

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 63rd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chair Chas Vincent, on March 11, 2013 at 3:00 PM, in Room 422 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Chas Vincent, Chair (R)
Sen. John Brenden, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Debby Barrett (R)
Sen. Jennifer Fielder (R)
Sen. Bradley Hamlett (D)
Sen. Verdell Jackson (R)
Sen. Cliff Larsen (D)
Sen. Mike Phillips (D)
Sen. Rick Ripley (R)
Sen. Mitch Tropila (D)

Members Excused:

Sen. Christine Kaufmann (D)
Sen. Jim Keane (D)
Sen. Matthew M. Rosendale Sr (R)
Sen. Edward Walker (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Mary Kulawik, 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 37, 3/27/2013; HB 106, 3/27/2013
HB 128 - Being re-scheduled

HEARING ON HB 37**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:27:32 Rep. Bill McChesney (D), HD 40, opened the hearing on HB 37, Allow temporary leasing of water rights.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:29:50 Tim Davis, Administrator, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
00:32:37 Dave Galt, Executive Director, Montana Petroleum Association (MPA)
00:33:50 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Association (SWRA) and Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators (AGAI)
00:35:08 John Youngberg, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)
00:35:41 Tom Kaiserski, Administrator, Department of Commerce (DOC)
00:36:50 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers (MSGA) Association and Montana Water Resources Association (MWRA)
00:37:18 Jessie Luther, Montana Contractors Association (MCA)

Opponents' Testimony:

00:37:59 Art Hayes, Jr., President, Tongue River Water Users' Association (TRWUA)
[EXHIBIT\(nas52a01\)](#)
[EXHIBIT\(nas52a02\)](#)

00:45:32 Brad Sauer, Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:53:24 Sen. Tropila
00:56:39 Tim Davis, DNRC
00:57:31 Sen. Tropila
00:58:17 John Youngberg, MFBF
00:58:54 Sen. Phillips
01:01:39 Tim Davis
01:01:52 Sen. Phillips
01:02:09 Rep. Bill McChesney
01:02:21 Sen. Phillips
01:03:06 Dave Galt, MPA
01:03:17 Chairman Vincent
01:03:38 Sen. Brenden
01:05:03 John Youngberg
01:05:44 Sen. Fielder
01:06:34 Tim Davis
01:07:32 Sen. Hamlett
01:11:21 Tim Davis
01:12:06 Sen. Ripley

01:12:26 Tim Davis
01:12:52 Sen. Tropila
01:13:39 Rep. Bill McChesney
01:13:57 Tim Davis
01:14:23 Sen. Fielder

01:14:45 Sen. Kaufmann entered the hearing.

01:16:11 Tim Davis
01:16:29 Sen. Phillips
01:16:42 Tim Davis
01:17:10 Sen. Phillips
01:17:23 Krista Lee Evans, SWRA and AGAI
01:18:43 Sen. Phillips
01:19:05 Rep. Bill McChesney
01:19:24 Sen. Tropila
01:20:30 Tim Davis
01:20:48 Chairman Vincent
01:21:10 Brad Sauer, NPRC
01:21:55 Chairman Vincent

01:22:14 Sen. Keane entered the hearing.

01:23:38 Brad Sauer
01:23:48 Chairman Vincent
01:24:27 Tim Davis

Closing by Sponsor:

01:24:47 Rep. Bill McChesney

HEARING ON HB 106

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:26:43 Rep. Pat Connell (R), HD 87, opened the hearing on HB 106, Generally revise water use laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:28:10 Tim Davis, Administrator, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
01:32:58 John Youngberg, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)
01:35:52 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Association (SWRA) and Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators (AGAI)
01:37:28 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association
01:38:28 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA)
01:39:53 Holly Franz, PPL Montana
01:42:52 Brad Sauer, Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC)

Opponents' Testimony:

01:43:28 Bruce Loble, Chief Water Judge, Montana Water Court (MWC)
01:53:18 John Bloomquist, self

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:59:05 Sen. Brenden
02:01:03 Bruce Loble, MWC
02:01:20 Sen. Barrett
02:02:29 Bruce Loble
02:03:24 Sen. Barrett
02:04:32 Tim Davis, DNRC
02:05:16 Sen. Keane
02:06:24 Tim Davis
02:06:35 Sen. Larsen
02:07:07 Tim Davis
02:07:38 Sen. Barrett
02:08:32 Tim Davis
02:09:07 Sen. Barrett
02:09:28 Sen. Hamlett

Closing by Sponsor:

02:10:19 Rep. Pat Connell

Committee Business:

02:14:49 Chairman Vincent
02:15:40 Sen. Keane
02:15:44 Chairman Vincent

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:54 P.M.

Mary Kulawik, Secretary

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Additional Document

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([nas52aad.pdf](#))