



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL 68th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Dan Bartel
Bob Brown
Willis Curdy
Pat Flowers
Steve Hinebauch
Theresa Manzella

HOUSE MEMBERS

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

PUBLIC MEMBERS

Mike Freeman
Dave Galt
Jim Keane
Jon Metropoulos
Dan Vermillion

COMMITTEE STAFF

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

MINUTES LOG

January 18, 2024
Room 317
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. Bob Brown (R)
Rep. Paul Fielder (R)- Via Zoom
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)
Mike Freeman, Governor's Representative
Sen. Steve Hinebauch (R) – Via Zoom
Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R) – Via Zoom
Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D)
Jim Keane, Public Member
Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R)
Sen. Theresa Manzella (R) – Via Zoom
Rep. Marilyn Marler (D)
Jon Metropoulos, Public Member

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Sen. Dan Bartel (R)
Dan Vermillion, Public Member
Dave Galt, Public Member

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Jason Mohr, Research Analyst
Joe Carroll, Attorney
Katy Callon, Research Analyst
Lavanda Jennings, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

VISITORS' LIST ([Attachment 2](#))

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

10:01:08 Presiding Officer Gunderson called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

MEETING OVERVIEW

10:02:35 Jason Mohr, Lead Staff, LSD

HJ 18 (Study Remediation of Smurfit-Stone Mill Site)

10:05:58 Jason Mohr
[EXHIBIT 1](#)

Outfalls (Pipes) from Site into River

10:15:18 Ryan Weiss, Deputy Trust Lands Administrator, Trust Lands Division, DNRC
10:17:29 Rep. Fielder

RECESS

10:20:18 Reconvened

HJ 18 (Study Remediation of Smurfit-Stone Mill Site)

10:20:30 Ryan Weiss

Committee Questions and Discussion

10:21:21 Presiding Officer Gunderson

Public Comment HJ 18 (Study Remediation of Smurfit-Stone Mill Site)

10:22:30 NONE

Committee Questions and Discussion

10:22:37 Rep. Karlen
10:26:23 Sen. Brown
10:27:45 Rep. Marler
10:30:58 Sen. Brown
10:31:24 Jim Keane
10:32:16 Jon Metropoulos
10:33:25 Sen. Flowers

10:34:39 Presiding Officer Gunderson to Rep. Karlen
10:34:51 Rep. Karlen

REPORT ON ORPHAN SHARE STATE SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT FUNDS (75-10-743, MCA)

10:35:39 Amy Steinmetz, Division Administrator, Waste Management and Remediation, DEQ
[EXHIBIT 2](#)

Public Comment on Orphan Share State Special Revenue Account Funds Report

10:38:21 NONE

Committee Questions and Discussion

10:38:33 Jim Keane
10:39:17 Rep. R. Knudsen
10:41:52 Vice Presiding Officer Curdy
10:43:42 Sen. Brown
10:44:36 Presiding Officer Gunderson
10:45:01 Sen. Flowers
10:46:39 Jim Keane
10:47:11 Presiding Officer Gunderson

REPORT ON SANITATION IN SUBDIVISIONS (76-4-116, MCA)

10:47:56 Lindsey Krywaruchka, Water Quality Division Administrator, DEQ
[EXHIBIT 3](#)

Public Comment on Sanitation in Subdivisions Report

10:51:24 NONE

Committee Questions and Discussion

10:51:26 NONE

UPDATE ON WPIC

10:51:47 Jason Mohr

Committee Questions and Discussion

11:00:46 Rep. R. Knudsen
11:01:52 Sen. Flowers
11:04:37 Redirected to Lindsey Krywaruchka
11:10:30 Vice Presiding Officer Curdy
11:11:03 Jim Keane
11:12:28 Rep. Marler
11:14:08 Rep. Fielder
11:15:19 Presiding Officer Gunderson

HJ 18 DIRECTION

11:15:39 Jason Mohr

Committee Questions and Discussion

11:17:24 Rep. Karlen
11:18:23 Presiding Officer Gunderson
11:18:36 Rep. Karlen
11:19:07 Presiding Officer Gunderson
11:19:18 Rep. Marler
11:20:03 Presiding Officer Gunderson
11:20:10 Jim Keane

MOTION:

11:20:26 Jim Keane moved to have Rep. Gunderson, Sen. Curdy, and Rep. Karlen draft a letter to EPA regarding removal of Smurfitt Stone-Mill outfall pipes from the Clark Fork River.

VOTE:

11:21:00 The motion carried 16-0 by roll call vote with Sen. Bartel and Dave Galt and Dan Vermillion (by proxy) voting 'yes'.
See Attachment 3

Committee Questions and Discussion

11:22:06 Presiding Officer Gunderson
11:22:26 Jason Mohr

RECESS

11:23:08 Reconvened at 11:32:50.

UPDATE ON CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANTS

11:34:15 Mike Freeman

Public Comment on Update on Climate Pollution Reduction Grants

11:37:05 Rebecca Harbage, Public Policy Director, DEQ

Committee Questions and Discussion

11:38:20 Rep. Karlen
11:38:49 Sen. Flowers to Rebecca Harbage
11:42:09 Rep. Fielder
11:43:05 Presiding Officer Gunderson
11:43:24 Rep. Fielder
11:43:52 Presiding Officer Gunderson

11:44:39 Vice Presiding Officer Curdy to Rebecca Harbage
11:45:36 Jim Keane to Rebecca Harbage

RECESS

11:47:00 Reconvened at 13:03:39.

REPORT ON SALE OF STATE LAND CABINS AND SITES (77-2-366, MCA)

13:04:00 Shawn Thomas, Division Administrator, Forestry and Trust Lands, DNRC
[EXHIBIT 4](#)

Public Comment on Sale of State Land Cabins and Sites Report

13:08:30 NONE

Committee Questions and Discussion

13:08:39 Sen. Brown

UPDATE ON BECOMING AN OUTDOORS WOMAN (BOW) PROGRAM

13:13:52 Greg Lemon, Division Administrator, Communication and Education Division, FWP
[EXHIBIT 5](#)

Public Comment on Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) Program

13:18:11 Liz Lodman, Self

Committee Questions and Discussion

13:21:39 Rep. Marler
13:26:25 Jim Keane
13:26:54 Redirected to Dustin Temple, Director, FWP
13:27:29 Presiding Officer Gunderson
13:27:53 Redirected to Greg Lemon
13:28:56 Presiding Officer Gunderson
13:29:14 Rep. R. Knudsen
13:31:16 Sen. Flowers
13:32:30 Rep. Marler

EFFECT WOLVERINE LISTING UNDER ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

13:34:55 Dustin Temple, FWP
[EXHIBIT 6](#)

Public Comment on Effect Wolverine Listing under Endangered Species Act

13:38:58 Julia Altemus, Montana Wood Products Association
13:40:53 KC York, Trap Free Montana

Committee Questions and Discussion

13:42:47 Jim Keane to Joe Kolman
13:44:01 Vice Presiding Officer Curdy
13:45:19 Rep. J. Hinkle to Dustin Temple

13:47:13 Rep. Fielder
13:50:43 Rep. Karlen
13:51:55 Presiding Officer Gunderson to Dustin Temple
13:53:13 Sen. Flowers
13:55:28 Rep. J. Hinkle to Julia Altemus

UPDATE FROM FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION HUNTING SEASON-SETTING

13:57:59 Brian Wakeling, Chief, Game Management Bureau (FWP)
[EXHIBIT 7](#)

Public Comment on Update from Fish and Wildlife Commission Hunting Season-Setting

14:10:45 NONE

Committee Questions and Discussion

14:10:56 Sen. Flowers
14:18:00 Rep. J. Hinkle
14:24:58 Presiding Officer Gunderson
14:25:03 Dustin Temple

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW

14:26:22 Joe Carroll, Staff Attorney, LSD
[EXHIBIT 8](#)

Public Comment on Administrative Rule Review

14:28:50 Alex Scolavino, FWP, Legal Counsel
14:29:24 Chris Dorrington, Director, DEQ

Committee Questions and Discussion

14:30:08 Sen. Flowers to FWP
14:30:29 Sara Clerget, FWP

Public Comment on Administrative Rule Review

14:33:10 Matt Vincent, Montana Mining Association
14:33:52 Presiding Officer Gunderson

RECESS

14:34:30 Reconvened at 14:48:11

WILDLIFE CROSSINGS: FUNDING AND FUTURE PLANS

14:48:47 Dwane Kailey, Chief Operating Officer, MDT
14:56:19 Ken McDonald, Administrator, Wildlife Division (FWP)

Public Comment on Wildlife Crossings: Funding and Future Plans

15:00:12 NONE

Committee Questions and Discussion

15:00:26 Vice Presiding Officer Curdy to Dwane Kailey

15:07:47	Rep. Karlen
15:11:54	Jim Keane
15:14:11	Ken McDonald
15:16:59	Presiding Officer Gunderson
15:17:28	Rep. Fielder
15:20:12	Presiding Officer Gunderson
15:20:25	Jim Keane
15:20:43	Sen. Brown
15:22:46	Sen. Flowers
15:27:54	Sen. Brown to Ken McDonald
15:32:13	Rep. Fielder
15:33:39	Jon Metropoulos
15:34:21	Jim Keane to Dwane Kailey

RECESS

15:37:20	Presiding Officer Gunderson recessed the meeting until 08:00 a.m., 19 January 2024.
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