

Minutes of the Standing Committee
on
Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs

Wednesday, February 18, 2009

1:00 p.m.

Room 110, Farnum Building

The Senate Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs was called to order by Senator Patricia Birkholz, Chair.

Matthew Durfee led the members of the committee in the recital of the *Pledge of Allegiance to the flag*.

The Clerk called the roll; **members present were Senators Birkholz, Van Woerkom, Patterson, Basham and Gleason. (5/5)**

The Chair recognized the Michigan State University's Environmental Policy Making in Michigan students.

The Chair laid before the committee the minutes of January 28, 2009.

Senator Van Woerkom moved to adopt the minutes of January 28, 2009 as printed.

Senator Patterson supported the motion.

The motion prevailed by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members appointed to and serving on the committee, voting as follows:

Yeas: Senators Birkholz, Van Woerkom, Patterson, Basham and Gleason, (5/5)

Nays: None. (0)

The Chair laid before the committee Senate Bill 256.

Senate Bill No. 256, entitled

A bill to authorize local units of government to create storm water utilities; to permit the establishment and collection of storm water utility fees and storm water system development charges; to provide for the allocation to property of the costs of planning, constructing, operating, maintaining, financing, and administering storm water systems; to authorize the adoption of storm water utility ordinances; to provide for credits, exemptions, and appeals; and to prescribe the powers and duties of certain local governmental officers and entities.

Senator Patty Birkholz, the bill sponsor, explained the bill to the committee members.

Bob Wilson, Senate Majority Policy Analyst, explained the sections of the bill to the committee members.

Chuck Hersey, representing SEMCOG, testified in support of the legislation. Following his testimony, Mr. Hersey responded to questions from committee members.

Evan Pratt, representing the American Public Works Association, answered a member's questions. Mr. Pratt submitted a testimony card in support of the bill, but did not wish to testify.

Randy Gross, representing the Michigan Manufacturers Association, testified in opposition to the legislation. Mr. Gross addressed questions from committee members following his testimony.

The following individuals submitted testimony cards in support of the bill, but did not wish to testify:

Carol Linteau, Legislative Liaison to the Department of Environmental Quality;
William Creal, Chief of the Water Bureau in the Department of Environmental Quality;
Shawn Keenan, representing the City of Auburn Hills;
Donald Stypula, representing Grand Valley Metro Council;
Mark TenBroek, representing CDM Michigan, Inc.;
David Worthams, representing the Michigan Municipal League;
Craig Hupy, representing the City of Ann Arbor;
Allen Bryant, representing Delhi Charter Township;
Todd Sneathen, representing the City of East Lansing;
Roger Moore, representing the City of Rochester Hills;
Fred Cowles, representing the Michigan Water Environment Association;
Raymond Severy, representing Meridian Charter Township;
Sandra Diorka, representing Delhi Charter Township;
Haris Alibasic, representing the City of Grand Rapids;
Dave Nyberg, representing Michigan United Conservation Clubs; and
Tom Frazier, representing Michigan Townships Association.

George Carr, representing the Huron Clinton Metro Authority, submitted a testimony card stating his organization is neutral at this time and is working on amendments.

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There being no other business before the committee; **Senator Patterson moved to adjourn the meeting.**

Senator Van Woerkom supported the motion.

The motion prevailed; the time being 2:16 p.m.

Patricia L. Birkholz, Chair

Senate Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs

Joy A. E. Brewer, Committee Clerk

Date approved by the committee