



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

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

March 13, 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)
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)
Dave Galt, Public Member
Sen. Steve Hinebauch (R)
Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R)
Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D)
Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R)
Rep. Marilyn Marler (D)
Jon Metropoulos, Public Member

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Sen. Dan Bartel (R)
Mike Freeman, Public Member
Jim Keane, Public Member
Sen. Theresa Manzella (R)
Dan Vermillion, Public Member

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Joe Carroll, Attorney
Jason Mohr, Research Analyst
Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

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

COMMITTEE ACTION

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

13:03:04 Presiding Officer Gunderson called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM. The committee secretary took roll.

Meeting overview

13:04:35 Jason Mohr

13:06:26 Sen. Flowers left the meeting.

Backgrounder on Montana Environmental Policy Act

13:06:43 Jason Mohr, MEPA and EQC presentation
[EXHIBIT 1](#)
[EXHIBIT 2](#)

Committee Questions/Discussion

13:26:08 Rep. Fielder

13:27:29 Sen. Hinebauch

Backgrounder on Montana Environmental Policy Act

13:27:50 Jason Mohr

Public Comment on MEPA

13:37:04 Christa Corbin, Manhattan, Montana

13:43:13 Presiding Officer Gunderson

13:43:40 Chris Dorrington, Director, DEQ

13:45:56 Presiding Officer Gunderson

Committee Questions/Discussion

13:46:28 Rep. Hinkle directed a question to Director Dorrington.

13:52:11 Joe Kolman, US Forest Service

13:52:28 Rep. Hinkle

13:53:34 Vice Presiding Officer Curdy directed a question to Joe Kolman.

13:55:04 Rep. Hinkle

13:56:46 Rep. Fielder directed a question to Joe Kolman.

13:59:24 Rep. Karlen directed a question to Rep. Hinkle.

Public Comment on MEPA

14:02:06 None

HJ18 (Study remediation of Smurfit-Stone mill site)
DNRC response letter

14:02:30 Jason Mohr
[EXHIBIT 3](#)
[EXHIBIT 4](#)

14:04:37 Amanda Kaster, director, DNRC
[EXHIBIT 4](#)

Committee Questions/Discussion

14:05:46 Presiding Officer Gunderson

14:05:57 Rep. Karlen

14:07:48 Vice Presiding Officer Curdy directed a question to Director Kaster.

14:09:01 Ryan Weiss, Deputy Administrator, Trust Lands Division, DNRC

14:10:34 Presiding Officer Gunderson directed a question to Ryan Weiss.

Public Comment

14:13:14 None

Introduction of Sen. Brown's replacement

14:13:46 Presiding Officer Gunderson

14:13:58 Sen. Lang

Report on progress of future fisheries improvement program (87-1-272)

14:14:28 Adam Strainer, Habitat Bureau Chief, Fisheries Division, FWP
[EXHIBIT 5](#)

Public Comment

14:18:09 None

Committee Questions/Discussion

14:18:19 None

Biennial report on implementation of Montana Aquatic Invasive Species Act (80-7-1006)

14:18:55 Tom Woolf, AIS Bureau Chief, FWP

14:23:16 Mark Bostrom, Administrator, Conservation and Resource Development Division,
DNRC
[EXHIBIT 6](#)

Public Comment

14:30:30 None

Committee Questions/Discussion

14:30:44 Vice Presiding Officer Curdy directed a question to Tom Woolf.

14:33:57 Vice Presiding Officer Curdy directed a question to Mark Bostrom.

14:35:40 Presiding Officer Gunderson directed a question to Mark Bostrom.

14:37:06 Sen. Hinebauch directed a question to Tom Woolf.

14:38:14 Council member Keane joined the meeting.

RECESS

14:38:42 Reconvened at 2:59 p.m.

Biennial report on harvest of mountain sheep from Tendoy Mountain herd (87-2-702)

14:59:46 Brian Wakeling, Chief, Game Management Bureau, FWP

Public Comment

15:06:04 None

Committee Questions/Discussion

15:06:32 Sen. Flowers

15:07:32 Vice Presiding Officer Curdy

15:10:16 Rep. Hinkle

15:17:51 Sen. Flowers

UPDATE FROM FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION UPLAND GAMEBIRD AND BLACK BEAR HUNTING SEASON-SETTING

15:21:04 Brian Wakeling, FWP

Committee Questions/Discussion

15:33:09 Rep. Knudsen

15:35:30 Rep. Fielder

15:37:21 Sen. Flowers

15:39:11 Dustin Temple, Director FWP

15:41:18 Sen. Lang

15:41:46 Dustin Temple

15:42:41 Rep. Fielder

15:43:17 Dustin Temple

15:44:56 Quentin Kujala, Chief of Conservation Policy, FWP

15:47:32 Vice Presiding Officer Curdy

15:52:36 Presiding Officer Gunderson

15:53:56 Quentin Kujala

Public Comment

15:54:52 None

RECESS

15:55:09 Presiding Officer Gunderson recessed the meeting until March 14 at 9:00 a.m.

