



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

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HOPE STOCKWELL, Research Analyst
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NADINE SPENCER, Secretary
JOE KOLMAN, Legislative Environmental Analyst

MINUTES LOG

September 10, 2015
Room 172, Capitol Building
Helena, Montana

Please note: This document is a Minutes Log and provides a notation 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 record 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 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 <http://leg.mt.gov>. On the left-side menu of the home page, select Committees, then Interim. Once on the page for Interim Committees, scroll down to the appropriate committee. The written Minutes Log, along with 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.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

SEN. GENE VUCKOVICH, chair
REP. JERRY BENNETT, vice chair

SEN. JOHN BRENDEN
SEN. JIM KEANE
SEN. MIKE PHILLIPS
SEN. RICK RIPLEY
SEN. CARY SMITH

REP. WILLIS CURDY
REP. JANET ELLIS
REP. ED LIESER
REP. THERESA MANZELLA
REP. KERRY WHITE

MR. SCOTT ASPENLIEDER
MS. BROOKE ERB
MR. BERT LINDLER

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED

MR. TIM BAKER
MR. ROY MORRIS

STAFF PRESENT

JOE KOLMAN, legislative environmental analyst
HOPE STOCKWELL, research analyst
HELEN THIGPEN, staff attorney
NADINE SPENCER, secretary

AGENDA AND VISITORS' LIST

Agenda, [Attachment 1](#).
Visitor's list, [Attachment 2](#).

COMMITTEE ACTIONS

- Sen. Vuckovich appointed Sen. Keane, Rep. White, Rep. Manzella, and Rep. Curdy to a subcommittee to develop questions for a survey related to the HJ 13 (2015) study. Sen. Keane and Rep. White were appointed as co-chairs.
- The Environmental Quality Council (EQC) voted to convene a meeting by conference call 2 weeks prior to the deadline on game damage hunting rules to determine if it wants to object to the rules.

CALL TO ORDER

00:00:01 Sen. Vuckovich called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

UPDATE ON STATUTORY RULE ON WATER RESERVATION

00:00:13 Helen Thigpen, staff attorney, Legislative Services Division (LSD), presented additional information from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) on the proposed rules regarding water reservations.

Committee questions and discussion:

00:03:07 Sen. Brenden commented on the amount of the fee increase.
00:03:40 Sen. Ripley asked about EQC's authority over the DNRC and its authority to object to the rule. Ms. Thigpen said SB 82 (2015) gave administrative and rulemaking oversight for issues related to the quality or quantity of water to the Water Policy Interim Committee (WPIC).
00:05:18 Sen. Ripley asked if the EQC still has oversight over fees. Ms. Thigpen said it probably falls under the oversight of the WPIC.

- 00:06:07 Sen. Vuckovich said Sen. Hamlett, chairman of the WPIC, will be available to address the issue later in the meeting.
- 00:06:51 Rep. White said he supports sending a letter objecting to the rule.

ROLL CALL

- 00:07:59 The secretary called the roll, [Attachment 3](#).

DEQ PROGRAM EVALUATION: INDUSTRIAL AND ENERGY MINERALS

- 00:08:50 Joe Kolman, legislative environmental analyst, LSD, provided a copy of the program evaluation for the Industrial and Energy Minerals Bureau, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), [Exhibit 1](#), and described the program.
- 00:10:20 Mr. Kolman discussed the Coal and Uranium Program.
- 00:14:02 Mr. Kolman discussed the Opencut Mining Program.

Public comment:

- 00:19:09 Cary Hegreberg, executive director, Montana Contractors Association, [Exhibit 2](#).
- 00:26:30 Bud Clinch, executive director, Montana Coal Council

Committee questions and discussion:

- 00:32:18 Rep. Ellis asked about the general fund part of the budget for the Opencut Mining Program. Ed Coleman, chief, Industrial and Energy Minerals Bureau, DEQ, said he did not know, but will find out.
- 00:33:23 Rep. Bennett asked about opencut mining in Libby and the status of a permit because of the asbestos issue. Mr. Coleman said the bureau is working with the EPA and the DEQ Remediation Division on standards for what type of sampling needs to be done to determine if there is a risk to human health or the environment.

FWP PROGRAM EVALUATION: WILDLIFE CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

- 00:35:05 Hope Stockwell, research analyst, LSD, presented a summary of the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP), Wildlife Conflict Management Program, [Exhibit 3](#).
- 00:36:40 Ms. Stockwell discussed funding resources.
- 00:38:55 Ms. Stockwell discussed human safety and urban wildlife.
- 00:40:16 Ms. Stockwell discussed livestock depredation.
- 00:40:52 Ms. Stockwell discussed the game damage assistance program and provided a chart showing game damage tools, [Exhibit 4](#).

Public comment:

- 00:43:57 Marc Cooke, president, Wolves of the Rockies
- 00:46:24 Kathryn QannaYahu, Enhancing Montana's Wildlife and Habitat
- 00:55:53 Jim Posewitz, Helena, [Exhibit 5](#)

01:01:54 Gayle Joslin, Helena, [Exhibit 6](#)
01:11:24 Tony Schoonen, Public Lands/Water Access Association, Anaconda Sportsmen, and Skyline Sportsmen
01:13:59 Chuck Denowh, United Property Owners of Montana
01:16:27 Leroy Mehring, Skyline Sportsmen
01:18:15 Larry Thomas, Anaconda Sportsmen
01:18:56 Ron Moody, Lewistown
01:31:52 Rod Bullis, Lewis and Clark County
01:35:14 Nick Gevock, conservation director, Montana Wildlife Federation
01:38:31 Harold Johns, president, Skyline Sportsmen, [Exhibit 7](#)
01:43:00 Tom Pozega, Anaconda Sportsmen

Committee questions and discussion:

01:44:33 Sen. Keane asked Jeff Hagener, director, FWP, where the agency is in the administrative rule process that addresses game damage and what is its opinion about the public testimony.

01:51:07 Sen. Keane asked if the Fish and Wildlife Commission is addressing the rule and if the rule will be implemented before the EQC has another chance to comment on it. Mr. Hagener said FWP is meeting with the commission on September 18 to discuss the rule. He said if it decides to move forward on the rule it will be approved in November and implemented as soon as it goes through the Secretary of State's Office.

01:52:48 Sen. Brenden commented on finding a balance to fix game damage hunts.

01:58:43 Rep. Manzella asked about sampling of the state's ungulate populations and echinococcus granulosus. Quentin Kujala, chief, Wildlife Management Section, FWP, provided information on the tape worm. He said there is a fact sheet on FWP's website.

02:03:48 Rep. Manzella asked if FWP is considering a program, like salt blocks, to attract the ungulate population off of private lands where they are a problem. Mr. Hagener said it is not.

02:05:43 Rep. Curdy asked Mr. Hagener about FWP's process for notification of public hearings.

02:08:06 Sen. Phillips asked if FWP prefers public hunting during shoulder seasons. Mr. Hagener said it does.

02:08:54 Sen. Phillips asked what happens if the rule is finalized before the EQC meets in January. Mr. Kolman said the EQC can object to the rule now which will delay implementation of the rule for up to six months.

02:09:45 Ms. Erb provided a landowner perspective on the big game hunting season.

02:11:43 Rep. Ellis asked if FWP is addressing the issues in the legislative performance audit. Mr. Hagener said it is working on putting a system into place.

02:13:56 Rep. Ellis asked if FWP would consider a committee to work on improvements. Mr. Hagener said it has been done in the past with marginal results.

02:15:58 Rep. White asked if the total for game damage material expenditures from 2010 to 2014 represents all of the amounts requested from property owners or if it is capped because of a lack of available funds. Ms. Stockwell said she did not know, but will find out.

02:17:10 Rep. White asked if FWP keeps a record of landowners who have requested materials to protect their property that the department did not have available funds to provide. Mr. Hagener redirected the question to Alan Charles, Sportsmen Landowner Relations Bureau chief, Wildlife Division, FWP, who explained how the game damage program works. He said there was no cap on materials.

02:19:41 Rep. White said he has been contacted by people in Region 3 who were told money was not available.

02:20:32 Sen. Ripley asked if the EQC has enough money in the budget for a conference call to vote on whether it should object to the game damage rule. Mr. Kolman said there is money available, but proper notice must be given for the meeting.

02:23:14 Sen. Ripley asked when FWP expects the rule to be published. Mr. Hagener said it will be during the second half of November.

02:24:56 Sen. Ripley asked if it will be possible to schedule a conference call for November 18 to review the rule. Mr. Kolman said it is.

02:26:03 Mr. Hagener said he will check with the Secretary of State's Office on the timeline.

02:26:55 Sen. Phillips asked if the EQC would be objecting to a final rule. Mr. Kolman said it would be.

02:27:13 Sen. Phillips asked if it would delay the rule from being implemented for 6 months. Mr. Kolman said it would.

02:27:18 Sen. Phillips asked if the 6 month period allows a chance to modify the rule. Ms. Thigpen explained the objection process.

02:29:01 Sen. Phillips requested a written copy of the objection process. Ms. Thigpen said she will provide it, [Exhibit 8](#).

02:29:16 Sen. Phillips said the EQC can also draft legislation to address the issue. Ms. Thigpen agreed.

02:29:54 Sen. Phillips said the EQC can take this as an opportunity to contribute to an approach for managing game problems and shoulder seasons.

02:30:18 Mr. Aspenlieder said there is a responsibility for private individuals to be aware and participate. He said he would like to see the process work its way through as outlined.

02:32:57 Sen. Phillips said he thinks the EQC needs to stay on point with the issue and pay close attention to the outcome.

02:33:28 Mr. Lindler asked Mr. Hagener to explain the rationale for hunting bull elk.

02:34:46 Sen. Keane commented on objecting to the rule.

02:36:41 Sen. Ripley said he will wait until FWP has a chance to talk to the Secretary of State's Office before making a motion on whether or not the EQC should schedule a conference call to object to the rule.

02:37:41 Recess

02:54:50 Reconvene

SAGE GROUSE UPDATE

02:55:31 Sen. Bradley Hamlett, SD 15, presented an update on a meeting he attended in Salt Lake City regarding the potential listing of the sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the different approaches that states are taking to develop conservation plans.

Committee questions and discussion:

03:06:05 Sen. Ripley asked if Sen. Hamlett is going to address the fee increase requested by DNRC for the reservation of a water right. Sen. Hamlett said he is not. Sen. Ripley said the WPIC has the authority to object to rules affecting water quality and quantity and not the EQC.

03:07:37 Sen. Brenden asked about the 10 decibel noise level for sage grouse. Sen. Hamlett said everyone is concerned.

FWP DIRECTOR'S AGENCY UPDATE

03:10:10 Mr. Hagener presented an update on FWP.

03:10:39 Mr. Hagener said the agency is in the process of doing public review for the statewide bison EIS.

03:12:32 Mr. Hagener discussed FWP's "15 and Forward" listening sessions.

03:14:40 Mr. Hagener said the agency is working on another initiative "Finding Common Ground to Sustain Fish and Wildlife in the State."

03:18:52 Mr. Hagener discussed state parks and the facility condition inventory.

03:20:34 Mr. Hagener discussed the ESA.

03:24:45 Mr. Hagener discussed delisting grizzly bears.

03:28:34 Mr. Hagener said a recent court ruling in Texas, on the Lesser Prairie Chicken, ruled that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service had not looked at what states had done for conservation and removed the bird from the ESA protections. He said the ruling favors sage grouse conservation by the states.

03:29:54 Mr. Hagener discussed state water conditions.

03:30:31 Mr. Hagener discussed the hunting season outlook.

Public comment:

03:33:43 Perri Jacobs, Malta, [Exhibit 9](#)

03:38:49 Kathryn QannaYahu, Enhancing Montana's Wildlife and Habitat

Committee questions and discussion:

03:43:37 Sen. Brenden responded to public comments.

03:44:28 Sen. Phillips asked if the Montana plan for conserving sage grouse will be implemented and continue into the future whether the sage grouse is listed or not. Mr. Hagener said it will.

- 03:45:32 Sen. Phillips asked how a district court ruling on piecemeal delisting, that reinstated protection for the grey wolf in the Great Lake states, will influence delisting of the grizzly bear in the Yellowstone area. Mr. Hagener said grizzly bears in the Yellowstone area are listed as a distinct population.
- 03:47:09 Sen. Phillips discussed the way courts are interpreting the law on delisting.
- 03:48:13 Rep. White asked if elk populations are moving off federal land because of the lack of open space and food or because of predators. Ms. Joslin said the elk are moving to private land where there is less hunting and because of declining cover on federal land due to an increase in timber harvest and roads. Rep. White said the number of roads has decreased reducing the ability for the public to access federal land.
- 03:53:13 Sen. Ripley asked Mr. Hagener to address the issue of his past employment with the American Prairie Foundation and possible conflict of interest with his current position.
- 03:54:10 Sen. Keane asked if FWP or the governor's office is managing the sage grouse program. Mr. Hagener said FWP manages sage grouse through the Fish and Wildlife Commission as an upland bird that is hunted in the state. He said the overall sage grouse conservation plan, approved by SB 261 (2015), is funded through DNRC which answers to the governor's office.
- 03:55:06 Sen. Keane said any rules pertaining to sage grouse will fall under the EQC's authority because it has oversight over both agencies. Mr. Hagener agreed.
- 03:55:30 Rep. Curdy asked what will be done with the information gathered through the "15 and Forward" initiative. Mr. Hagener said it will be part of FWP's plan for the future.
- 03:56:31 Rep. Curdy asked when the information will be available. Mr. Hagener said it will be early next year.
- 03:57:17 Sen. Ripley asked when the last opportunity to comment on the bison EIS will be. Mr. Hagener said it is tomorrow, September 11.
- 03:58:40 Recess

Sen. Brenden left the meeting.

- 05:07:53 Reconvene

TRUST LAND CABIN SITE SALES REPORT

- 05:08:24 Shawn Thomas, administrator, Trust Land Management Division, DNRC, presented an update on the process of selling residential and cabin site properties as required under SB 369 (2013), [Exhibit 10](#).
- 05:09:09 Mr. Thomas gave a history of the cabin site program.
- 05:14:18 Mr. Thomas discussed the lawsuit filed on SB 409 (2011).
- 05:15:04 Mr. Thomas discussed the cabin sale program.
- 05:17:04 Mr. Thomas discussed the pilot sale program.
- 05:18:52 Mr. Thomas discussed how the DNRC will choose lots for the 2016 and 2017 sale programs.

Public comment:

05:21:38 Margaret Morgan, Montana State Leaseholders Association (MSLA), [Exhibit 11](#).

Committee questions and discussion:

05:32:38 Rep. Lieser asked Mr. Thomas to address the issues brought up by the MSLA.
05:32:54 Mr. Thomas discussed the issue of the two appraisals that were approved by the DNRC for cabin site improvements and given a value of zero by the appraiser.
05:35:39 Mr. Thomas discussed the issue of MSLA input on how the next 80 lots will be sold.
05:36:03 Mr. Thomas discussed the issue of the MSLA being left out of the settlement agreement on SB 409.
05:38:37 Sen. Keane commented on keeping the program moving forward. Mr. Thomas agreed.
05:39:51 Mr. Thomas clarified the sale of lots.
05:40:52 Rep. Bennett asked about the involvement of Montrust in the settlement agreement. Mr. Thomas said a meeting is scheduled for Monday to discuss the agreement.
05:42:29 Rep. Bennett said appraisers need to be given direction on the value of improvements. Mr. Thomas agreed.
05:44:21 Mr. Thomas introduced Chloe Katsilas, real estate specialist, Real Estate Management Bureau, Trust Land Management Division, DNRC
05:44:26 Rep. White asked for a current copy of the appraisal instructions and asked Mr. Thomas to address the admission of unconstitutionality of SB 409.

FIRE SEASON UPDATE

05:47:00 Bob Harrington, administrator, Forestry Division, DNRC, gave an update on the fire season. He provided a map of large fire activity in the Northern Rockies, [Exhibit 12](#) .
05:48:45 Mr. Harrington gave statistics for national fire activity.
05:50:53 Mr. Harrington discussed fire activity in Montana.
05:53:58 Mr. Harrington provided statistics from the DNRC.
05:55:55 Mr. Harrington said one fire in the state burned core sage grouse habitat.
05:56:43 Mr. Harrington discussed what the DNRC can take away from the fire season.
05:58:47 Mr. Harrington discussed the difference between this fire season and others.
06:01:51 Mr. Harrington discussed sharing resources across agency boundaries.
06:02:43 Mr. Harrington discussed interagency use of DNRC aircraft.

Committee questions and discussion:

06:03:45 Sen. Vuckovich asked about a decision to terminate the Union Peak Lookout in Granite County. Mr. Harrington said the decision was made because of budget cuts. He said he can provide additional information.
06:06:23 Rep. Lieser asked about fires that were unstaffed. Mr. Harrington said it was due to accessibility and safety and also inadequate resources to staff all of the fires.

- 06:07:12 Rep. Lieser asked how many acres of state land were affected by fire. Mr. Harrington said 42,000 acres of land under state protection were affected.
- 06:07:34 Rep. Lieser asked if the DNRC knows what the amount of salvage will be. Mr. Harrington said there was very little commercial timber burned on state trust lands.

Public comment: None

Committee questions and discussion continued:

- 06:08:19 Rep. Curdy asked if the Blackhawk and Chinook helicopters are still being used. Mr. Harrington said they have been demobilized.
- 06:08:42 Rep. Curdy asked if there have been any mishaps involving the UH and UH-1 helicopters since they were modified. Mr. Harrington said no.
- 06:09:30 Sen. Keane asked about federal money available for training. Mr. Harrington said money is available from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Ready Reserve Program.
- 06:11:07 Ms. Erb asked Mr. Harrington if the DNRC helicopters are certified to fly by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Mr. Harrington said because of public aircraft laws its helicopters are not certificated by the FAA.
- 06:12:05 Rep. Bennett thanked the DNRC for its efforts.
- 06:12:30 Rep. White asked Mr. Harrington about HB 510 (2015) and the status of hiring a county forest advisory position.
- 06:17:25 Mr. Harrington commented on the DNRC's aircraft and its aviation program.
- 06:19:32 Ms. Erb asked if the FAA has final authority on DNRC's aircraft. Mr. Harrington said it does not.
- 06:20:08 Rep. Curdy commented on public aircraft and the safety of the state's aviation program.
- 06:22:09 Sen. Ripley asked if it complicates matters that the state has management authority, but does not own its aircraft. Mr. Harrington said it is a factor.

WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE BUILDING CODE UPDATE

- 06:23:15 David Cook, bureau chief, Building Codes Bureau, Business Standards Division, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI), provided a summary of process, proposal, and progress on the wildland urban interface building code, [Exhibit 13](#).

Public comment:

- 06:37:15 Dustin Stewart, executive director, Montana Building Industry Association

Committee questions and discussion:

- 06:41:41 Rep. Lieser said the wildland interface building code is a recommendation from SJ 15 (2013).
- 06:42:20 Rep. Lieser asked Mr. Cook what will be required in order for a county to adopt the code.

- 06:44:33 Rep. Lieser asked Mr. Cook how effective the code can be without a maintenance provision.
- 06:47:54 Rep. Lieser asked why the code can't include enforcement by the fire marshal since the DLI does not have the authority to enforce a maintenance provision. Mr. Cook said they do not share a common statutory authority.

STATEWIDE NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL COORDINATION PROGRAM UPDATE

- 06:50:08 Donna Rise, bureau chief, Agricultural Services Bureau, Department of Agriculture, presented the noxious weed coordination report, [Exhibit 14](#). She provided a copy of new updates to the report, [Exhibit 15](#).

Public comment: None

Committee questions and discussion: None

REVIEW OF EQC WORK PLAN

- 07:03:10 Mr. Kolman opened discussion on the work plan that the EQC adopted at its June meeting, [Exhibit 16](#), and next steps for HJ 13 (2015).
- 07:05:25 Rep. Bennett asked Rep. White how he sees the HJ 13 study moving forward.
- 07:05:47 Rep. White discussed assessment of road access.
- 07:08:35 Rep. White discussed the draft questions for the proposed HJ 13 survey, [Exhibit 17](#).

Committee questions and discussion on the proposed survey:

- 07:19:31 Sen. Ripley
- 07:20:40 Rep. White
- 07:20:58 Mr. Kolman
- 07:21:14 Sen. Keane
- 07:23:42 Sen. Phillips
- 07:24:41 Rep. White
- 07:27:29 Sen. Keane
- 07:29:20 Sen. Phillips
- 07:30:30 Rep. White
- 07:33:03 Rep. Manzella
- 07:33:59 Rep. Curdy
- 07:35:06 Sen. Ripley
- 07:35:21 Mr. Kolman
- 07:35:48 Sen. Ripley
- 07:36:42 Rep. Lieser
- 07:37:38 Mr. Aspenlieder
- 07:39:36 Mr. Lindler
- 07:40:44 Sen. Vuckovich
- 07:42:19 Sen. Keane
- 07:44:23 Rep. Manzella

07:44:35 Sen. Vuckovich
07:44:50 Rep. White
07:51:44 Rep. Ellis
07:53:23 Ms. Erb
07:54:03 Rep. Bennett
07:55:34 Sen. Keane
07:57:21 Mr. Kolman
07:58:29 Sen. Keane
07:58:39 Rep. White
07:59:33 Sen. Keane
07:59:53 Mr. Kolman
08:01:42 Sen. Vuckovich
08:01:57 Mr. Kolman
08:02:22 Sen. Ripley
08:03:26 Mr. Aspenlieder
08:05:38 Rep. Ellis
08:06:46 Sen. Vuckovich
08:07:35 Sen. Keane
08:08:09 Mr. Kolman
08:08:29 Sen. Keane
08:09:12 Rep. White
08:11:15 Sen. Keane
08:12:26 Sen. Phillips
08:13:15 Rep. White
08:14:07 Rep. Ellis
08:14:54 Sen. Vuckovich appointed Sen. Keane, Rep. White, Rep. Manzella, and Rep. Curdy to a subcommittee to develop questions for the HJ 13 survey.
08:16:07 Mr. Kolman
08:16:41 Sen. Vuckovich appointed Rep. White and Sen. Keane as co-chairs of the subcommittee.
08:17:03 Sen. Phillips
08:17:32 Sen. Vuckovich
08:18:29 Mr. Kolman provided a list of topics for the January EQC meeting.
08:18:53 Sen. Keane said to include an update from DEQ on the petroleum tank closure sites.
08:19:17 Rep. White said to include an update on the meeting in Spokane on the Colstrip power plant closures.
08:19:52 Rep. Curdy asked staff to let the EQC know when the meeting in Spokane is scheduled.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MATTER NOT CONTAINED IN THIS AGENDA AND THAT IS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE EQC

08:20:56 Clayton Elliott, Montana Wilderness Association, provided a list of timber lawsuits his association has been involved in during the last decade, [Exhibit 18](#).

OTHER BUSINESS

08:21:31 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Ripley moved that when FWP notifies staff, 2 weeks prior to the deadline on game damage hunting rules, the EQC convene for a conference call to determine if it wants to object to the rule. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote of those present and voting.

INSTRUCTIONS TO STAFF

08:22:45 Rep. Curdy requested that staff assemble information for the next EQC meeting on the number of disputes/lawsuits on what is or is not a county road.

08:23:49 Rep. Ellis asked staff to provide information on the authority of county commissioners over roads.

08:24:20 Sen. Phillips asked staff to provide information on what it would mean to shift the burden of proof to the landowner rather than the county to claim authority over a stretch of road.

08:24:53 Mr. Kolman said the Education and Local Government Interim Committee is also studying county roads on state trust lands and will be addressing some of the issues as well. He said he will add it as an agenda item. Rep. White said the topic may be appropriate for another interim committee.

08:26:01 Mr. Kolman asked if the EQC wanted to add the county road topic to the January agenda.

08:26:16 Rep. Lieser said it is relevant to the EQC.

08:26:45 Sen. Vuckovich commented on a lawsuit involving a landowner who had closed a road, but the county had never given up the right of way.

08:27:45 Sen. Phillips said he recommends the EQC pursue the county road topic.

08:28:14 Sen. Vuckovich commented on dedicated roads that have been changed.

08:29:23 Rep. Bennett asked if the topic of county roads will be added to the January agenda. Sen. Vuckovich said it will.

Public comment: None

08:29:47 Sen. Vuckovich adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

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