



Water Policy Interim Committee

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63rd Montana Legislature

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COMMITTEE STAFF

JASON MOHR, Lead Staff
HELEN THIGPEN, Staff Attorney
NADINE SPENCER, Secretary

Draft agenda WATER POLICY INTERIM COMMITTEE

State Capitol, Room 172
Oct. 29-30, 2014

Agenda item times are approximate

Wednesday, Oct. 29

- 9 a.m. Call to Order – Sen. Vincent
Roll Call
Approval of minutes from Sept. 2014
- 9:05 a.m. Review of proposed committee bill drafts
- Staff overview
 - LC wpcA: Study future water rights administration (*Tab 1*)
 - LC wpcB: Increase funding for GWIP (*Tab 2*)
 - LC wpcC: Reallocating Metal Mines license tax (*Tab 3*)
 - LC wpcD: Filing of exempt water rights claims (*Tab 4*)
 - LC wpic: Expanding WPIC duties (*Tab 5*)
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion, and action, if any
- 10:15 a.m. Review of statutorily required reports (5-5-215, MCA)
- Hydroelectric potential report
 - Report of temporary leases of appropriation right
 - Committee questions, discussion, and action
- 10:30 a.m. Update on limited renegotiations of proposed CSKT water rights settlement
- Melissa Hornbein, attorney, Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion, and action, if any
- 11 a.m. Additional perspectives on proposed CSKT water rights settlement (*Tab 6*)
- Rep. Nancy Ballance
 - Rep. Keith Regier
 - Jay F. Stein, attorney, Montana Land and Water Alliance

- Flathead Joint Board of Control
- Public comment
- Committee questions, discussion, and action, if any

Noon Lunch

- 1 p.m. Discussion of “court of competent jurisdiction,” as referred to in proposed CSKT water rights compact
- Helen Thigpen, attorney, Legal Services Office (Legislative Services Division)
 - Melissa Hornbein, attorney, Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion, and action, if any

- 2 p.m. Use of “net power revenues” for FIIP improvements
- Mr. Mohr
 - John Swenson, irrigator
 - Rhonda Swaney, attorney, CSKT Legal Services
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion, and action, if any

- 3 p.m. Committee recommendations to RWRCC
- Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion, and action, if any

5 p.m. Recess for the day. Reconvene at 8 a.m.

Thursday, Oct. 30

8 a.m. Reconvene

8:05 a.m. Committee recommendations to RWRCC (continued)

- 9 a.m. Final action on preintroduction of committee bill drafts
- LC wpcA: Study future water rights administration
 - LC wpcB: Increase funding for GWIP
 - LC wpcC: Reallocating Metal Mines license tax
 - LC wpcD: Filing of exempt water rights claims
 - LC wpic: Expanding WPIC duties
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion, and action, if any

- 10 a.m. Selection of bill sponsors to carry any committee legislation
- 10:30 a.m. Discussion of recent district court ruling on exempt wells
- Helen Thigpen, attorney, LSO (LSD)
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion, and action, if any
- 11 a.m. Public comment on any issue within the jurisdiction of the WPIC
- 11:15 a.m. Other business
- 11:30 a.m. Adjourn