

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON LONG-RANGE PLANNING**

**Call to Order:** Chair Mike Hopkins, on January 26, 2021 at 8:30 AM, in Room 317B  
Capitol

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Mike Hopkins, Chair (R)  
Sen. Mike Cuffe, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Jim Hamilton (D)  
Sen. Cary Smith (R)

**Members Excused:**

Sen. Boldman  
Rep. Sue Vinton

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:**

Catherine Duncan, Legislative Services Division  
Jamie Bonilla, Committee Secretary  
Heather Vande-Sandt, Remote Meeting Coordinator

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 6, 1/14/2021; HB 14, 1/14/2021

**HEARING ON HB 6 AND 14**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

08:36:08 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, opened the hearing on HB 6, Renewable Resource Grants and on HB 14, Long-Range Building Bonding Program.

**Public Comment:**

08:36:12 Lindsay Volpe, Department of Natural Resource and Conservation (DNRC)

[EXHIBIT\(jlh17a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(jlh17a02\)](#)

08:37:30 Chair Hopkins

08:37:40 Kent Myers, Bitterroot Conservation District Board (BCDB)

08:40:59 Rep. Hamilton

08:41:22 Lindsay Volpe, DNRC

08:42:10 Rep. Hamilton

08:42:28 Lindsay Volpe, DNRC

08:42:50 Chair Hopkins

08:43:04 Lindsay Volpe, DNRC

[EXHIBIT\(jlh17a03\)](#)

08:43:49 Crystal Fox, Fort Belknap Water Resources (FBWR)

08:47:03 Chair Hopkins

08:47:20 Lindsay Volpe, DNRC

[EXHIBIT\(jlh17a04\)](#)

08:48:08 Cole Sibley, Fort Peck Irrigation Project (FPIP)

08:51:46 Chair Hopkins

08:52:03 Lindsay Volpe, DNRC

[EXHIBIT\(jlh17a05\)](#)

08:53:09 Chair Hopkins

08:53:22 Rex Radke, Lower Willow Creek Irrigation District (LWCID)

08:58:21 Vice Chair Cuffe

08:58:39 Rex Radke, LWCID

08:58:59 Vice Chair Cuffe

08:59:15 Rex Radke, LWCID

08:59:20 Chair Hopkins

08:59:43 Heather Vande-Sandt, Remote Meeting Coordinator (RMC)

08:59:56 Molly Davidson, Bitterroot Irrigation District (BID)

09:02:56 John Crowley, Bitterroot Irrigation District (BID)

09:04:53 Chair Hopkins

09:05:20 Lindsay Volpe, DNRC

[EXHIBIT\(jlh17a06\)](#)

09:06:10 Vice Chair Cuffe assumed the Chair

09:06:13 Commissioner Jake Strissel, Hill County

[EXHIBIT\(jlh17a07\)](#)

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09:07:49 Chair Cuffe

09:08:20 Lindsay Volpe, DNRC

[EXHIBIT\(jlh17a08\)](#)

09:09:08 Allen Martinell, Water Users Irrigation Company (WUIC)

09:13:02 Chair Cuffe

09:13:34 Allen Martinell, WUIC

09:13:58 Rep. Hamilton

09:14:43 Allen Martinell, WUIC

09:16:01 Chair Cuffe

09:16:06 Rep. Hamilton

09:16:19 Allen Martinell, WUIC

09:16:56 Chair Cuffe

09:17:13 Rep. Hopkins resumed role of Chair

09:17:31 Lindsay Volpe, DNRC

[EXHIBIT\(jlh17a09\)](#)

09:18:24 Polly Rex, Stillwater County Conservation District (SCCD)

09:21:42 Lindsay Volpe, DNRC

[EXHIBIT\(jlh17a10\)](#)

09:22:41 John Connors, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

09:26:07 Laura Nowlin, Musselshell Watershed Coalition (MWC)

09:27:05 Rep. Hamilton

09:27:26 John Connors, DNRC

09:28:24 Chair Hopkins

09:28:36 Lindsay Volpe, DNRC

[EXHIBIT\(jlh17a11\)](#)

09:29:34 James Brower, Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project

09:34:56 Chair Hopkins

09:35:21 Lindsay Volpe, DNRC

[EXHIBIT\(jlh17a12\)](#)

09:36:14 Chair Hopkins

09:36:17 Mark McNearney, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

09:38:59 Chair Hopkins

09:40:00 Lindsay Volpe, DNRC

[EXHIBIT\(jlh17a13\)](#)

09:40:38 Patrick Byrne, Clinton Irrigation District (CID)

09:45:38 Chair Hopkins

09:45:56 Lindsay Volpe, DNRC

[EXHIBIT\(jlh17a14\)](#)

09:46:38 Scott Aspenlieder, Carbon County

[EXHIBIT\(jlh17a15\)](#)

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09:49:52 Chair Hopkins

09:49:58 Lindsay Volpe, DNRC

[EXHIBIT\(jlh17a16\)](#)

09:50:40 Shawn Higley, WWC Engineering

09:53:01 Chair Hopkins

09:53:12 Vice Chair Cuffe

09:53:27 Shawn Higley, WWC Engineering

09:53:33 Chair Hopkins

09:53:47 Lindsay Volpe, DNRC

[EXHIBIT\(jlh17a17\)](#)

09:54:41 Scott Aspenlieder, Buffalo Rapids Irrigation Project (BRIP)

[EXHIBIT\(jlh17a18\)](#)

09:57:08 Chair Hopkins

09:57:14 Rep. Hamilton

09:57:34 Scott Aspenlieder, BRIP

09:58:43 Rep. Hamilton

09:59:25 Scott Aspenlieder, BRIP

10:00:35 Rep. Hamilton

10:00:55 Scott Aspenlieder, BRIP

10:02:19 Chair Hopkins

10:02:28 Lindsay Volpe, DNRC

[EXHIBIT\(jlh17a19\)](#)

10:03:25 Robbie Neihart, Buffalo Rapids Irrigation Project (BRIP)

[EXHIBIT\(jlh17a20\)](#)

10:05:58 Chair Hopkins

10:06:03 Rep. Hamilton

10:06:26 Robbie Neihart, BRIP

10:07:07 Rep. Hamilton

10:07:23 Robbie Neihart, BRIP

10:08:05 Rep. Hamilton

10:08:32 Robbie Neihart, BRIP

10:09:20 Chair Hopkins

10:09:50 Brief Recess

10:24:46 Reconvened

10:24:48 Chair Hopkins

10:24:54 Lindsay Volpe, DNRC

[EXHIBIT\(jlh17a21\)](#)

10:25:39 Robbie Neihart, Petrolia Irrigation District (PID)

[EXHIBIT\(jlh17a22\)](#)

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10:28:35 Chair Hopkins  
10:28:48 Rep. Hamilton  
10:29:16 Robbie Neihart, PID  
10:29:59 Chair Hopkins  
10:30:02 Rep. Hamilton  
10:30:13 Robbie Neihart, PID  
10:30:48 Rep. Hamilton  
10:31:18 Robbie Neihart, PID  
10:31:30 Chair Hopkins  
10:32:03 Lindsay Volpe, DNRC

[EXHIBIT\(jlh17a23\)](#)

10:32:44 Robbie Neihart, Alfalfa Valley Irrigation District (AVID)

[EXHIBIT\(jlh17a24\)](#)

10:34:50 Chair Hopkins  
10:35:10 Robbie Neihart, AVID  
10:35:46 Chair Hopkins  
10:35:53 Lindsay Volpe, DNRC

[EXHIBIT\(jlh17a25\)](#)

10:36:40 Robbie Neihart, Malta Irrigation District (MID)

[EXHIBIT\(jlh17a26\)](#)

10:38:41 Chair Hopkins  
10:39:01 Robbie Neihart, MID  
10:39:29 Chair Hopkins  
10:39:38 Lindsay Volpe DNRC

[EXHIBIT\(jlh17a27\)](#)

10:40:23 Matt Selvig, WWC Engineering  
10:42:48 Chair Hopkins  
10:43:13 Lindsay Volpe, DNRC

[EXHIBIT\(jlh17a28\)](#)

10:44:17 Shawn Higley, Glen Lake Irrigation District (GLID)  
10:47:03 Chair Hopkins  
10:47:11 Vice Chair Cuffe  
10:49:48 Shawn Higley, GLID  
10:50:31 Vice Chair Cuffe  
10:50:50 Shawn Higley, GLID  
10:51:21 Vice Chair Cuffe  
10:51:45 Shawn Higley, GLID  
10:52:02 Vice Chair Cuffe  
10:52:11 Rep. Hamilton  
10:52:24 Shawn Higley, GLID  
10:52:36 Rep. Hamilton  
10:53:13 Shawn Higley, GLID  
10:53:56 Rep. Hamilton

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10:54:35 Shawn Higley, GLID  
10:54:40 Chair Hopkins  
10:54:57 Lindsay Volpe, DNRC

[EXHIBIT\(jlh17a29\)](#)

10:55:48 Chair Hopkins  
10:55:51 Molly Davidson, Hysham Irrigation District (HID)  
10:57:48 Chair Hopkins  
10:57:53 Bart Icopini, Hysham Irrigation District (HID)  
10:59:23 Chair Hopkins  
10:59:31 Rep. Hamilton  
11:00:02 Molly Davidson, HID  
11:00:53 Chair Hopkins  
11:01:11 Lindsay Volpe, DNRC

[EXHIBIT\(jlh17a30\)](#)

11:01:59 Scott Aspenlieder, Huntley Project Irrigation District (HPID)  
11:05:30 Chair Hopkins  
11:05:42 Ray Beck, Yellowstone County Conservation District (YCCD)  
11:06:08 Chair Hopkins  
11:06:13 Rep. Hamilton  
11:06:22 Scott Aspenlieder, HPID  
11:07:39 Chair Hopkins  
11:07:58 Lindsay Volpe, DNRC

[EXHIBIT\(jlh17a31\)](#)

11:08:54 Chair Hopkins  
11:08:58 Holly Phelps, Lewistown City Manager  
11:10:51 Chair Hopkins  
11:11:16 Lindsay Volpe, DNRC32

[EXHIBIT\(jlh17a32\)](#)

11:11:57 Chair Hopkins  
11:11:59 Scott Aspenlieder, Paradise Valley Irrigation District (PVID)  
11:14:40 Chair Hopkins  
11:15:02 Lindsay Volpe, DNRC

[EXHIBIT\(jlh17a33\)](#)

11:18:59 Chair Hopkins  
11:19:42 Dan Rostad, self  
11:22:58 Chair Hopkins  
11:23:06 Rep. Hamilton  
11:24:45 Chair Hopkins  
11:25:28 Tracy Wendt, Sun River Watershed Group (SRWG)

[EXHIBIT\(jlh17a34\)](#)

11:29:12 Clayton Elliot, Trout Unlimited (TU)  
11:30:41 Chair Hopkins  
11:31:04 Ed Lieser, self

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11:34:48 Chair Hopkins  
11:34:58 Jeffrey Tiberi, Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD)  
11:35:49 Chair Hopkins  
11:36:08 Ethan Kunard, Montana Watershed Coordination Council (MWCO)  
11:38:02 Chair Hopkins  
11:38:14 Sarah Peck, Black Eagle/Cascade County Water Sewer District  
11:47:38 Chair Hopkins

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 11:48:21

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Jamie Bonilla, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([jlh17aad.pdf](#))