



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

FINAL AGENDA

WATER POLICY INTERIM COMMITTEE

Room 172, STATE CAPITOL

Oct. 9-10, 2017

AGENDA TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE

Monday, Oct. 9

10 a.m. Call to order

- Roll call
- Introduction of new committee attorney
- Approval of minutes from July/August, 2017

10:10 a.m. Update from Environmental Quality Council

- Joe Kolman, environmental analyst, LEPO

10:30 a.m. Status of CSKT water rights settlement

- Arne Wick, supervisor, Compact Implementation Section (DNRC)
- Public comment
- Committee questions and discussion

11 a.m. Water right adjudication update (85-2-281, MCA)

- John Peterson, bureau chief, Water Adjudication Bureau (DNRC)
- Hon. Russ McElyea, chief water judge, Montana Water Court
- Public comment
- Committee questions and discussion

11:30 a.m. Improvements to Montana's water quality: Follow up on historical Helena Valley nutrient levels

- Tim Davis, administrator, Water Quality Division (DEQ)
- Public comment
- Committee questions and discussion

Noon Lunch

1 p.m. Update from Clark Fork and Kootenai River Basins Council

- Jennifer Schoonen, council member
- Verdell Jackson, council member
- Public comment
- Committee questions and discussion

1:15 p.m. **Update on SB325 (2015) implementation**

- Tim Davis, administrator, Water Quality Division (DEQ)
- Public comment
- Committee questions and discussion

2 p.m. **Aquatic Invasive Species update**

- Thomas Woolf, chief, AIS Bureau (FWP)
- Public comment
- Committee questions and discussion

2:30 p.m. **Letter to Bonneville Power Administration re: AIS efforts**

- Rep. Zach Brown
- Public comment
- Committee questions and discussion

3 p.m. **Drought, water supply, and wildfire outlook**

- Jan Langel, administrator, Water Resources Division (DNRC)
- Public comment
- Committee questions and discussion

4 p.m. **Recess** for day

Tuesday, Oct. 10

8 a.m. **Reconvene**

8:05 a.m. **Study of exempt groundwater wells**

- Effects of court ruling on use of exemption in development – Mr. Mohr
- Proposed DNRC administrative rules
 - Ms. Bills
 - Brian Bramblett, deputy chief legal counsel for water, DNRC
- Panel of opponents to HB339 (2017)
 - Brian Bramblett, deputy chief legal counsel for water, DNRC
 - Tim Burton, executive director, League of Cities and Towns
 - Andrew Gorder, legal director, Clark Fork Coalition
 - Brian Ohs, Southwest Montana coordinator, Montana Trout Unlimited
- Public comment
- Committee questions and discussion

10 a.m. **Break**

10:15 a.m. **Federal renewal of National Flood Insurance Program**

- Steve Story, bureau chief, Water Operations Bureau (DNRC)
- Public comment
- Committee questions and discussion

10:45 a.m. **Report on temporary leasing of water rights** (85-2-427, MCA)

- Millie Heffner, bureau chief, Water Rights Bureau (DNRC)
- Public comment
- Committee questions and discussion

11 a.m. **Study of the process for changing a water right**

- Description of current change process
 - Brian Bramblett, deputy chief legal counsel for water, DNRC
 - Millie Heffner, bureau chief, Water Rights Bureau (DNRC)
- Public comment
- Committee questions and discussion

12:30 p.m. **Lunch**

1:30 p.m. **Follow up on 2015-16 WPIC report:** *Considerations for the future of water rights*

- Mr. Mohr
- Public comment
- Committee questions and discussion

2 p.m. **Approval of revised work plan**

- Overview – Mr. Mohr
- Public comment
- Committee questions and discussion

2:30 p.m. **Administrative matters**

- Budget overview – Mr. Mohr
 - Memo to committee re: 17-7-140, MCA, budget reductions
- Overview of proposed reductions to Water Resources Division (DNRC)
 - Jan Langel, administrator, Water Resources Division (DNRC)
 - Tim Davis, administrator, Water Quality Division (DNRC)
- Instructions to staff
- Public comment
- Committee questions and discussion

2:45 p.m. **Public comment on any issue within the jurisdiction of the WPIC**

3 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.