



Water Policy Interim Committee

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66th Montana Legislature

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JASON MOHR, Lead staff
CORINA HACH, Staff attorney
NADINE SPENCER, Secretary

FINAL AGENDA

WATER POLICY INTERIM COMMITTEE

Room 172, State Capitol Building

March 9-10, 2020

AGENDA TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE

Monday, March 9

1 p.m. Call to order

- Roll call

1:05 p.m. HJ14: Study of the future of the Water Court (Tab 7)

- Review of study progress--Mr. Mohr
- Proposal by Montana Water Court--Hon. Judge Russ McElyea
- Proposal by Department of Natural Resources and Conservation--Laura Rennick, Water Resources Division operations manager (DNRC)
- Public comment
- Committee discussion

2:30 p.m. Break

2:45 p.m. HJ40: Study of weather modification (Tab 8)

- Review of study progress--Mr. Mohr
- Regional weather modification laws--Mr. Mohr
- Weather modification program start-up costs--Michael Downey, Water Planning Section Supervisor (DNRC)
- Cost of programmatic EIS--Mr. Downey
- Presence of silver iodide in Montana waterways--Galen Steffens, Water Quality Planning Bureau chief (DEQ)
- Draft legislation--Mr. Mohr
- Public comment
- Committee discussion

4 p.m. Recess

Tuesday, March 10

8:30 a.m. Reconvene

8:35 a.m. Geocoding and the water rights database

- Summary of March 2 subcommittee meeting--Mr. Mohr
- Public comment
- Committee discussion

10 a.m. Examination of water right claims

- Benchmarks for reexamination, HB110 claims--Matt Murphy, water conservation specialist (DNRC)
- Public comment
- Committee discussion

11 a.m. Study of climate and water rights

- State storage options in State Water Plan--Jan Langel, Water Resources Division administrator (DNRC)
- Should change in "period of use" be criteria for 85-2-102 or 85-2-402?--Barbara Chillcott, DNRC attorney
- Public comment
- Committee discussion

Noon Lunch

1 p.m. Summary of 2020 Water Summit (Tab 9)

- Anne Schwend, water resources planner (DNRC)
- Public comment
- Committee discussion

1:30 p.m. Overview of recent water law decisions (Tab 10)

- Ms. Hach
- Public comment
- Committee discussion

2 p.m. Break

2:15 p.m. Discussion of next steps for HJ14

- Mr. Mohr
- Public comment
- Committee discussion

3 p.m. Discussion of next steps for HJ40

- Mr. Mohr
- Public comment
- Committee discussion

3:45 p.m. Public comment on any issue within the jurisdiction of the WPIC

4 p.m. Adjourn

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