

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

Call to Order: Chair Walt Sales-R, on April 05, 2023 at 3:16 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. Barry Usher (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)
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:

HB 473 03/30/2023

HB 775 03/31/2023

Executive Action:

HB 561 TO TABLE

HB 775 BE CONCURRED IN

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 561 - Revise water discharge permitting

15:19:13 **Motion:** Vice Chair Walt Sales moved that **HB 561 BE CONCURRED IN.**

15:19:37 **Motion:** Vice Chair Walt Sales moved that **HB 561 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

15:19:55 Chair Jeffrey Welborn

15:21:10 Jason Mohr

15:22:22 Sonja Nowakowski, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

15:23:56 Chair Jeffrey Welborn

15:25:00 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

15:25:18 Jason Mohr

15:26:15 Sonja Nowakowski, DEQ

15:27:51 Vice Chair Walt Sales

15:29:07 Sonja Nowakowski, DEQ

15:30:15 Vice Chair Walt Sales

15:30:59 Sonja Nowakowski, DEQ

15:31:57 Vice Chair Walt Sales

15:32:25 Sonja Nowakowski, DEQ

15:32:40 Chair Jeffrey Welborn

15:33:17 Sonja Nowakowski, DEQ

15:34:01 Chair Jeffrey Welborn

15:34:08 Sen. Bob Brown

15:34:22 Chair Jeffrey Welborn

15:34:33 Jason Mohr

15:34:45 Sen. Bob Brown

15:34:59 Vice Chair Walt Sales

15:35:25 Vice Chair Shane Morigeau

15:36:29 Sen. Mike Lang

15:36:19 **Vote:** Motion failed 6 - 5 by voice vote with Sen. Curdy, Sen. Flowers, Sen. Lynch, Sen. Morigeau, Sen. Welborn, voting yes.
Sen. Lynch, By Proxy

15:37:34 **Motion:** Vice Chair Walt Sales moved that **HB 561 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

15:37:41 Vice Chair Shane Morigeau

15:37:42 Sen. Barry Usher left the meeting.

15:38:06 Sen. Bob Brown

15:38:19 **Vote:** Motion failed 9 - 2 by voice vote with Sen. Lang, Sen. Welborn, voting yes.

15:39:27 **Motion:** Vice Chair Walt Sales moved that **HB 561 TO TABLE.**

15:39:19 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

HEARING ON HB 775 - Revise certain RRGL loan process

Opening Statement:

15:41:19 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, opened the hearing on HB 775, Revise certain RRGL loan process.

Proponent Testimony:

15:42:19 Anna Miller, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

[EXHIBIT\(230405NASa1\)](#)

15:44:40 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resource Association

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:46:42 Sen. Bob Brown

15:47:26 Rep. Mike Hopkins-R

15:48:16 Anna Miller, DNRC

15:48:49 Sen. Bob Brown
15:49:11 Anna Miller, DNRC
15:49:30 Sen. Willis Curdy
15:50:08 Vice Chair Walt Sales
15:50:40 Anna Miller, DNRC
15:50:52 Chair Jeffrey Welborn
15:52:25 Anna Miller, DNRC

Closing Statement:

15:52:48 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, closed the hearing on HB 775.

HEARING ON HB 473 - Provide selenium standard for Lake Koocanusa

Opening Statement:

15:56:05 Rep. Steve Gunderson (R), HD 1, opened the hearing on HB 473, Provide selenium standard for Lake Koocanusa.

Discussion:

[EXHIBIT\(230405NASa2\)](#)

16:00:15 Chair Jeffrey Welborn left the meeting.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

16:00:26 Chris Dorrington, Director, Department of Environmental Quality
[EXHIBIT\(230405NASa3\)](#)
16:04:25 Eileen Ryce, Administrator, Fishery Division, Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP)
16:09:55 Clayton Elliot, Montana Trout Unlimited, Fishing Outfitters Association
16:12:52 Matthew Passini, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

16:14:39 Pat Clancey, The Montana Chapter of American Fisheries Society

[EXHIBIT\(230405NASa4\)](#)

16:15:37 Katjana Stutzer, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

16:16:00 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

16:17:03 Genny Hoyle, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

16:22:10 Erin Sexton, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

16:25:54 Kate Sheridan, Flathead Lakers

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:27:05 Tonya Fish, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

16:27:45 Lauren Sweeney, Department of Environmental Quality

16:28:06 Katie Makarowski, Department of Environmental Quality

16:28:40 Jason Gildea, US Environmental Protection Agency

Questions from Committee:

16:29:29 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

16:33:00 Tonya Fish, EPA

16:33:24 Vice Chair Shane Morigeau

16:34:02 Tonya Fish, EPA

16:35:11 Vice Chair Shane Morigeau

16:35:37 Chris Dorrington, DEQ

16:35:45 Sen. Pat Flowers

16:36:07 Tonya Fish, EPA

16:36:37 Sen. Pat Flowers

16:39:30 Eileen Ryce, FWP

16:39:45 Sen. Bob Brown

16:40:17 Eileen Ryce, FWP

16:40:25 Sen. Barry Usher joined the meeting.

16:40:48 Andy Ulven, DEQ

16:41:25 Sen. Bob Brown

16:41:52 Andy Ulven, DEQ

16:42:47 Sen. Bob Brown

16:47:46 Eileen Ryce, FWP

16:48:23 Sen. Bob Brown

16:49:39 Chris Dorrington, DEQ

16:50:04 Sen. Barry Usher

16:50:59 Rep. Steve Gunderson-R

16:52:08 Sen. Barry Usher

16:54:27 Chris Dorrington, DEQ

16:55:06 Sen. Barry Usher

16:56:46 Eileen Ryce, FWP

16:56:57 Lyndsey Krywaruchka, Water Quality Administrator, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

16:58:28 Sen. Barry Usher

16:58:42 Lyndsey Krywaruchka, DEQ

16:58:53 Vice Chair Walt Sales

17:00:26 Katie Makarowski, DEQ

17:02:08 Vice Chair Walt Sales

17:03:48 Chris Dorrington, DEQ

17:03:59 Vice Chair Walt Sales

17:04:38 Eileen Ryce, FWP

17:05:05 Jason Gildea, EPA

17:05:16 Vice Chair Walt Sales
17:06:28 Tonya Fish, EPA
17:07:11 Vice Chair Shane Morigeau
17:07:59 Chris Dorrington, DEQ
17:09:09 Vice Chair Shane Morigeau
17:10:54 Chris Dorrington, DEQ
17:12:31 Eileen Ryce, FWP
17:13:34 Vice Chair Shane Morigeau
17:14:18 Genny Hoyle, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
17:14:49 Vice Chair Shane Morigeau
17:15:12 Sen. Bob Brown
17:15:35 Genny Hoyle, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
17:16:50 Sen. Mike Lang
17:17:46 Chair Welborn has arrived
17:20:05 Tonya Fish, EPA

Closing Statement:

17:20:53 Rep. Steve Gunderson (R), HD 1, closed the hearing on HB 473.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 775 - Revise certain RRGL loan process

17:29:11 **Motion:** Vice Chair Walt Sales moved that **HB 775 BE CONCURRED IN.**
17:29:19 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
17:29:11 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Willis Curdy

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:29:59

Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230405NASaad\)](#)