

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Walt Sales-R, on March 15, 2023 at 3:01 PM, in 303

**ROLL CALL**

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

**Members Excused:** Sen. Willis Curdy (D)  
Sen. Shane Morigeau (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:

HB 114 03/10/2023

HB 141 03/10/2023

Executive Action:

15:01:48 Vice Chair Morigeau has arrived

15:02:07 **Recessed**

15:02:37 Sen. Usher has left

15:02:46 Sen. Brown has left

15:10:07 **Reconvened**

**HEARING ON HB 114 - Revise timelines for water right permit and change process**

**Opening Statement:**

15:10:31 Rep. Sue Vinton (R), HD 56, opened the hearing on HB 114, Revise timelines for water right permit and change process.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:13:34 Anna Pakenham-Stevenson, Department Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

[EXHIBIT\(230315NASa1\)](#)

15:19:57 Krista Lee Evans, Water Rights Coalition, AGAI

15:23:16 Kelly Lynch, Montana League of Cities and Towns

15:24:05 J.M Peck, self

15:26:23 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation, on behalf of Ralley Honeycutt

15:27:47 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resource Association

15:28:35 Rebecca Boslough-King, Montana Conservation Districts

15:29:29 Jasmine Krotkov, Montana Farmers Union

15:31:01 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited

15:34:39 Corey Shaw, Executive Director, Montana Building Association

15:35:41 Julie Merritt, Missoula Water Rights

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:38:00 Sen. Pat Flowers  
15:38:53 Anna Pakenham-Stevenson, DNRC  
15:41:52 Sen. Pat Flowers  
15:42:07 Anna Pakenham-Stevenson, DNRC  
15:43:32 Sen. Mike Lang  
15:43:53 Anna Pakenham-Stevenson, DNRC  
15:44:51 Vice Chair Walt Sales  
15:45:36 Anna Pakenham-Stevenson, DNRC  
15:46:23 Vice Chair Walt Sales  
15:47:06 Corey Shaw  
15:48:02 Chair Jeffrey Welborn  
15:49:59 Anna Pakenham-Stevenson, DNRC

**Closing Statement:**

15:50:20 Rep. Sue Vinton (R), HD 56, closed the hearing on HB 114.  
15:51:34 **Recessed**  
16:38:36 **Reconvened**

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

**Opening Statement:**

16:38:40 Rep. Llew Jones (R), HD 18, opened the hearing on HB 141, Revise Blackfeet mitigation fund laws.

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:40:59 Patrick Yawkiee, Blackfeet Tribe

16:41:38 Anna Pakenham-Stevenson, Anna Pakenham-Stevenson, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

16:42:24 John Bloomquist, Pondera County Canal

16:44:37 Cole Pebbles, The Water Company, Valier

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

16:46:08 Vice Chair Walt Sales

16:46:40 Rep. Llew Jones-R

16:47:05 Sen. Pat Flowers

16:47:24 Rep. Llew Jones-R

**Closing Statement:**

16:49:00 Rep. Llew Jones (R), HD 18, closed the hearing on HB 141.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 16:49:43

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Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230315NASaad\)EXHIBIT\(230315NASaad\)](#)