

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA SENATE**  
**68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**  
**COMMITTEE ON (S) NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Call to Order:** Chair Sen. Jeffrey Welborn-R, on January 09, 2023 at 3:01 PM, in 303

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Sen. Jeffrey Welborn, Chair (R)  
Sen. Shane Morigeau, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Walt Sales, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Bob Brown (R)  
Sen. Willis Curdy (D)  
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)  
Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)  
Sen. Mike Lang (R)  
Sen. Jason Small (R)  
Sen. Barry Usher (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)

**Staff Present:** Jason Mohr, Research Analyst  
Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary

**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 72 01/05/2023

Executive Action:

**HEARING ON SB 72 - Revise judicial administration of water rights**

**Opening Statement:**

15:02:54 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, opened the hearing on SB 72, Revise judicial administration of water rights.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:08:28 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor, Governor's Office

15:12:03 Anna Pakenham-Stevenson, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

15:19:49 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Coalition

15:25:53 Richard Roth, IX Ranch

15:28:55 Hertha Lund, self

15:34:06 Thomas Jodoin, Montana League of Cities and Towns

15:34:58 Bill Lee, self

15:35:14 Dusty Hahn, self

15:36:11 Cliff Cox, self

15:38:37 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stockgrowers Association

15:41:12 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

15:42:48 Ryan McLane, Northwestern Energy

15:46:53 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association

15:48:19 John Bloomquist, self

15:52:54 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited

15:54:04 John Sculley, self

15:56:50 Rhonda Boyd, Director Montana Farm Bureau

**Opponent Testimony:**

15:59:46 John Metropoulos, Alliance for Local Water Management

[EXHIBIT\(230109NASa1\)](#)

16:15:23 Monte Giese, Lower Teton Water Users and Friends of the Teton River  
16:17:24 Jasmine Krotkov, Montana Farmer's Union  
16:18:59 Ross Salmond, Teton Conservation District Board  
16:22:04 Alan Olson, Montana Petroleum Association  
16:23:33 Ross Morgan, Rocky Mountain Stockgrowers Association  
16:25:48 Mark Larson, self  
16:30:07 Blane Yaeger, self  
16:31:04 Jocelyn Galt-Cahill, Alliance for Local Water Management

[EXHIBIT\(230109NASa2\)](#)

16:32:25 Leslie Kinney, self  
16:34:39 Steve Kelly, self  
16:41:33 Mitchell Barber, self  
16:45:34 Shelby DeMars, United Property Owners of Montana

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

16:47:14 Beth McLaughlin, Supreme Court  
16:47:37 Dana Corson, Secretary of State's Office

**Questions from Committee:**

16:48:12 Sen. Bob Brown  
16:51:23 Anna Pakenham-Stevenson  
16:51:38 Ryan McLane  
16:54:02 Sen. Bob Brown  
16:54:42 Ryan McLane  
16:55:27 Sen. Bob Brown  
16:55:59 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick-R

16:56:22	Sen. Bruce Gillespie
16:57:38	Ryan McLane
16:59:04	Sen. Bruce Gillespie
17:00:03	Ryan McLane
17:01:02	Sen. Bruce Gillespie
17:01:34	Ryan McLane
17:02:07	Sen. Walt Sales
17:07:36	Anna Pakenham-Stevenson
17:08:40	Sen. Walt Sales
17:10:58	Bill Lee
17:11:59	Sen. Mike Lang
17:14:27	Ryan McLane
17:14:59	Sen. Willis Curdy
17:16:44	Beth McLaughlin
17:17:49	Sen. Pat Flowers
17:18:10	Sponsor
17:19:50	Sen. Pat Flowers
17:20:37	Anna Pakenham-Stevenson
17:20:51	Beth McLaughlin
17:22:18	Sen. Pat Flowers
17:23:03	Beth McLaughlin
17:23:58	Sen. Pat Flowers
17:24:58	Anna Pakenham-Stevenson
17:26:08	Sen. Bob Brown

17:28:52 Anna Pakenham-Stevenson  
17:30:04 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn  
17:33:01 Richard Roth  
17:34:06 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn  
17:35:00 Hertha Lund  
17:35:14 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn  
17:37:45 John Bloomquist  
17:39:16 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn  
17:40:09 Alan Olson  
17:40:58 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn  
17:41:17 Sen. Walt Sales  
17:41:42 Krista Lee Evans  
17:43:15 Sen. Walt Sales  
17:47:11 Leslie Kinney  
17:48:21 Sen. Walt Sales  
17:50:33 Anna Pakenham-Stevenson  
17:50:50 Sen. Bruce Gillespie  
17:51:19 Sponsor  
17:51:57 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn  
17:52:19 Anna Pakenham-Stevenson

**Closing Statement:**

17:52:35 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, closed the hearing on SB 72.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 17:53:15

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Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary

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