



Water Policy Interim Committee

67th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

JILL COHENOUR
SHANE MORIGEAU
WALT SALES
JEFF WELBORN, presiding officer

HOUSE MEMBERS

WILLIS CURDY, vice-presiding officer
ROBERT FARRIS-OLSEN
TOM FRANCE
RHONDA KNUDSEN
MARTY MALONE
BOB PHALEN

COMMITTEE STAFF

JASON MOHR, lead staff
CORI HACH, legal staff
NADINE SPENCER, secretary

FINAL agenda (as of Jan. 14, 2022)

Water Policy Interim Committee

Jan. 18-19, 2022

Room 137

Agenda times are approximate

Tuesday, Jan. 18

1 p.m. Call to order

- Roll call
- Meeting overview—Mr. Mohr

1:05 p.m. A background on water rights: Where to go for relevant information

- Mr. Mohr
- Anna Pakenham Stevenson, administrator, Water Resources Division (DNRC)
- Hon. Steven R. Brown, assoc. water judge, Montana Water Court
- Public comment
- Committee discussion and action, if necessary

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

- Laura Hinck, adjudication supervisor (DNRC)
- Ms. Pakenham Stevenson
- Hon. Judge Brown
- Sara Calkins, administrator, Montana Water Court
- Public comment
- Committee discussion and action, if necessary

2:30 p.m. CSKT water rights compact: Establishment of Flathead Reservation Water Management Board

- Lt. Gov. Kristen Juras
- Ms. Pakenham Stevenson
- Public comment
- Committee discussion

3 p.m. Comprehensive Review of Water Administration and Management: Draft Key Water Challenges and Proposed Action Plans

- Lt. Gov. Juras
- Ms. Pakenham Stevenson
- Public comment
- Committee discussion and action, if necessary

3:30 p.m. Instream leasing report (85-2-436, MCA)

- Stephen R. Begley, water conservation specialist, Lands Division (FWP)
- Public comment
- Committee discussion and action, if necessary

4 p.m. Water storage in Wyoming: Wyoming Water Development Office

- Jason Mead, deputy director, Wyoming Water Development Office
- Public comment
- Committee discussion

4:30 p.m. U.S. Forest Service water reservations (85-20-1401, MCA)

- Arne Wick, manager, Compact Implementation Program (DNRC)
- USFS
- Public comment
- Committee discussion and action, if necessary

5 p.m. Recess

Wednesday, Jan. 19

8:30 a.m. Reconvene

8:35 a.m. Ground Water Investigation Program (85-2-525, MCA):
Prioritization of future projects

- Ginette Abdo, manager, Ground Water Investigation Program (MBMG)
- Public comment
- Committee discussion and action, if necessary

9 a.m. Study of Flathead River erosion (SJ28): Boat use estimates,
310/404 permits, bank stabilization, and historical maps and photos

- Mr. Mohr
- Samantha Tappenbeck, interim resource conservationist, Flathead Conservation District
- Public comment
- Committee discussion and action, if necessary

10 a.m. American Rescue Plan Act: Irrigation grants

- Autumn Coleman, chief, Resources Development Bureau (DNRC)
- Public comment
- Committee discussion and action, if necessary

10:30 a.m. Study of selenium standards for Lake Koocanusa (HJ37): Update
from Special Committee

- Sen. Sales
- Public comment
- Committee discussion and action, if necessary

10:45 a.m. Agency rulemaking update: Narrative nutrient standards (SB358)

- Joe Carroll, attorney, Legal Services Office (LSD)
- Amy Steinmetz, administrator, Water Quality Division (DEQ)
- Public comment
- Committee discussion and action, if necessary

11:30 a.m. Interim committee review of proposed ballot issue: Designation of
outstanding resource waters

- Mr. Carroll
- Public comment
- Committee discussion

11:55 a.m. Administrative matters

- Future meeting locations, dates
- Direction to staff

Noon Adjourn

Note: All meeting materials are available on the WPIC website at leg.mt.gov/water.

This meeting is open to the public. The meeting will be streamed live on www.leg.mt.gov and broadcast on the Montana Public Affairs Network (MPAN). An archived recording of the meeting will also be made immediately available on www.leg.mt.gov.

Members of the public who wish to participate via Zoom may do so. Requests to comment may be made on the committee meeting information page at <https://leg.mt.gov/committees/interim/wpic/meeting-info>. You will be sent instructions for joining and participating by 5 p.m. the day before.

During times set aside for public comment on the agenda, members of the public who have joined by Zoom may "raise their hand" and participate after being recognized by the presiding officer or Zoom manager. Comments will be taken in order. Written public comment may be sent via email in advance of the meeting to jasonmohr@mt.gov and will be provided to committee members. Any oral or written public comment provided to the committee is a public record that is recorded, archived, and available on the web.

The Montana Legislative Services Division will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this public meeting. For questions about accessibility or to request accommodations, please contact Jason Mohr (jasonmohr@mt.gov, (406)444-1640) as soon as possible before the meeting date.