



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL 69th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Willis Curdy
John Esp
Pat Flowers
Wylie Galt
Forrest Mandeville
Tony Tezak

HOUSE MEMBERS

Paul Fielder
Tom France
Steve Gist
Jedediah Hinkle
Shannon Maness
Joshua Seckinger

PUBLIC MEMBERS

Christian Bray
Jim Keane
Mike Mershon
Jon Metropoulos
Brian Yablonski

COMMITTEE STAFF

Joseph Carroll – Legal Staff
Jason Mohr - Environmental Analyst
Jacelyn Sterling - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

January 13, 2026
Capital Room 317 and Zoom
Helena, Montana

Please note: This document is a Minutes Log and provides annotation of the time elapsed between the beginning of the meeting and the time at which the item was presented or discussed, a motion was made, or a vote was taken. The narrative presented here is provided only as a guide to the audio or video recording of the meeting. The official discussion, motion, or vote is available on the audio or video archive of this meeting. The Legislature does not prepare a transcript of the meeting activities. The time designation may be used to locate the referenced discussion on the audio or video recording of this meeting.

Access to an electronic copy of these minutes and the audio or video recording is provided from the Legislative Branch home page at <https://leg.mt.gov>. From the home page, select the "Committees" drop down menu at the top, then select Administrative or Interim, and the appropriate committee. The written minutes log can be located by expanding the accordion menu for the date of the meeting. Links to the audio/video files can be located by selecting the Video/Audio button on the same page, then the "past/current recordings" button. From there, use the calendar to select the date of the meeting you wish to view/listen to. The written Minutes Log, along with links to the audio and video recordings, is listed by meeting date on the interim committee's web page. Each of the Exhibits is linked and can be viewed by clicking on the Exhibit of interest. All Exhibits are public information and may be printed. Please contact the Legislative Services Division at 406-444-3064 for more information.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. Paul Fielder, Presiding Officer (R)
Sen. Willis Curdy, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
Sen. John Esp (R)
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)
Rep. Tom France (D)
Sen. Wylie Galt (R)
Presiding Officer Steve Gist (R)
Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R)
Jim Keane, Public Member
Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R)
Rep. Shannon Maness (R)
Mike Mershon, Public Member
Jon Metropoulos, Public Member
Rep. Joshua Seckinger (D)
Sen. Tony Tezak (R)
Brian Yablonski, Public Member
Christian Bray, Public Member

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Joseph Carroll, Legal Staff
Jason Mohr, Legislative Environmental Analyst
Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

VISITORS' LIST ([Attachment 2](#))

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

13:02:30 Presiding Officer Paul Fielder called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM. The committee secretary took roll.

13:05:31 Presiding Officer Paul Fielder turned over the Presiding Officer position to Rep. Steve Gist for remainder of the meeting.

MEETING OVERVIEW

13:05:44 Jason Mohr, Legislative Environmental Analyst, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

[EXHIBIT 1](#)

AGENCY RULEMAKING LSD

13:08:19 Joseph Carroll, Legal Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

[EXHIBIT 2](#)

Public Comment

13:10:11 None

Committee Questions / Discussion

13:10:25 None

ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY INTERIM COMMITTEE (ETIC) UPDATE

13:10:47 Griffin Burns, Lead Staff, ETIC, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

Public Comment

13:21:16 None

Committee Questions / Discussion

13:21:51 Rep. Paul Fielder

13:22:12 Griffin Burns, LSD

13:22:22 Presiding Officer Steve Gist

13:26:20 Griffin Burns, LSD

WATER POLICY INTERIM COMMITTEE (WPIC) UPDATE

13:26:51 Toni Henneman, Lead Staff, WPIC, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

Public Comment

13:35:57 None

Committee Questions / Discussion

13:36:13 Vice Presiding Officer Willis Curdy
13:38:28 Rep. Shannon Maness
13:38:32 Toni Henneman, LSD
13:39:19 Sen. Forrest Mandeville
13:40:24 Toni Henneman, LSD
13:41:56 Vice Presiding Officer Willis Curdy
13:44:38 Sen. Forrest Mandeville
13:47:57 Jon Metropoulos
13:49:05 Toni Henneman, LSD
13:50:07 Sen. Wylie Galt
13:50:20 Sen. Pat Flowers
13:50:56 Toni Henneman, LSD
13:52:23 Vice Presiding Officer Willis Curdy
13:53:37 Sen. Wylie Galt
13:54:15 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle
13:55:45 Toni Henneman, LSD
13:56:27 Rep. Joshua Seckinger
13:58:34 Toni Henneman, LSD
13:59:03 Presiding Officer Steve Gist
13:59:17 Sen. Tony Tezak
13:59:33 Toni Henneman, LSD
13:59:46 Jason Mohr, Legislative Environmental Analyst, LSD
14:00:21 Vice Presiding Officer Willis Curdy
14:02:00 Presiding Officer Steve Gist
14:02:54 Toni Henneman, LSD

Public Comment

14:03:02 None

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 42 PANEL: UPDATING NOXIOUS WEEDS LAWS

Statewide Perspectives

14:03:53 Jason Mohr, Legislative Environmental Analyst, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

[EXHIBIT 3](#)

14:08:10 Dave Burch, Former State Noxious Weed Coordinator
14:17:00 Jasmine Chaffee, State Noxious Weed Coordinator, Department of Agriculture (MDA)
[EXHIBIT 4](#)
14:25:08 Christy Clark, Director, Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP)
14:30:29 Tanner Hoversland, Moore Farmers Oil, Montana Agricultural Business Association
14:33:38 Parker Osterloh, Land Management Section Supervisor, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
[EXHIBIT 5](#)
14:41:57 Pamela Schwend, Private Landowners' Representative, Montana Invasive Species Council (MISC)
14:47:30 Steve Wanderaas, Chairman, MISC

Committee Questions / Discussion

14:49:48 Brian Yablonski
14:50:45 Jasmine Chaffee, MDA
14:53:32 Mike Mershon
14:54:20 Parker Osterloh, DNRC
14:54:52 Rep. Shannon Maness
14:55:31 Dir. Christy Clark, FWP
14:56:57 Parker Osterloh, DNRC
14:57:51 Rep. Shannon Maness
14:57:57 Sen. Pat Flowers
14:58:41 Jasmine Chaffee, MDA
15:00:42 Sen. Pat Flowers
15:01:30 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle
15:02:38 Parker Osterloh, DNRC
15:03:28 Rep. Tom France
15:04:25 Jasmine Chaffee, MDA
15:05:31 Rep. Tom France
15:07:26 Vice Presiding Officer Willis Curdy
15:08:18 Jasmine Chaffee, MDA
15:09:08 Presiding Officer Steve Gist
15:11:30 Jasmine Chaffee
15:12:04 Presiding Officer Steve Gist
15:12:19 Vice Presiding Officer Willis Curdy
15:13:15 Parker Osterloh, DNRC
15:14:05 Vice Presiding Officer Willis Curdy
15:14:48 Steve Wanderaas, MISC

15:15:56 **Recessed**
15:37:39 **Reconvened**

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 42 PANEL: UPDATING NOXIOUS WEEDS LAWS
Local And Tribal Perspectives

15:37:30 Jason Mohr, LSD
15:38:10 Amy Adler, Rosebud Co. Weed Coordinator
 [EXHIBIT 6](#)
 [EXHIBIT 7](#)
 [EXHIBIT 8](#)
16:00:49 Dave Brink, Mineral Co. Weed Coordinator, Montana State University (MSU)
 Extension Agent
16:08:35 Amber Burch, Beaverhead Co. Weed Coordinator
 [EXHIBIT 9](#)
16:20:03 Pam Converse, Pondera Co. Weed Coordinator
16:28:40 Jayme Lamebull, Land Director, Ft. Belknap Indian Community
16:35:13 Dan Lucas, Western Region Dept. Head, MSU Extension

Committee Questions / Discussion

16:39:31 Presiding Officer Steve Gist
16:44:04 Pam Converse, Pondera Co.
16:45:05 Presiding Officer Steve Gist
16:45:19 Vice Presiding Officer Willis Curdy
16:45:34 Amy Adler, Rosebud Co.
16:47:24 Vice Presiding Officer Willis Curdy
16:47:44 Amber Burch, Beaverhead Co.
16:48:10 Amy Adler, Rosebud Co.
16:48:16 Vice Presiding Officer Willis Curdy
16:49:00 Amy Adler, Rosebud Co.
16:50:01 Vice Presiding Officer Willis Curdy
16:50:51 Rep. Tom France
16:52:19 Rep. Shannon Maness
16:53:48 Amber Burch, Beaverhead Co.
16:54:38 Dave Brink, MSU
16:56:10 Presiding Officer Steve Gist

Public Comment

16:56:27 Karli Johnson, Dir. State Governmental Affairs, Montana Farm Bureau
 Federation
16:58:11 Brice Christiaens, Missoula Co. Weed Coordinator
17:03:07 Dave Burch, Former State Noxious Weed Coordinator

Committee Questions / Discussion

17:06:53 Vice Presiding Officer Willis Curdy

17:07:27 Jason Mohr, LSD

17:07:53 Rep. Paul Fielder

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:09:34