



Water Policy Interim Committee

66th Montana Legislature

PO BOX 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706
(406) 444-3064
FAX (406) 444-3036

SENATE MEMBERS

JEFF WELBORN, Vice Chairman
JILL COHENOUR
BRUCE (BUTCH) GILLESPIE
JOHN SESSO

HOUSE MEMBERS

ZACH BROWN, Chairman
BOB BROWN
CARL GLIMM
BRADLEY MAXON HAMLETT
SHANE MORIGEAU
WALT SALES

COMMITTEE STAFF

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

FINAL AGENDA

WATER POLICY INTERIM COMMITTEE

Commissioners' Room
Beaverhead County Courthouse
2 S. Pacific St., Dillon, Mont.

Sept. 10-11, 2019

AGENDA TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE

Tuesday, Sept. 10

10 a.m. Call to order

- Roll call
- Review of planned activities – Mr. Mohr

10:10 a.m. Adoption of final work plan

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

10:20 a.m. Adoption of final committee rules

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

10:30 a.m. Finalize list of committee member topics for discussion during 2019-20 biennium

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

11 a.m. Adjudication update (85-2-281, MCA)

- Adjudication in the Beaverhead area
 - Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
 - Water Court
- Issues related to geocoding
 - Millie Heffner, Water Rights Bureau chief (DNRC)
- Public comment
- Committee discussion and action, if any

11:30 a.m. Update from stream gauge oversight work group (2-15-3308, MCA)

- DNRC
- Public comment
- Committee discussion and action, if any

Noon Lunch

12:30 p.m. Background discussion for HJ14 (Study of the future of the Water Court)

- Past WPIC efforts, Legal Services Office memos – Mr. Mohr
- Ross Report (1988) – Judge (ret.) John E. Thorson
- *Water Rights in Montana* (2014) – Michelle Bryan, Anders Blewett III School of Law (University of Montana)
- Public comment
- Committee discussion and determination of next steps

3 p.m. Update on HB286 (Revise water right laws related to state water claims)

- DNRC
- Public comment
- Committee discussion and action, if any

3:30 p.m. Update from governor's drought and water supply committee

- Micheal Downey, Water Planning Section supervisor (DNRC)
- Public comment
- Committee discussion and action

4 p.m. Background discussion for HJ40 (Study of weather modification)

- The need for weather modification – Jim Hagenbarth
- The science behind weather modification – Idaho Power
- Montana's policy for weather modification activities – Mr. Mohr
- Public comment
- Committee discussion and determination of next steps

6 p.m. Recess

Wednesday, Sept. 11

8 a.m. Reconvene

8:05 a.m. Background discussion for climate study

- Overview of Montana Climate Assessment – Wyatt Cross, director, Montana Water Center (Montana State University)
- Public comment
- Committee discussion and determination of next steps

9:30 a.m. Administrative matters

- Administrative rule update – Mr. Mohr
- Discussion of future meeting dates – Mr. Mohr
- Instructions to staff

9:45 a.m. Public comment on any issue within the jurisdiction of the WPIC

10 a.m. Adjourn and leave for field trip
(Committee members may join the Montana Watershed Coordinating Council field trip, departing at noon from the Copper King Hotel in Butte. Field trip stops include projects at French Creek, Oregon Creek, and Poindexter Slough.)

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.