



Water Policy Interim Committee

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65th Montana Legislature

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JASON MOHR, Lead Staff
ERIN BILLS, Legal Staff
NADINE SPENCER, Secretary

DRAFT AGENDA (as of Feb. 20, 2018)

WATER POLICY INTERIM COMMITTEE

Room 172, STATE CAPITOL

March 5, 2018

AGENDA TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE

Monday, March 5

8 a.m. Call to order

- Roll call
- Approval of January, 2018, and February, 2018 minutes

8:10 a.m. Study of exempt groundwater wells

- Updated permit and exemption data
 - DNRC
- Update on Vision2020
 - Steve Candler, CEO, Gallatin Association of Realtors
- Application of groundwater policy principals to other legislative proposals
 - Andrew Gorder, legal director, Clark Fork Coalition
- Follow-up on MAR 36-22-196
 - Ms. Bills
- Public comment
- Committee questions and discussion

10:15 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. Montana forests: Issues of climate and law

- Summary of water, forest issues from Montana Climate Assessment
 - Whitney Lonsdale, interim director, Montana Water Center
- Overview of Federal laws Related to Management of USFS Lands: Implications for Water Supplies and Water Availability in Montana
 - John Bloomquist, attorney, Bloomquist Law Firm, P.C.
- Public comment
- Committee questions and discussion

11:30 a.m. Biennial report from the Renewable Resources Grant and Loan Program (85-1-621, MCA)

- Alice Stanley, Resources Development Bureau chief (DNRC)
- Public comment
- Committee questions and discussion

Noon Lunch

- 1 p.m. **Proposed legislation from the Adjudication Advisory Committee**
- Holly Franz, committee member and attorney, Franz & Driscoll
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions and discussion
- 1:30 p.m. **Update on SB325 rules**
- Tim Davis, Water Division administrator (DEQ)
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions and discussion
- 2 p.m. **Response to WPIC letter of Northwest Power and Conservation Council)**
- Tim Baker, council member, Montana office (NPCC)
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions and discussion
- 2:15 p.m. **Study of the process of changing a water right: Implementation of HB40 (2009)**
- Jan Langel, Water Resources Division administrator (DNRC)
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions and discussion
- 2:45 p.m. **Break**
- 3 p.m. **Update from Governor's Drought and Water Supply Advisory Committee**
- Michael Downey, Water Planning Section supervisor (DNRC)
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions and discussion
- 3:30 p.m. **Report from Upper Clark Fork River Basin Steering Committee (85-2-338, MCA)**
- Maureen Connor, committee member
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions and discussion
- 3:45 p.m. **Program evaluation: Water Resources Division (DNRC)**
- Mr. Mohr
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions and discussion
- 4 p.m. **Administrative matters**
- Budget overview – Mr. Mohr
 - Administrative rule review – Ms. Bills
 - Instructions to staff
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions and discussion
- 4:15 p.m. **Public comment on any issue within the jurisdiction of the WPIC**
- 4:30 p.m. **Adjourn**

Meeting attendees who may need services or accommodations should contact Jason Mohr (406-444-1640 or jasonmohr@mt.gov) at least 5 working days before the meeting.