

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

Call to Order: Chair Sen. Jeffrey Welborn-R, on February 06, 2023 at 2:55 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. Mike Lang (R)
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)
Sen. Barry Usher (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)
Sen. Jason Small (R)

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:

SR 44 01/30/2023
HB 88 01/31/2023
HB 122 01/31/2023

Executive Action:

SB 219 DO PASS AS AMENDED

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 219 - Revise wildfire suppression laws

14:56:17 **Motion:** Sen. Shane Morigeau moved that **SB 219 DO PASS.**

14:56:17 **Vote:** Motion failed unanimously by voice vote.

14:56:36 **Motion:** Sen. Barry Usher moved that **SB 219 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

14:56:47 Sen. Barry Usher

14:57:49 Sen. Barry Usher

14:57:59 Sen. Mike Lang

14:58:17 Sen. Barry Usher

14:58:37 Jason Mohr

14:58:59 Sen. Shane Morigeau

14:59:17 Sen. Barry Usher

14:56:36 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

15:00:32 **Motion:** Sen. Willis Curdy moved that **SB 219 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

15:00:32 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

HEARING ON SR 44 - Confirm governor's appointees for the board of water well contractors

Opening Statement:

15:01:41 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn (R), SD 36, opened the hearing on SR 44, Confirm governor's appointees for the board of water well contractors.

Discussion:

[EXHIBIT\(230206NASa1\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

15:02:42 Art Robinson, Board Wild Water Contractors

15:06:23 Kristan Juras, Lieutenant Governor, Governors Office

15:06:46 Ronda Wiggers, Montana Water Well Drillers Association

Questions from Committee:

15:08:09 Sen. Mike Lang

15:08:16 Sen. Walt Sales

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Closing Statement:

15:08:32 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn (R), SD 36, closed the hearing on SR 44.

HEARING ON HB 122 - Revise solicitation requirements for water projects

Opening Statement:

15:10:33 Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R), HD 71, opened the hearing on HB 122, Revise solicitation requirements for water projects.

Proponent Testimony:

15:12:51 Brian Holling, Water Projects Bureau, Department of Natural Resources (DNRC)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:16:29 Sen. Willis Curdy

15:17:38 Brian Holling, DNRC

15:18:33 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn

15:19:09 Brian Holling, DNRC

Closing Statement:

15:19:39 Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R), HD 71, closed the hearing on HB 122.

HEARING ON HB 88 - Revise third-party permission at state superfund sites

Opening Statement:

15:21:05 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R), HD 17, opened the hearing on HB 88, Revise third-party permission at state superfund sites.

Proponent Testimony:

15:22:28 Amy Steinmetz, Waste Management Administrator, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:25:42 Sen. Willis Curdy

15:26:00 Amy Steinmetz, DEQ

15:26:37 Sen. Walt Sales

15:26:48 Amy Steinmetz, DEQ

Closing Statement:

15:27:06 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R), HD 17, closed the hearing on HB 88.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 15:27:57

Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230206NASaad\)](#)