

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

Call to Order: Chair Steve Gunderson-R, on April 24, 2023 at 8:57 AM, in Room 172

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Steve Gunderson, Chair (R)
Rep. Steve Gist, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Jill Cohenour (D)
Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D)
Rep. Marty Malone (R)
Rep. Russel Miner (R)
Rep. Gary Parry (R)
Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R)
Rep. Tom France (D)
Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R)
Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R)
Rep. Marilyn Marler (D)
Rep. Sue Vinton (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:

HJ 29 04/21/2023

HJ 32 04/21/2023

Executive Action:

HJ 32 DO PASS

HJ 29 DO PASS

SB 402 TO TAKE FROM THE
TABLE

08:59:36 Vice Chair Marler has arrived

09:09:51 Rep. France has arrived

HEARING ON HJ 32 - Study of water storage

Opening Statement:

08:58:44 Rep. Julie Dooling (R), HD 70, opened the hearing on HJ 32, Study of water storage.

Proponent Testimony:

09:01:13 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Coalition, (SWRC), Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators(AGAI)

09:02:11 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation, (MFBF)

09:02:52 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association, (MWRA)

09:04:01 John Simple, Montana Grain Growers Association, (MGGA)

[EXHIBIT\(230424NAHa1\)](#)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

09:05:17 Rep. Marty Malone

09:05:32 Rep. Julie Dooling-R

09:05:41 Rep. Marty Malone

09:05:46 Krista Lee Evans, SWRC,AGAI

09:06:29 Chair Steve Gunderson

09:07:23 Krista Lee Evans, SWRC,AGAI
09:08:24 Chair Steve Gunderson
09:08:27 Krista Lee Evans, SWRC,AGAI
09:09:09 Vice Chair Marilyn Marler
09:09:48 Rep. Julie Dooling-R
09:10:25 Chair Steve Gunderson
09:10:26 Rep. Julie Dooling-R
09:10:51 Krista Lee Evans, SWRC,AGAI
09:11:42 Rep. Kenneth Walsh
09:12:15 Krista Lee Evans, SWRC,AGAI

Closing Statement:

09:13:49 Rep. Julie Dooling (R), HD 70, closed the hearing on HJ 32.

HEARING ON HJ 29 - Study of Taylor Act stock water rights

Opening Statement:

09:15:29 Rep. Casey Knudsen (R), HD 33, opened the hearing on HJ 29, Study of Taylor Act stock water rights.

Proponent Testimony:

09:16:56 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Coalition, (SWRC)
09:19:18 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association, (MWRA)
09:20:18 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation, (MFBF)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

09:21:48 Rep. Jill Cohenour
09:22:29 Rep. Casey Knudsen-R
09:23:35 Rep. Marty Malone
09:23:59 Krista Lee Evans, SWRC
09:26:06 Vice Chair Marilyn Marler
09:26:25 Rep. Kenneth Walsh
09:27:10 Krista Lee Evans, SWRC
09:27:55 Rep. Kenneth Walsh
09:28:11 Krista Lee Evans, SWRC
09:29:03 Rep. Tom France
09:29:51 Rep. Casey Knudsen-R
09:31:22 Rep. Gary Parry
09:31:47 Krista Lee Evans, SWRC
09:32:07 Rep. Gary Parry
09:32:22 Krista Lee Evans, SWRC
09:33:23 Chair Steve Gunderson
09:33:40 Krista Lee Evans, SWRC
09:34:27 Chair Steve Gunderson
09:34:50 Krista Lee Evans, SWRC
09:35:32 Chair Steve Gunderson

Closing Statement:

09:36:35 Rep. Casey Knudsen (R), HD 33, closed the hearing on HJ 29.

09:39:43 **Recessed**

09:55:06 **Reconvened**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 32 - Study of water storage

09:55:15 **Motion:** Vice Chair Steve Gist moved that **HJ 32 DO PASS.**

09:55:15 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 29 - Study of Taylor Act stock water rights

09:56:57 **Motion:** Vice Chair Steve Gist moved that **HJ 29 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

09:57:42 Rep. Russel Miner

09:58:15 Rep. Jill Cohenour

09:58:50 Chair Steve Gunderson

09:56:57 **Vote:** Motion carried 13 - 2 by roll call vote with Rep. Marler, Rep. Weatherwax, voting no.
Rep. Weatherwax, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 402 - Allow for firefighter hazard pay

10:00:09 **Motion:** Vice Chair Marilyn Marler moved that **SB 402 TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE.**

10:00:09 **Vote:** Motion failed 6 - 4 by roll call vote with Rep. Cohenour, Rep. France, Rep. Karlen, Rep. Marler, voting yes.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:01:53

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230424NAHaad\)](#)