

Minutes of the Standing Committee  
on  
**Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs**

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Wednesday, March 11, 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.

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Jordon Hankwitz, Legislative Aide to Senator Van Woerkom, led the members of the committee in the recital of the *Pledge of Allegiance to the flag*.

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The Clerk called the roll; **members present were Senators Birkholz, Van Woerkom, Basham and Gleason. (4/5)**

**Member absent and excused was Senator Patterson. (1/50)**

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The Chair laid before the committee the minutes of February 18, 2009.

**Senator Van Woerkom moved to adopt the minutes of February 18,, 2009 as printed.**

**Senator Basham supported the motion.**

**There being no objection the motion prevailed by unanimous consent; the minutes were adopted as printed.**

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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 Van Woerkom moved to adopt the substitute (S-1) for Senate Bill 256.**

**Senator Basham 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, Basham and Gleason, (4/5)**

**Nays: None. (0)**

Bob Wilson, Senate Majority Policy Analyst, explained the substitute (S-1) for Senate Bill 256 to the committee members.

Senator Birkholz updated the committee with a brief history on the legislation.

Chuck Hersey, representing SEMCOG, testified in support of the bill. Following his testimony, Mr. Hersey responded to questions from committee members. A copy of his handout is attached to the report-out-file for the bill.

Lee Schwartz, representing the Michigan Association of Home Builders, expressed his concerns with the bill as written.

David Pierson, attorney for the Michigan Association of Home Builders, explained his suggested amendments to Senate Bill 256 (S-1). A copy of his suggested amendments is attached to the report-out-file for the bill.

Randy Gross, representing the Michigan Manufacturers Association, testified in opposition to the legislation. A copy of his written testimony is attached to the report-out-file for the bill.

Ed Noyola, representing the County Road Association of Michigan, submitted a testimony card stating he did not wish to testify and he is opposing the bill until it has been reviewed by his CRAM members.

David Worthams, representing the Michigan Municipal League, submitted a testimony card in support of the bill, but did not wish to testify.

John Griffin, representing the Associated Petroleum Industries, submitted a testimony in opposition to the bill, but did not wish to testify.

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The Chair laid before the committee Senate Bill 280.

**Senate Bill No. 280, entitled**

A bill to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled "Natural resources and environmental protection act," by amending section 41301 (MCL 324.41301), as amended by 2005 PA 77.

Senator Van Woerkom, the bill sponsor, explained the bill to the committee members.

Dan Eichinger, Legislative Liaison for the Department of Natural Resources, submitted a testimony card in support of the bill, but did not wish to testify.

Rebecca Park, representing Michigan Farm Bureau and Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association, submitted a testimony in support of Senate Bill 280, but did not wish to testify.

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**Senator Basham moved to excuse Senator Patterson from today's committee meeting.**

**Senator Van Woerkom supported the motion.**

**There being no objection, the motion prevailed by unanimous consent; the member was excused.**

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

**Senator Van Woerkom supported the motion.**

The motion prevailed; the time being 1:55 p.m.

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Patricia L. Birkholz, Chair

Senate Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs

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Joy A. E. Brewer, Committee Clerk

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Date approved by the committee