



## ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL 68th Montana Legislature

### SENATE MEMBERS

Dan Bartel  
Willis Curdy  
Pat Flowers  
Steve Hinebauch  
Mike Lang  
Theresa Manzella

### HOUSE MEMBERS

Paul Fielder  
Steve Gunderson  
Jedediah Hinkle  
Jonathan Karlen  
Rhonda Knudsen  
Marilyn Marler

### COMMITTEE STAFF

Joe Carroll - Attorney  
Jason Mohr - Research Analyst  
Jolanda Songer - Secretary

### PUBLIC MEMBERS

Mike Freeman  
Dave Galt  
Jim Keane  
Jon Metropoulos  
Dan Vermillion

# MINUTES LOG

April 10, 2024  
Zoom Only  
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.

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### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Rep. Steve Gunderson, Chair (R)  
Sen. Willis Curdy, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Dan Bartel (R)  
Rep. Paul Fielder (R)  
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)  
Mike Freeman, Public Member  
Sen. Steve Hinebauch (R)  
Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R)  
Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D)  
Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R)  
Sen. Theresa Manzella (R)

### **MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Sen. Mike Lang (R)  
Dave Galt, Public Member  
Jim Keane, Public Member  
Rep. Marilyn Marler (D)  
Jon Metropoulos, Public Member  
Dan Vermillion, Public Member

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Joe Carroll, Attorney  
Jason Mohr, Research Analyst  
Jolanda Songer, Secretary

**AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))**

**VISITORS LIST**

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

09:03:56 Presiding Officer Gunderson called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. The committee secretary took roll.

**MEETING OVERVIEW**

09:05:38 Jason Mohr, Legislative Environmental Analyst

**LETTER TO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION IN SUPPORT OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR RECOVERY OF RARE EARTH ELEMENTS AND CRITICAL MINERALS AT BERKELEY PIT**

09:08:52 Presiding Officer Gunderson  
[EXHIBIT 1](#)

**Public Comment**

09:08:52 Jon Sonju, Montana Mining Association

**Motion**

09:09:30 Rep. Fielder moved to accept the letter to the Congressional Delegation as written.

**Discussion on the Motion**

09:09:42 Vice Presiding Officer Curdy requested to have the vote count added to the letters.

**Vote**

09:10:25 The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**LETTER TO EPA REQUESTING PAUSE IN FINAL REMEDIATION PLAN FOR CFAC**

09:11:10 Presiding Officer Gunderson  
[EXHIBIT 2](#)

**Public Comment**

09:11:28 Phil Matson, Coalition for a Clean CFAC  
09:14:15 Presiding Officer Gunderson

**Committee Questions, Discussion, Action**

- 09:14:45 Vice Presiding Officer Curdy  
09:15:35 Presiding Officer Gunderson directed a question to Phil Matson.  
9:17:34 Presiding Officer Gunderson directed staff to amend the letter.

**Motion**

- 09:17:54 Vice Presiding Officer Curdy moved to accept the letter to EPA.

**Vote**

- 09:18:00 The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**LETTER TO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM (EPA) SUPPORTING APPLICATION OF COALITION FOR A CLEAN CFAC**

- 09:18:25 Presiding Officer Gunderson  
[EXHIBIT 3](#)

**Public Comment**

- 09:18:45 Phil Matson

**Motion**

- 09:20:36 Vice Presiding Officer Curdy moved to accept the letter to the Technical Assistance Grant Program as written.

**Vote**

- 09:20:44 The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**LETTER TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OBJECTING TO NEW REDEFINING OLD-GROWTH FORESTS WITHIN NATIONAL FOREST PLANS**

- 09:21:20 Presiding Officer Gunderson  
[EXHIBIT 4](#)

**Public Comment**

- 09:21:30 None

**Committee Questions, Discussion, Action**

- 09:21:50 Sen. Flowers requested a briefing by the US Forest Service.  
09:23:10 Rep. Fielder suggested an amendment to the letter.  
09:24:44 Presiding Officer Gunderson

**Motion**

- 09:26:26 Presiding Officer Gunderson moved to vote on the letter after the briefing by the US Forest Service.

**Vote**

- 09:26:35 The motion carried by voice vote, 13 – 1, with Rep. Fielder voting 'no'.

**Committee Questions, Discussion, Action**

09:27:24 Rep. Fielder  
09:28:35 Rep. Hinkle  
09:29:02 Presiding Officer Gunderson directed staff to obtain a date for the US Forest Service briefing.  
09:29:24 Rep. Hinkle  
09:30:20 Presiding Officer Gunderson directed staff to update letter with Rep. Hinkle's suggestion.

**ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW**

09:30:40 Joe Carroll, Legal Staff  
[EXHIBIT 5](#)

**Public Comment**

09:45:17 None

**Committee Questions, Discussion, Action**

09:45:31 Rep. Hinkle  
09:49:22 Sen. Flowers  
09:52:05 Mike Freeman  
09:56:32 Presiding Officer Gunderson

**Motion**

09:58:00 Presiding Officer Gunderson moved to review rules monthly without objection.

**Vote**

09:58:05 The motion carried unanimously without objection.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ISSUES WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF EQC**

09:58:29 None

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

09:58:48 Presiding Officer Gunderson  
09:59:15 Jason Mohr  
10:00:34 Presiding Officer Gunderson  
10:00:49 Rep. Hinkle  
10:01:47 Sen. Flowers

**ADJOURNMENT**

10:02:48 Presiding Officer Gunderson adjourned the meeting at 10:02 a.m.