

## MINUTES

### MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

**Call to Order:** By Chairman John Sinrud, on January 25, 2007 at 3:27 P.M., in Room 102 Capitol.

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Rep. John Sinrud, Chairman (R)  
Rep. Eve Franklin, Vice Chairman (D)  
Rep. Janna Taylor, Vice Chairman (R)  
Rep. Bill Beck (R)  
Rep. Tim Callahan (D)  
Rep. Edith Clark (R)  
Rep. Bill E. Glaser (R)  
Rep. Ray Hawk (R)  
Rep. Cynthia Hiner (D)  
Rep. Galen Hollenbaugh (D)  
Rep. Joey Jayne (D)  
Rep. Dave Kasten (R)  
Rep. Bill McChesney (D)  
Rep. Penny Morgan (R)  
Rep. John L. Musgrove (D)  
Rep. Rick Ripley (R)  
Rep. Jon C. Sesso (D)  
Rep. Jack Wells (R)  
Rep. Craig Witte (R)

**Members Excused:** None.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Linda Keim, Committee Secretary  
Jon Moe, Legislative Branch

**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 245, HB 298, HB 331, 1/18/2007  
Executive Action: HB 245

00:00:05 Rep. Sinrud

**HEARING ON HB 298**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:00:49 Rep. Cynthia Hiner (D), HD 85, opened the hearing on HB 298, Re-authorize natural resource damages program.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:02:31 Mike McGrath, Attorney General, State of Montana  
[EXHIBIT \(aph17a01\)](#)

00:09:24 Larry Peterman, Chief, Field Operations, DNRC

00:10:33 Jim Davison, citizen, Headwaters Development, Anaconda

00:11:14 Sandy Olsen, Remediation Division, Department of  
Environmental Quality

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:11:53 Rep. Morgan

00:13:18 Mr. McGrath

00:13:26 Rep. Kasten

00:13:42 Mr. McGrath

00:15:14 Mr. McGrath

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:15:31 Rep. Hiner

**HEARING ON HB 331**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:16:25 Rep. Dan Villa (D), HD 86, opened the hearing on HB 331, Increase appropriations to certain economic development programs.

[EXHIBIT \(aph17a02\)](#)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:20:27 Joe McClure, Billings, Montana Economic Development  
Association Big Sky Economic Authority

**EXHIBIT (aph17a03)**

00:22:08 Bill Kennedy, Yellowstone County Commission; MACO  
00:22:26 Mike Wier, General Manager, Northwinds' Publishing,  
Great Falls  
00:24:56 Carl Schweitzer, Bozeman and Kalispell Chambers of  
Commerce  
00:25:24 John Bennion, Montana Chamber of Commerce  
00:26:03 Cheryl McArthur, Montana Cooperative Development Center

**EXHIBIT (aph17a04)**

00:28:31 Katie Kassmier, Montana Farmers' Union  
00:29:34 Michael Strand, CEO and General Counsel, Montana Rural  
Telephone Systems; Chairman of Board, Montana Council  
of Cooperatives

**EXHIBIT (aph17a05)**

00:31:24 Pat Torgerson, Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE)  
00:31:51 Linda Gryczan, Grow Montana  
00:33:03 Gary Amestoy, Richland County Economic Development  
Corporation  
00:33:42 John Semple, Montana Grain Growers  
00:34:14 Larry Mires, Two Rivers Economic Growth, Glasgow  
00:34:33 Paul Tuss, Executive Director, Bear Paw Development  
Corporation, Havre  
00:35:09 Bruce Wright, Belgrade, Montana Farm Bureau; CEO,  
Great Northern Growers' Cooperative  
00:36:46 Jim Davison, Director, Anaconda Local Development;  
Headwaters Regional Development Corporation  
00:37:48 Steve Pilcher, Montana Stockgrowers Association  
00:40:19 Gary Wiems, Montana Electric Cooperative Association  
00:41:00 Don Marple, Chairman, Liberty County Commissioners

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:41:49 Rep. Sesso  
00:43:30 Rep. Villa  
00:43:59 Rep. Sinrud  
00:44:24 Rep. Taylor  
00:44:58 Rep. Villa  
00:49:21 Rep. Morgan  
00:53:32 Rep. Villa  
00:54:03 Ms. MacArthur  
00:55:21 Rep. Morgan  
00:55:43 Ms. MacArthur  
00:55:50 Rep. Kasten  
00:55:57 Rep. Taylor

00:57:10 Rep. Villa  
00:58:52 Rep. Musgrove

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:59:55 Rep. Villa  
01:01:35 Break  
01:07:15 Resume

**HEARING ON HB 245**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:07:19 Rep. Brady Wiseman (D), HD 65, opened the hearing on HB 245, State assumption of absentee ballot cost.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:08:03 Rep. Wiseman

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 245**

01:10:15 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Jayne moved that HB 245 **BE TABLED**.  
Motion carried unanimously by voice vote of members present, 13-0.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 4:35 P.M.

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REP. JOHN SINRUD, Chairman

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LINDA KEIM, Secretary

JS/lk

Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([aph17aad.pdf](#))**