



WATER POLICY INTERIM COMMITTEE 68th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Willis Curdy
Bruce Gillespie
Walt Sales
Jeffrey Welborn

HOUSE MEMBERS

Bob Carter
Jill Cohenour
Marty Malone
Russel Miner
Bob Phalen
Kenneth Walsh

COMMITTEE STAFF

Jason Mohr - Research Analyst
Alexis Sandru - Attorney
Jacelyn Sterling - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

May 20, 2024
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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. Kenneth Walsh, Presiding Officer (R)
Rep. Jill Cohenour, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
Rep. Bob Carter (D)
Sen. Willis Curdy (D)
Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)
Rep. Marty Malone (R)
Rep. Russel Miner (R)
Rep. Bob Phalen (R)
Sen. Walt Sales (R)
Sen. Jeffrey Welborn (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Jason Mohr, Legislative Environmental Analyst
Alexis Sandru, Attorney
Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

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

COMMITTEE ACTION

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

13:01:00 Presiding Officer Kenneth Walsh called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM. The committee secretary took roll.

COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

13:01:58 Jason Mohr, Legislative Environmental Analyst, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

13:08:41 Presiding Officer Kenneth Walsh

SUMMARY OF SCHUTTER DECISION

13:09:19 Alexis Sandru, Legislative Attorney, LSD

[EXHIBIT1](#)

[EXHIBIT2](#)

13:17:30 Presiding Officer Kenneth Walsh

Public Comment

13:18:34 Ross Morgan, President, Montana Stock Growers Association (MSGA)

13:21:21 Krista Lee Evans

[EXHIBIT3](#)

13:25:54 Raley Honeycutt, MSGA

13:27:37 Jon Metropoulos, Senior Water Rights Alliance (SWRA)

13:33:32 Carl Devries, Roberts

Committee Discussion/Questions

13:35:26 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

13:36:51 Sen. Willis Curdy

13:38:12 Jon Metropoulos, SWRA

13:40:47 Sen. Walt Sales

13:41:21 Jon Metropoulos

13:46:41 Vice Presiding Officer Jill Cohenour

13:47:34 Krista Lee Evans

13:51:03 Rep. Bob Carter

13:51:12 Rep. Bob Phalen

13:51:37 Alexis Sandru

13:52:18 Sen. Willis Curdy

13:52:47 Rep. Marty Malone

13:53:30 Alexis Sandru

SANITATION REVIEW AND SEPTIC SYSTEM APPROVAL AFTER BROADWATER CO. DECISION

13:54:44 Anna Pakenham Stevenson, Administrator, Water Resources Division,
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

Public Comment

14:03:33 None

Committee Discussion/Questions

14:03:59 Vice Presiding Officer Jill Cohenour
14:04:33 Sen. Willis Curdy
14:04:56 Sen. Walt Sales
14:05:15 Anna Pakenham Stevenson, DNRC
14:06:07 Presiding Officer Kenneth Walsh
14:06:37 Anna Pakenham Stevenson

HB520: STUDY OF PRIVATE PONDS

14:07:40 Tom Woolf, Bureau Chief, Aquatic Invasive Species Bureau, Fish, Wildlife, and
Parks (FWP)
[EXHIBIT4](#)

Public Comment

14:10:41 Clayton Elliot, Montana Trout Unlimited

Committee Discussion/Questions

14:18:50 Rep. Marty Malone
14:19:13 Tom Woolf, FWP
14:20:04 Sen. Willis Curdy
14:22:55 Rep. Bob Carter
14:23:44 Tom Woolf
14:24:11 Clayton Elliott
14:25:20 Rep. Bob Carter
14:25:40 Clayton Elliott
14:27:10 Rep. Marty Malone
14:27:53 Clayton Elliott
14:29:59 Rep. Bob Phalen
14:30:16 Clayton Elliott
14:32:50 Rep. Bob Phalen
14:33:17 Tom Woolf
14:34:23 Presiding Officer Kenneth Walsh

14:36:15 Nate Ward, FWP
14:39:59 Clayton Elliot

14:42:14 **Recessed**
14:50:33 **Reconvened**

UPDATE TO GOVERNOR'S DROUGHT AND WATER SUPPLY REPORT OF APRIL 15

14:51:44 Zach Holyman, Assistant Climatologist, Montana Climate Office
[EXHIBIT5](#)

Public Comment

15:10:34 None

Committee Discussion/Questions

15:10:51 Presiding Officer Kenneth Walsh
15:10:56 Vice Presiding Officer Jill Cohenour
15:11:36 Rep. Marty Malone
15:12:08 Zach Hoylman
15:15:16 Sen. Walt Sales
15:16:00 Zach Hoylman

Update from Water Pollution Control Advisory Council (WPCAC)

15:19:24 Amanda Knuteson, Presiding Officer, WPCAC
15:22:21 Presiding Officer Kenneth Walsh
15:25:48 Ron Pifer, WPCAC
15:29:51 Teresa Polumsky, WPCAC
15:30:57 Shannon Holmes, WPCAC
15:34:50 Dennis Teske, WPCAC
15:40:17 Ron Pifer

Public Comment

15:41:26 None

Committee Discussion/Questions

15:41:45 Rep. Marty Malone
15:42:19 Ron Pifer
15:45:32 Rep. Marty Malone
15:45:53 Shannon Holmes
15:46:45 Vice Presiding Officer Jill Cohenour
15:48:17 Chris Dorrington, Director, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
15:52:13 Vice Presiding Officer Jill Cohenour
15:53:01 Amanda Knuteson

15:57:43 Rep. Bob Phalen
15:58:10 Chris Dorrington, DEQ
15:59:21 Sen. Bruce Gillespie
16:01:07 Amanda Knuteson
16:02:41 Lyndsey Krywaruchka, DEQ
16:05:21 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

UPDATE ON SPRING LEVELS AT FLATHEAD LAKE

16:06:12 Robert McDonald, Energy Keepers
[EXHIBIT6](#)

Public Comment

16:11:51 None

Committee Discussion/Questions

16:12:00 Rep. Bob Phalen
16:12:06 Robert McDonald, Energy Keepers
16:12:46 Rep. Bob Carter
16:13:42 Robert McDonald

TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

16:15:48 Andy Ulven, Chief, Water Quality and Mining, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Public Comment

16:17:43 None

Committee Discussion/Questions

16:18:19 Presiding Officer Kenneth Walsh
16:18:27 Andy Ulven, DEQ
16:21:21 Rep. Bob Carter
16:21:28 Andy Ulven

Update of TMDL list (75-5-703)

16:23:04 Andy Ulven, Chief, Water Quality and Mining, DEQ

Public Comment

16:26:04 None

Committee Discussion/Questions

16:26:34 Rep. Marty Malone
16:27:06 Andy Ulven, DEQ
16:27:46 Sen. Willis Curdy

16:28:09 Andy Ulven
16:33:23 Rep. Bob Carter
16:33:40 Andy Ulven

MEETING REVIEW

16:36:34 Jason Mohr

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:38:59