



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

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MINUTES

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Environment, and Great Lakes held a meeting on Thursday, March 13, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 210 of the Farnum Building.

Senator Casperson called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Attendance was recorded as follows:

Present: Senators Casperson (C), Pavlov, Green, Kowall, Meekhof, Warren

Absent: None

Excused: Senator Hood

Senator Casperson announced the following order of business:

- Adoption of the minutes from the March 6, 2014 meeting
- SB 613 Sen. Boohar Natural resources; wildlife; game killed by a vehicle; allow salvaging of.
- HB 5107 Rep. Graves Natural resources; inland lakes; repair or replacement of a failed seawall; provide for a minor permit category.
- A discussion on the Qualified Forest Program highlighting the results of recent changes in the law

Senator Casperson led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Senator Green made a motion to adopt the minutes from the March 6, 2014 meeting; being no objection, the motion carried.

Senator Meekhof made a motion to excuse absent members; being no objection, the motion carried.

Senator Casperson announced the next order of business was a discussion on the Qualified Forest Program to review the results of recent changes in the law.

The following individuals testified before members:

- Rich Harlow & Steve Shine, MI Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Rick Lucas, Osceola, Lake & Mecosta Conservation District

The following individuals testified via video conferencing:

- Matt Watkeys, Alger & Marquette Conservation District Forester
- A.J. Cambell & Celie Borndal, Iron & Baraga Conservation District Foresters
- Rory Mattson, Delta & Schoolcraft Conservation District Forester

Senator Casperson announced Senate Bill 613 was the next order of business and advised members there was an S-2 before them. He reminded members testimony had been taken at the February 27 and March 6 meetings. Senator Booher and Kara Butters, his legislative aide, gave an overview of the changes in the S-2 version and were available to answer questions.

The following individual testified before the members regarding SB 613:

- Sgt. Dwayne Gill, MI Department of Natural Resources—has concerns, no position taken

The following individuals submitted testimony cards to indicate their position on SB 613 but did not wish to speak:

- Nicole Cook, MI Department of Natural Resources—no position taken, has concerns
- Matt Evans, MI United Conservation Corps—Neutral, with concerns

Being no further testimony, Senator Meekhof made a motion to adopt the S-2 version of Senate Bill 613.

Yeas: Senators Casperson (C), Pavlov, Green, Kowall, Meekhof, and Warren

Nays: none

Pass: none

Senator Pavlov made a motion to report the S-2 version of Senate Bill 613 with recommendation that the bill pass.

Yeas: Senators Casperson (C), Pavlov, Green, Kowall, Meekhof, and Warren

Nays: none

Pass: none

Senator Casperson moved to recommend immediate effect for Senate Bill 613. Without objection the committee further recommended that the bill be given immediate effect by unanimous consent.

Senator Casperson announced House Bill 5107 was the next order of business, and reminded members testimony had been taken on this bill at the March 6, 2014 meeting.

The following individuals submitted testimony cards to indicate their position on House Bill 5107 but did not wish to speak:

- Kim Fish, MI Department of Environmental Quality—Support

Senator Meekhof made a motion to report House Bill 5107 with recommendation that the bill pass.

Yeas: Senators Casperson (C), Pavlov, Green, Kowall, Meekhof, and Warren

Nays: none

Pass: none

Senator Casperson moved to recommend immediate effect for House Bill 5107. Without objection the committee further recommended that the bill be given immediate effect by unanimous consent.

Being no further business, Senator Casperson adjourned the meeting at 9:51 a.m., without objection.

Date Adopted by Committee: March 20, 2014

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