sen. Mike Cuffe-R
15:55:49 Vice Chair Marilyn Marler
15:56:38 Sen. Mike Cuffe-R
16:00:00 Chair Steve Gunderson

Closing Statement:

16:00:16 Sen. Mike Cuffe (R), SD 1, closed the hearing on SJ 16.

16:02:07 Rep. France has arrived
16:02:15 **Recessed**
16:08:54 **Reconvened**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJ 16 - Resolution related to Columbia River Treaty

16:09:01 **Motion:** Rep. Steve Gist moved that **SJ 16 BE CONCURRED IN.**
16:09:01 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.
16:09:01 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Steve Gunderson

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:11:03

LJ Jennings, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230320NAHaad\)](#)