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Water Policy Interim Committee

63rd Montana Legislature

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FINAL AGENDA

WATER POLICY INTERIM COMMITTEE

State Capitol, Room 137

July 8, 2014

AGENDA ITEM TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE

Tuesday, July 8

- 8 a.m. **Call to Order** - Sen. Vincent
- Roll Call
 - Approval of minutes from June 2013 WPIC
- 8:05 p.m. HJ26 ditch easement study: Review of draft report (*Tab 1*)
- Mr. Mohr
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion, and action, if any
- 8:25 a.m. Adjudication update (85-2-281, MCA) (*Tab 2*)
- John Peterson, chief, Water Adjudication Bureau, DNRC
 - Russ McElyea, chief water judge, Montana Water Court
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion, and action, if any
- 8:40 a.m. Annual report from Clark Fork River Basin Task Force (85-2-350, MCA) (*Tab 3*)
- Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion, and action, if any
 - Review of statutorily required reports: Recommendation to EQC (5-5-215, MCA)
- 9 a.m. Annual report from nutrient work group (75-5-313, MCA) (*Tab 4*)
- George Mathieu, administrator, Planning, Prevention and Assistance Division, Department of Environmental Quality
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion, and action, if any
 - Review of statutorily required reports: Recommendation to EQC (5-5-215, MCA)

- 9:15 a.m. Biennial report on Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) (75-5-703, MCA) (Tab 5)
 •Mark Bostrom, bureau chief, Water Quality Protection Bureau, DEQ
 •Committee questions, discussion, and action, if any
 •Review of statutorily required reports: Recommendation to EQC (5-5-215, MCA)
- 9:30 a.m. Agency rulemaking update (Tab 6)
 •Ms. Thigpen
 •Public comment
 •Committee questions, discussion, and action, if any
- 9:40 a.m. Break
- 9:50 a.m. Proposed federal administrative rule: Definition of "Waters of the U.S." (Tab 8)
 •Julia McCarthy, environmental/life scientist, Environmental Protection Agency (via phone)
 •Karen Hamilton, chief, Aquatic Resource Protection and Accountability Unit, EPA
 •John Tubbs, director, DNRC
 •Public comment
 •Committee questions, discussion, and action, if any
- 10:50 a.m. State Water Plan update: Final basin recommendations (85-1-203, MCA) (Tab 7)
 •Tim Davis, administrator, Water Resources Division, DNRC (via phone)
 •Public comment
 •Committee questions, discussion, and action, if any
- 11:20 a.m. Discussion of budget issues for water rights adjudication process
 •Beth McLaughlin, court administrator, Office of Court Administrator
 •Public comment
 •Committee questions, discussion, and action, if any
- Noon Lunch
- 1 p.m. Future of the Water Court: Identifying policy issues (Tab 9)
 •Russ McElyea, chief water judge, Montana Water Court
 •Public comment
 •Committee questions, discussion, and action, if any
- 2 p.m. Proposed federal directives: Best management practices for water quality protection on forest service lands, Groundwater resource management (Tab 10)
 •Eric Johnston, assistant regional director for renewable resources, U.S. Forest Service (via phone)
 •Public comment
 •Committee questions, discussion, and action, if any

- 2:30 p.m. Update from CSKT compact technical working group
•John Metesh, director, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology
•Public comment
•Committee questions, discussion, and action, if any
- 3:30 p.m. Break
- 3:45 p.m. Proposed CSKT reserved water rights settlement: Unitary management ordinance
(Tab 11)
•Melissa Hornbein, Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission
•Jon Metropoulos, counsel, Flathead Joint Board of Control
•Public comment
•Committee questions, discussion, and action, if any
- 5 p.m. Public Comment on any issue within the jurisdiction of the WPIC
- 5:10 p.m. Other business
- 5:20 p.m. Administrative matters
•Revisions to work plan, if necessary
•Budget update
•Identification of areas where more information is needed
•Instructions to staff
- 5:30 p.m. Adjourn

NOTE: Meeting materials available online: <http://leg.mt.gov/water>

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