

December 13, 2023
Room 455
Helena, Montana

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MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. Jerry Schillinger, Chair (R)
Sen. Kenneth Bogner, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Janet Ellis (D)
Rep. Joe Read (R)
Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Sen. Jeff Welborn (R)
Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy (D)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Rob Miller, Senior Fiscal Analyst
Alice Hecht, Fiscal Analyst
Grace Gibney, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

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

COMMITTEE ACTION

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

09:02:51 Rep. Jerry Schillinger called the meeting to order. Staff took roll.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & CONSERVATION:

09:05:45 Rob Miller, Senior Fiscal Analyst, (LFD) presented Quarterly Financial Report for Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

- 09:21:29 Amanda Kaster, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) gave an overview of changes made to the organizational chart.
- 09:25:24 Wyatt Frampton, Deputy Division Administrator, Forestry and Lands Trust Division, (DNRC) gave an update on HB 883 and Fire Season Update.
- 10:02:09 Autumn Coleman, Bureau Chief, (DNRC) spoke about ARPA and sewer grant program.

BREAK:

- 10:35:14 Reconvened at 10:55:01.

DEPARTMENT OF FISH WILDLIFE & PARKS:

- 10:55:35 Rob Miller, Senior Fiscal Analyst, (LFD) presented Quarterly Financial Report for FWP.
- 11:07:42 Dustin Temple, Director, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, (FWP) introduced staff. Presented HB 868 required reports. Discussed fishing access, weed control and riparian rabbitat HB 2 report.
- 11:33:57 Quentin Kujala, Chief of Conservation Policy, (FWP) answered questions on Montana Southwest fisheries.

LUNCH:

- 11:51:40 Reconvened at 12:01:29

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY:

- 12:01:40 Rob Miller, Senior Fiscal Analyst, (LFD) presented Quarterly Financial Report
- 12:10:02 James Fehr, Deputy Director, Department of Environment Quality, (DEQ)
- 12:15:30 Chris Dorrington, Director, Department of Environment Quality, (DEQ) Addressed climate analysis questions about the Held Case.
- 12:37:57 Amy Steinmetz, Waste Management Remediation Division Administrator, Department of Environmental Quality, (DEQ) provided an overview of DEQs role in petroleum clean up projects.

BREAK:

- 12:54:14 Reconvened at 01:09:56

DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK:

01:10:23 Rob Miller, Senior Fiscal Analyst, (LFD) presented Quarterly Financial Report.

01:16:55 Mike Honeycutt, Executive Officer, Montana Department of Livestock explained long term vacancies.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE:

01:44:33 Rob Miller, Senior Fiscal Analyst, (LFD) presented Quarterly Financial Report.

01:52:21 Christy Clark, Director, Montana Department of Agriculture introduced staff.

01:56:09 Zach Coccoli, Deputy Director, Montana Department of Agriculture discussed current goals and projects of the department. Answered questions about vacancies.

02:05:45 Cody Pierce, Chief Financial Officer, Montana Department of Agriculture answered additional questions about vacancies and seasonal positions.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION:

02:07:55 Rob Miller, Senior Fiscal Analyst, (LFD) presented Quarterly Financial Report.

02:20:44 Malcolm Long, Director, Montana Department of Transportation gave an update to the committee on road construction projects around the state.

02:31:21 Larry Flynn, Deputy Director, Montana Department of Transportation answered questions on vacancy savings.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

02:44:11 Rep. Jerry Schillinger called for public comment. None was heard.

ADJOURNMENT:

02:48:26 Rep. Jerry Schillinger adjourned the meeting.