

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 62nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

**Call to Order:** Chair Debby Barrett, on March 2, 2011 at 3:00 PM, in Room 422 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Sen. Debby Barrett, Chairman (R)  
Sen. Greg Hinkle, Vice Chairman (R)  
Sen. John Brenden (R)  
Sen. Bradley Hamlett (D)  
Sen. Christine Kaufmann (D)  
Sen. Cliff Larsen (D)  
Sen. Mitch Tropila (D)  
Sen. Chas Vincent (R)  
Sen. Edward Walker (R)  
Sen. David E. Wanzonried (D)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Verdell Jackson (R)  
Sen. Jim Keane (D)  
Sen. Jim Peterson (R)  
Sen. Donald J. Steinbeisser (R)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Kevin McCue, Committee Secretary  
Sonja Nowakowski, 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 58, 2/23/2011; HB 76, 2/23/2011; HB 101, 2/23/2011

Executive Action: HB 76 - Do concur  
HB 101 - Do concur  
HB 58 - Do concur

**HEARING ON HB 76**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:23 Rep. Robert (Bob) Mehlhoff (D), HD 26, opened the hearing on HB 76, Eliminate floodway obstruction removal fee assessed by DNRC.  
00:01:30 Sen. Kaufmann and Sen. Larsen left the hearing, Sen. Keane joined the hearing.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:03:45 Lawrence Siroky, self

**Opponents' Testimony:**

None

**Informational Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:06:26 Sen. Tropila  
00:06:46 Mr. Siroky

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:07:28 Rep. Mehlhoff

**HEARING ON HB 58**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:07:59 Rep. Tony Belcourt (D), HD 32, opened the hearing on HB 58, Revise Fort Belknap People's Creek account.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:09:00 Bill Schultz, Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission (RWRCC)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

None

**Informational Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:10:34 Sen. Tropila

00:11:10 Mr. Schultz, RWRCC

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:11:45 Rep. Belcourt

**HEARING ON HB 101**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:12:23 Rep. Margaret (Margie) MacDonald (D), HD 54, opened the hearing on HB 101, Revise sewer and water district finance laws and water authority laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:16:18 Anna Miller, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

**EXHIBIT(nas47a01)**

00:19:01 Steve Wade, Montana Rural Water Systems (MRWS)

00:20:15 Harold Blattie, Executive Director, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

None

**Informational Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:21:28 Sen. Keane

00:22:05 Mr. Blattie, MACo

00:26:05 Ms. Miller, DNRC

00:26:41 Sen. Keane

00:26:47 Ms. Miller

00:27:00 Sen. Steinbeisser joined the hearing.

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:27:03 Rep. MacDonald

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 76**

00:27:45 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Wanzenried moved that **HB 76 BE CONCURRED IN.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Jackson, Sen. Kaufmann, Sen. Larsen, Sen. Peterson and Sen. Vincent voted by proxy. Sen. Wanzenried will carry the bill.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 101**

00:28:20 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Wanzenried moved that **HB 101 BE CONCURRED IN.**  
Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Jackson, Sen. Kaufmann, Sen. Larsen, Sen. Peterson and Sen. Vincent voted by proxy. Sen. Steinbeisser will carry the bill.

00:28:30 Sen. Larsen joined the hearing.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 58**

00:29:30 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Wanzenried moved that **HB 58 BE CONCURRED IN.**  
Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Jackson, Sen. Kaufmann, Sen. Peterson and Sen. Vincent voted by proxy. Sen. Larsen will carry the bill.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment:

00:31:32

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Kevin McCue, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT([nas47aad.pdf](#))**