



## SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY RESOURCE PLANNING AND ACQUISITION

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### 68th Montana Legislature

#### SENATE MEMBERS

Mike Cuffe  
Denise Hayman  
Daniel Zolnikov

#### HOUSE MEMBERS

Joshua Kassmier  
Gary Parry  
Katie Sullivan

#### COMMITTEE STAFF

Griffin Burns- Research Analyst  
Jacelyn Sterling - Secretary  
Jameson Walker - Attorney

#### PUBLIC MEMBERS

James Brown  
Jason Brown  
Cyndee Fang  
Mark Klein  
Darcy Neigum  
Diego Rivas

# MINUTES LOG

March 25, 2024

137

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.

Access to an electronic copy of these minutes and the audio or video recording is provided from the Legislative Branch home page at <https://leg.mt.gov>. From the home page, select the "Committees" drop down menu at the top, then select Administrative or Interim, and the appropriate committee. The written minutes log can be located by expanding the accordion menu for the date of the meeting. Links to the audio/video files can be located by selecting the Video/Audio button on the same page, then the "past/current recordings" button. From there, use the calendar to select the date of the meeting you wish to view/listen to. The written Minutes Log, along with links to the audio and video recordings, is listed by meeting date on the interim committee's web page. Each of the Exhibits is linked and can be viewed by clicking on the Exhibit of interest. All Exhibits are public information and may be printed. Please contact the Legislative Services Division at 406-444-3064 for more information.

#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Daniel Zolnikov, Chair (R)  
James Brown, Public Member, Public Service Commission  
Jason Brown, Public Member, Montana Consumer Council  
Sen. Mike Cuffe (R)  
Cyndee Fang, Public Member, NorthWestern Energyz  
Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R)  
Mark Klein, Public Member, Independent Power Producers  
Darcy Neigum, Public Member, Montana Dakota Utilities  
Rep. Gary Parry (R)  
Diego Rivas, Public Member, North West Energy Coalition  
Rep. Katie Sullivan (D)

#### MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Sen. Denise Hayman (D)

#### MEMBERS ABSENT:

#### STAFF PRESENT:

Jason Mohr, Legislative Environmental Analyst

Griffin Burns, Research Analyst  
Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary  
Jameson Walker, Attorney

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

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

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

09:38:44 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov called the meeting to order at 9:38 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

**GROUP BILL DRAFT DISCUSSION**

[EXHIBIT 1](#)

09:38:56 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
09:40:03 Chris Puyear, NorthWestern Energy  
09:53:23 Rep. Gary Parry  
09:55:32 Chris Dorrington, Director, DEQ  
10:00:39 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
10:03:14 James Brown  
10:05:10 Sen. Mike Cuffe  
10:06:16 James Brown  
10:07:34 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
10:07:39 Sen. Mike Cuffe  
10:08:42 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
10:08:50 Kyle Unruh, Montana & Idaho Policy Manager, Renewable Northwest  
10:11:58 McKenna Sellers, Executive Director, Montana Renewable Energy Association  
10:14:02 Nick Fitzmaurice, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)  
10:16:44 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
10:19:22 Sen. Mike Cuffe  
10:20:53 Chris Dorrington  
10:24:01 Sen. Mike Cuffe  
10:24:46 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
10:26:01 Sen. Mike Cuffe  
10:27:02 Chris Puyear  
10:32:59 Sen. Mike Cuffe  
10:33:18 Trevor Graff, Public Service Commission (PSC)  
10:33:56 Sen. Mike Cuffe  
10:34:40 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
10:35:57 Irion Sanger, Northwest and Intermountain Power Producers Association

10:42:16 Cyndee Fang  
10:44:32 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
10:44:38 Cyndee Fang  
10:44:45 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
10:45:09 Chris Puyear  
10:45:38 Rep. Gary Parry  
10:47:45 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
10:47:59 Chris Dorrington  
10:50:18 Diego Rivas  
10:56:53 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
10:59:30 Diego Rivas  
11:02:15 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
11:03:20 Diego Rivas  
11:06:50 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
11:07:04 Trevor Graff  
11:07:30 Will Rosquist, PSC  
11:09:30 Cyndee Fang  
11:10:36 Diego Rivas  
11:11:50 Cyndee Fang  
11:13:53 Diego Rivas  
11:16:53 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
11:17:15 Chris Puyear  
11:19:09 Abby Briggerman, Holland & Heart

**Recessed**

11:23:42

**Reconvened**

11:33:29

**Group Bill Draft Discussion Continued**

11:33:51 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
11:35:11 Trevor Graff  
11:36:53 Rep. Gary Parry  
11:37:13 Trevor Graff  
11:38:18 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
11:39:53 Sen. Mike Cuffe  
11:40:24 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
11:40:36 Rep. Gary Parry  
11:41:12 Diego Rivas  
11:42:52 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov

11:43:06 Diego Rivas  
11:45:03 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
11:46:16 Rep. Gary Parry  
11:46:25 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
11:48:58 Rep. Gary Parry  
11:49:28 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
11:50:57 Sen. Mike Cuffe  
11:52:21 Jason Brown  
11:57:40 Sen. Mike Cuffe  
11:59:48 Jason Brown  
12:01:31 Rep. Gary Parry  
12:02:39 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
12:03:42 Jason Brown  
12:05:09 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
12:06:35 Sen. Mike Cuffe  
12:06:36 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
12:06:57 Jason Brown  
12:07:33 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
12:08:57 Chris Puyear  
12:09:42 Diego Rivas  
12:10:15 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
12:10:39 Diego Rivas  
12:12:19 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
12:12:45 Rep. Gary Parry  
12:13:16 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
12:13:42 Trevor Graff  
12:14:05 Cyndee Fang  
12:14:46 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
12:15:10 Chris Puyear  
12:15:46 Rep. Gary Parry  
12:16:15 Chris Puyear  
12:16:47 Cyndee Fang  
12:17:42 Trevor Graff  
12:18:48 Rep. Gary Parry  
12:19:14 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
12:19:27 Jason Mohr  
12:20:09 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
12:20:26 Rep. Gary Parry  
12:20:46 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
12:21:03 Diego Rivas

12:22:09 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
12:22:33 Trevor Graff  
12:24:08 Darcy Neigum  
12:24:49 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
12:25:30 Diego Rivas  
12:26:29 Rep. Gary Parry  
12:27:28 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
12:27:40 Mark Klein  
12:27:54 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
12:28:14 Cyndee Fang  
12:28:42 Mark Klein  
12:29:30 Diego Rivas  
12:31:38 Chris Puyear  
12:32:56 Diego Rivas  
12:33:31 Chris Puyear  
12:34:00 Diego Rivas  
12:35:34 Kyle Unrue, Renewable Northwest  
12:35:48 Diego Rivas  
12:36:26 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
12:38:02 Cyndee Fang  
12:38:21 Diego Rivas  
12:38:31 Cyndee Fang  
12:38:52 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov

**Recess**

12:39:02

**Reconvened**

12:52:37

**Group Bill Draft Discussion Continued**

12:52:49 Rep. Gary Parry  
12:53:07 Sen. Mike Cuffe  
12:53:30 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
12:53:49 Rep. Gary Parry  
12:54:34 Trevor Graff  
12:55:41 Rep. Gary Parry  
12:56:24 Trevor Graff  
12:56:50 Rep. Gary Parry  
12:57:09 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov

12:57:44 Cyndee Fang  
12:58:56 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
12:59:38 Diego Rivas  
13:01:43 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
13:02:05 Rep. Gary Parry  
13:02:18 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
13:02:40 Rep. Gary Parry  
13:03:03 Sen. Mike Cuffe  
13:03:56 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
13:04:32 Cyndee Fang  
13:05:09 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
13:05:21 Chris Puyear  
13:06:37 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov  
13:06:53 Sen. Mike Cuffe  
13:07:15 Trevor Graff

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 13:08:11