



**MEMBERS:**

SEN. PHIL PAVLOV, VICE CHAIRMAN  
SEN. MIKE GREEN  
SEN. MIKE KOWALL  
SEN. ARLAN MEEKHOF  
SEN. REBEKAH WARREN, MINORITY VICE CHAIR  
SEN. MORRIS HOOD III

**THE SENATE**  
**COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,**  
**ENVIRONMENT AND GREAT LAKES**  
**SENATOR TOM CASPERSON**  
**CHAIRMAN**

705 FARNUM  
P.O. BOX 30036  
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7536  
PHONE: (517) 373-7840  
FAX: (517) 373-3932

**Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Environment and Great Lakes**  
**Minutes**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Environment and Great Lakes was held Thursday, May 2, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 210 of the Farnum Building.

The meeting was called to order at 8:34 a.m.

Members present: Senators Caspersen, Pavlov, Green, Kowall, Meekhof, Warren, Hood

Members excused: none

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Senator Caspersen called the meeting to order and led committee and audience members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Senators Green and Hood entered the room at 8:35 a.m.

Senator Meekhof moved to adopt the minutes from April 25, 2013 with unanimous consent. Without objection, the minutes were adopted.

Senator Kowall moved to excuse absent members. Without objection, absent members were excused.

Senator Caspersen announced the order of business for the day:

- SB 163 Sen. Green Natural resources; wetlands; permit exemptions for wetlands and inland lakes and streams; revise, and require more information from department justifying denial of any part 13 permits.

Senator Caspersen placed before the committee Senate Bill 163 (Sen. Green) for testimony only. Senator Green explained the bill to committee members and answered questions.

Senator Hood left the committee room 8:59 a.m.

The following people testified on Senate Bill 163 and answered questions from committee members:

- Director Dan Wyant & Maggie Datema, Department of Environmental Quality—Support
- Brian Sweetland, citizen—Oppose
- Gary Dawson & Kathy Wilson, Consumers Energy—Support (substitute)
- Dorance Amos, Amos Farms LLC—Oppose
- Doug Enos (President) & Stacy Hissong (Legal Counsel), Michigan Association of County Drain Commissioners—Oppose (as introduced)
- Russell Talaski, Talaski Farm Tiling Inc.—Oppose
- Dennis Heffron, Heffron Farms—Oppose
- Rob Cook, Cook Brothers Farms—Oppose

Senator Pavlov entered the committee room at 9:18 a.m.

Senator Meekhof left the committee room at 9:31 a.m.

Senator Warren left the committee room at 9:38 a.m.

Senator Casperson announced that, due to time constraints, those still wishing to speak would be given the opportunity to do so at the next committee meeting on the bill. They are as follows:

- Susan Harley, Clean Water Action—Oppose (without changes)
- Mike Newman & Ken Vermeulen, Michigan Aggregates Association—Neutral
- Jason Geer, Michigan Chamber of Commerce—Support
- James Clift, Michigan Environmental Council—Oppose
- Matt Smego, Michigan Farm Bureau—No position

The following people submitted cards, but did not wish to testify, on Senate Bill 163:

- David Jedele, Lloyd & David Jedele LLC—Oppose
- Mike Cook, Soil & Water Management Systems—Oppose
- Steven Drake, Drakeian Farms LLC—Oppose
- Mark Blumenauer, Blumenauer Farms—Oppose
- Will Word, Word Farm Drainage—Oppose
- Nicole Nystrom, Hud Bay—Support
- Nicole Nystrom, Orvana Minderals—Support
- Lee Schwartz, Michigan Homebuilders Association—Supports keeping delegated authority in Michigan

There being no further business before the committee, Senator Casperson adjourned the committee without objection at 9:52 a.m.

Date Approved by Committee: May 16, 2013

\*\*An audio recording of this committee meeting is available upon request for a minimal fee.