

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Walt Sales-R, on March 17, 2023 at 3:00 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. Pat Flowers (D)  
Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)  
Sen. Mike Lang (R)  
Sen. Jason Small (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Willis Curdy (D)  
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)  
Sen. Barry Usher (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:

HB 34 03/13/2023

HB 343 03/13/2023

Executive Action:

15:01:37            **Recessed**

15:02:27            **Reconvened**

**HEARING ON HB 343 - Generally revise library geospatial and natural resource  
information laws**

**Opening Statement:**

15:02:44            Rep. Tony Brockman (R), HD 9, opened the hearing on HB 343,  
Generally revise library geospatial and natural resource information laws.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:04:18            Jenny Stapp, State Librarian

15:08:14            Sen. Willis Curdy joined the meeting.

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:09:48            Sen. Mike Lang

15:10:43            Jenny Stapp, State Librarian

15:10:51            Sen. Bruce Gillespie

15:11:13            Jenny Stapp, State Librarian

15:11:30            Erin Fashoway, State GIS Coordinator

15:12:35            Sen. Bruce Gillespie

15:14:18            Erin Fashoway, State GIS Coordinator

15:15:10            Sen. Mike Lang

15:15:20            Erin Fashoway, State GIS Coordinator

15:15:52            Jenny Stapp, State Librarian

**Closing Statement:**

15:17:14 Rep. Tony Brockman (R), HD 9, closed the hearing on HB 343.

**HEARING ON HB 34 - Exempt certain DNRC grants from MEPA**

**Opening Statement:**

15:18:22 Rep. Steve Gist (R), HD 25, opened the hearing on HB 34, Exempt certain DNRC grants from MEPA.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:20:24 Autumn Coleman, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

[EXHIBIT\(230317NASa1\)](#)

15:24:45 Collen Cooney, Trout Unlimited

15:25:32 Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties

15:26:08 Krista Lee Evans, AGAI, Senior Water Rights Coalition

15:26:55 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

15:27:23 Thomas Jordan, Deputy Director, Montana League of Cities and Towns

15:27:57 Heidi Anderson, Informational Witness DNRC

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

None

**Closing Statement:**

15:28:55 Rep. Steve Gist (R), HD 25, closed the hearing on HB 34.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 15:31:48

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Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230317NASaad\)](#)