

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 64th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chair Kerry White, on March 6, 2015 at 3:00 PM, in Room 172 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Kerry White, Chair (R)
Rep. Ed Lieser, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Bob Brown (R)
Rep. Zach Brown (D)
Rep. Mary Ann Dunwell (D)
Rep. Kelly Flynn (R)
Rep. Theresa Manzella (R)
Rep. Nate McConnell (D)
Rep. Dale Mortensen (R)
Rep. Mark Noland (R)
Rep. Keith Regier (R)
Rep. Scott Staffanson (R)
Rep. Kathleen Williams (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Steve Fitzpatrick, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Gerald (Jerry) Bennett (R)
Rep. Virginia Court (D)
Rep. Andrea Olsen (D)
Rep. Ray L. Shaw (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Joe Kolman, Legislative Branch
Sherri Row, Committee 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: SB 57, 2/24/2015; SB 97, 2/24/2015; HB 496, 2/24/2015

00:00:05 Chairman White
00:00:20 Rep. Court arrived

HEARING ON SB 57

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:41 Sen. Chas Vincent (R), SD 1, opened the hearing on SB 57, Revise water adjudication funding and benchmarks.

00:05:31 Rep. Jerry Bennett arrived

Proponents' Testimony:

00:05:38 Tim Davis, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
[EXHIBIT\(nah47a01\)](#)

00:07:19 Russ McElyea, Water Court Judge

00:08:21 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Coalition (SWRC), Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators (AGAI)

00:10:18 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association

00:11:04 Chelcie Cremer, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

00:11:42 Jay Bodner, Montana Stock Growers Association

00:12:34 Brian Ohs, Montana Trout Unlimited

00:13:04 Jacob Cowgill, Montana Farmers Union

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:13:47 Rep. Regier

00:14:05 Tim Davis, DNRC

00:14:36 Rep. Regier

00:14:46 Tim Davis, DNRC

00:14:59 Rep. Regier

00:15:07 Tim Davis, DNRC

00:15:16 Rep. Regier

00:15:38 Tim Davis, DNRC

00:16:14 Rep. Regier

00:16:26 Tim Davis, DNRC

00:16:41 Rep. Regier

00:16:53 John Peterson, DNRC

00:18:33 Rep. Regier

00:18:43 John Peterson, DNRC

00:19:05 Rep. Flynn

00:19:29 John Peterson, DNRC

00:19:49 Rep. Flynn

00:20:20 Tim Davis, DNRC

00:20:35 Rep. Dunwell

00:20:58 Tim Davis, DNRC

00:21:29 Rep. Dunwell
00:21:33 Tim Davis, DNRC
00:21:39 Rep. Williams
00:22:11 Tim Davis, DNRC
00:22:24 Chairman White
00:23:11 Sen. Vincent
00:23:37 Chairman White
00:23:59 Sen. Vincent
00:24:16 Chairman White
00:24:38 Sen. Vincent

Closing by Sponsor:

00:25:33 Sen. Vincent

HEARING ON SB 97

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:25:54 Sen. Chas Vincent (R), SD 1, opened the hearing on SB 97, Revise process to modify classification of state water bodies.

00:28:24 Rep. Fitzpatrick arrived

Proponents' Testimony:

00:30:18 Eric Urban, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
00:36:25 David Nielsen, Montana League of Cities and Towns
00:38:55 Leo Berry, Attorney Great Northern Properties
00:40:03 Julia Altemus, Montana Wood Products
00:40:56 Aimee Grmoljez, Arch Coal
00:41:25 Ronda Wiggers, Montana Mining Association, Golden Sunlight Mine
00:42:04 Dave Galt, Montana Petroleum Association

Opponents' Testimony:

00:42:33 Ann Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:45:35 Rep. Flynn
00:46:26 Sen. Vincent
00:46:47 Rep. Flynn
00:47:10 Sen. Vincent
00:47:36 Rep. Flynn
00:47:41 Eric Urban, DEQ
00:48:09 Rep. Flynn
00:48:19 Eric Urban, DEQ
00:48:24 Rep. Lieser
00:48:51 Eric Urban, DEQ
00:49:47 Rep. Lieser
00:50:01 Eric Urban, DEQ

00:51:03 Rep. Lieser
00:51:35 Ann Hedges, MEIC
00:52:59 Rep. Regier
00:53:19 Eric Urban, DEQ
00:53:55 Rep. Williams
00:55:43 John North, Chief Legal Counsel Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
00:55:49 Rep. Williams
00:56:26 John North, DEQ
00:56:36 Rep. Williams
00:57:05 John North, DEQ
00:57:55 Rep. Williams
00:58:24 John North, DEQ
00:59:08 Rep. Williams
00:59:33 John North, DEQ
00:59:43 Rep. Williams
00:59:51 Rep. Flynn
01:00:20 Sen. Vincent
01:02:10 Rep. Dunwell
01:03:04 John North, DEQ
01:05:08 Rep. Dunwell
01:05:26 John North, DEQ
01:05:33 Rep. Dunwell
01:05:59 John North, DEQ
01:06:40 Chairman White
01:07:34 Eric Urban, SEQ

Closing by Sponsor:

01:08:35 Sen. Vincent

01:10:36 Rep. Fitzpatrick becomes Chairman

HEARING ON HB 496

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:12:10 Rep. Kerry White (R), HD 64, opened the hearing on HB 496, Establish public lands task force.

EXHIBIT(nah47a02)

01:20:43 Chairman Fitzpatrick

Proponents' Testimony:

01:21:01 Dan Happel, self

EXHIBIT(nah47a03)

01:23:12 Rep. Regier left

01:23:43 Sen. Jennifer Fielder, Senate District 7

EXHIBIT(nah47a04)

01:29:06 Jerry Okonski, self

[EXHIBIT\(nah47a05\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(nah47a06\)](#)

01:33:39 Bob Gilbert, Citizens for Balance Use

01:36:34 Ben Erickson, Zodiak Northwest AerospaceTechnologies

01:38:45 Terry Backs, self

[EXHIBIT\(nah47a07\)](#)

01:41:07 Katherine Vandemoer, self

[EXHIBIT\(nah47a08\)](#)

01:43:23 Rep. Olsen arrived

01:44:02 Jody Loomis, self

01:46:21 Pat McCain, self

01:47:55 Gerald Cuvillier, self

[EXHIBIT\(nah47a09\)](#)

01:49:13 Sally Edwards, Natural Resource Consulting Company

[EXHIBIT\(nah47a10\)](#)

01:50:25 Bob Mullen, Jefferson County Commissioner

01:52:21 Wes Rowe, self

Opponents' Testimony:

01:54:17 Jim Kennedy, Tribal Member Fort Belknap Reservation

01:55:56 Jack Atcheson Jr, National and Montana Conservation Committee Wild Sheep`
Foundation, Jack Atcheson and Sons, Coalition for Appropriate Management of
Montana Public State Lands

[EXHIBIT\(nah47a11\)](#)

02:00:50 K.C. Walsh, President of Simms Fishing Products

02:02:01 Tom Franz, National Wildlife Federation

02:07:21 Jerry Davis, Montana Bow Hunters Association

[EXHIBIT\(nah47a12\)](#)

02:12:44 Chris Marchion, Anaconda Sportsman Club

02:17:26 Julia Altemus, Montana Wood Products Association

02:22:25 Robert Wood, Ravalli County Fish and Wildlife Association

[EXHIBIT\(nah47a13\)](#)

02:25:19 Vito Quatraro, Montana Sportsman Alliance

02:26:32 Joe Parry, Montana Sportsman Alliance

02:28:36 Kurt Alt, self

02:29:09 Eric Grove, self

02:30:35 Mike Jeffords, self

02:30:53 Rod Bullus, self

02:31:18 Gail Richardson, self

[EXHIBIT\(nah47a14\)](#)

02:31:41 Clayton Elliott, Montana Wilderness Association

02:31:59 Amy Seamen, Montana Audobon

EXHIBIT(nah47a15)

02:32:17 Nick Gevock, Montana Wildlife Federation

EXHIBIT(nah47a16)

02:32:32 Shana Dunkley, Greater Yellowstone Coalition

02:33:00 Merlyn Hueso, Backcountry Horseman

02:33:32 Patrick Johnson, self

02:33:57 Susan Gilberts, self

02:34:12 Don Warner, self

Informational Testimony:

02:34:41 Bob Harrington, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

02:35:24 Shawn Thomas, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:35:38 Rep. Lieser

02:36:16 Bob Harrington, DNRC

02:38:39 Rep. Lieser

02:38:50 Bob Harrington, DNRC

02:39:43 Rep. Noland

02:40:06 Sen. Fielder

02:40:58 Rep. Noland

02:41:09 Sen. Fielder

02:42:07 Rep. Zach Brown

02:43:03 Rep. White

02:46:32 Rep. Zach Brown

02:46:46 Rep. White

02:49:03 Rep. Bob Brown

02:49:49 Julia Altemus, Montana Wood Products Association

02:49:53 Rep. Bob Brown

02:50:01 Julia Altemus, Montana Wood Products Association

02:50:14 Rep. Bob Brown

02:50:51 Jerry Davis, Montana Bow Hunters Association

02:51:43 Rep. Jerry Bennett

02:52:50 Jerry Okonski, self

02:55:07 Rep. Jerry Bennett

02:55:51 Sen. Fielder

02:56:35 Rep. Flynn

02:57:16 Shawn Thomas, DNRC

02:58:14 Rep. Flynn

02:58:31 Sen. Fielder

02:58:44 Rep. Flynn

02:59:03 Sen. Fielder

03:00:49 Rep. Flynn

03:01:17 Sen. Fielder

03:02:38 Rep. Dunwell

03:03:20 Bob Harrington, DNRC

03:03:31 Rep. Dunwell
03:03:45 Bob Harrington, DNRC
03:04:00 Rep. Dunwell
03:04:15 Bob Harrington, DNRC
03:04:27 Rep. Dunwell
03:04:47 Bob Harrington, DNRC
03:04:55 Rep. Manzella
03:05:17 Nick Gevock, MWF
03:05:21 Rep. Manzella
03:06:19 Nick Gevock, MWF
03:06:23 Rep. Manzella
03:06:40 Nick Gevock, MWF
03:07:48 Rep. Manzella
03:07:55 Nick Gevock, MWF
03:08:11 Rep. Manzella
03:08:17 Rep. Lieser
03:09:38 Rep. White
03:13:44 Rep. Lieser
03:14:15 Rep. White
03:15:12 Rep. Williams
03:16:05 Rep. White
03:16:51 Rep. Williams
03:18:05 Rep. White
03:20:06 Rep. Flynn
03:21:19 Rep. White
03:22:07 Rep. Flynn
03:22:34 Rep. White

Closing by Sponsor:

03:22:56 Rep. White

03:27:32 Chairman White returns as Chairman

ADJOURNMENT

03:28:00 Adjournment

Sherrí Row, Secretary

sr

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([nah47aad.pdf](#))