



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

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

MINUTES LOG

July 12, 2017
Room 152, 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.

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Please contact the Legislative Services Division at 406-444-3064 for more information.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE

SEN. CHAS VINCENT, Chairman
REP. BRADLEY MAXON HAMLETT, Vice Chairman

SEN. MIKE PHILLIPS
SEN. JP POMNICHOWSKI
SEN. CARY SMITH

REP. WILLIS CURDY
REP. JANET ELLIS
REP. STEVE GUNDERSON
REP. THERESA MANZELLA
REP. KERRY WHITE

MR. SCOTT ASPENLIDER
MR. JOHN BRENDEN
MS. KYLIE PAUL
MR. MATT VINCENT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED

SEN. MIKE LANG
SEN. GENE VUCKOVICH
MR. PATRICK HOLMES

STAFF PRESENT IN HELENA

HOPE STOCKWELL, Research Analyst
TREVOR GRAFF, Research Analyst
NADINE SPENCER, Secretary
JAMESON WALKER, Staff Attorney

VISITORS' LIST (Attachment 1)

AGENDA (Attachment 2)

COMMITTEE ACTIONS

The Environmental Quality Council (EQC):

- Voted to send the letter to Secretaries Perdue and Zinke that was discussed at the June 30 EQC meeting and change the helicopter reference to MT-205;
- Voted to continue its objection to the proposed rule by the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks regarding permits for dog training in upland game bird nesting areas.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

00:00:01 Sen. Vincent called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. The secretary called the roll. (Attachment 3) Sen. Lang was excused and left his proxy with Mr. Brenden. (Attachment 4) Sen. Vuckovich was excused and left his proxy with Sen. Hamlett. (Attachment 5)

LETTER TO SECRETARIES PERDUE AND ZINKE RE: FIRE-RELATED ISSUES

00:01:16 Hope Stockwell, research analyst, Legislative Services Division, gave an introduction to the letter addressed to Secretary Sonny Perdue, U. S. Department of Agriculture and Secretary Ryan Zinke, U.S. Department of the Interior, that was discussed at the June 30 EQC meeting. (Exhibit 1) She said Mr. Vincent had proposed an addition to the letter, but that Secretary Perdue has just approved emergency haying on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres in the drought stricken areas of Montana effective July 16.

Committee Questions and Discussion

00:01:57 Mr. Vincent said he had suggested the addition to the letter in order to allow landowners to protect their properties from wildfires and allow haying on CRP land before July 15. He said the additional language is no longer needed.

00:02:57 Ms. Stockwell said that the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) has indicated that state helicopters should be referred to as MT-205 in the letter.

Public Comment

00:03:41 John Tubbs director, DNRC, said he is available for questions.

Motion/Vote

00:04:13 Sen. Phillips moved to send the letter to Secretaries Perdue and Zinke and to change the helicopter reference to MT-205. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Lang and Sen. Vuckovich voted aye by proxy.

RECONSIDER OBJECTION TO DFWP DOG TRAINING RULE

00:04:50 Sen. Vincent said the EQC needs to reconsider its motion to object to the proposed rule by the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP) regarding permits for dog training in upland game bird nesting areas.

Motion

00:05:21 Mr. Brenden moved that the EQC continue its objection to the proposed rule by FWP as stated at the June 30 meeting.

Public Comment

00:05:55 Aimee Hawkaluk, FWP, said she is available for questions and that the department is planning to provide for additional public comment and provide notice of hearings prior to the September EQC meeting. She said the EQC will be able to consider updated language in the proposed rule.

Vote

00:06:37 The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Lang and Sen. Vuckovich voted aye by proxy.

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

None

OTHER BUSINESS

00:07:16 Mr. Brenden said there have been four fires in his area in the last week because of the dry conditions.

00:07:56 Rep. Manzella asked about the additional hearings FWP will have for public comment on the proposed rule. Ms. Hawkaluk said she will provide the dates.

00:10:41 Rep. White asked if the EQC will receive information on what initiated the rule making process since the law was passed. Ms. Hawkaluk said she will provide the legislative history and the rationale for the proposed rule.

00:11:38 Mr. Vincent asked if there will be public hearings on the proposed rule at the next EQC meeting. Sen. Vincent said that it is a separate function. He said it will be an agenda item and public comment will be taken on the issue when the EQC reconsiders its objection.

00:13:00 Sen. Vincent adjourned the meeting at 10:16 a.m.

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