

## LEGISLATIVE ACTION

AGENCY: ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

PROGRAM: WATER POLICY COMMITTEE

BUDGET ITEM	FY 1986	Fiscal 1988			Fiscal 1989			FY 86-88
	Actual	Executive	Legislature	Difference	Executive	Legislature	Difference	% Change
FTE	0.00	0.25	0.25	0.00	0.25	0.25	0.00	0.25
Personal Services	\$ 4,068	\$ 4,800	\$ 2,400	\$(2,400)	\$0	\$ 2,400	\$ 2,400	-41.00
Operating Expenses	6,855	21,400	48,200	26,800	0	48,200	48,200	603.14
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<u>\$10,923</u>	<u>\$26,200</u>	<u>\$50,600</u>	<u>\$24,400</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$50,600</u>	<u>\$50,600</u>	<u>363.24</u>
STATE SPECIAL REVENUE	<u>\$10,923</u>	<u>\$26,200</u>	<u>\$50,600</u>	<u>\$24,400</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$50,600</u>	<u>\$50,600</u>	<u>363.24</u>

**Program Description:** The Water Policy Committee was created statutorily by the Forty-ninth Legislature. The committee's duties include advising the legislature on the adequacy of the state's water policy and of important state, regional, national, and international developments relating to Montana's water resources; overseeing the policies and activities of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and other entities as they relate to water management; analyzing and commenting on the state water plan, the water development program, water research, and water data management system; and reporting to the legislature each biennium.

**Budget:** The entire budget is a biennial appropriation, but is distributed equally in each year of the biennium in the table above for comparison purposes. The biennial budget is identical to that of the previous biennium, except for the addition of \$75,000 for a biennial water adjudication study. The Water Policy Committee is to use the water adjudication study funds to contract with independent consultants for the analysis and review of the water adjudication process, including the role of both the Department of Natural Resources and the Water Courts, and to recommend necessary changes to the process. The 0.25 FTE increase is due to assignment of a 0.25 FTE to the Water Policy Committee, and does not represent an actual position increase.

**Funding:** Funding for the general operations of Water Policy Committee is derived from the Resource Indemnity Trust State Special Revenue Account. The water adjudication study is funded by the Water Development State Special Revenue Account.

**Difference From Executive:** The legislature adjusted the original agency request for the \$75,000 water adjudication study.