



Water Policy Interim Committee

67th Montana Legislature

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TOM FRANCE
RHONDA KNUDSEN
MARTY MALONE
BOB PHALEN

COMMITTEE STAFF

JASON MOHR, Lead Staff
CORI HACH, Legal Staff
NADINE SPENCER, Secretary

FINAL agenda

Water Policy Interim Committee

July 14-15, 2021

Room 172

Agenda times are approximate

Wednesday, July 14

1 p.m. Call to order—Sen. Cohenour

- Roll call
- Committee member introductions
- Staff introductions

1:15 p.m. Committee overview—Mr. Mohr

1:30 p.m. Adoption of rules—Mr. Mohr

- Public comment
- Committee discussion and action

1:45 p.m. Election of WPIC presiding officer and vice-presiding officer

1:50 p.m. Review of 2021 water legislation—Mr. Mohr

2 p.m. Agency overviews of water-related programs

- Chris Dorrington, director, Department of Environmental Quality
- Hank Worsech, director, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
- Amanda Kaster, director, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
- Public comment
- Committee discussion

3 p.m. Discussion of litigation related to HB 286 (Revise water right laws related to state water claims (2019))

- Overview—Ms. Hach
- Public comment
- Committee discussion

3:30 p.m. Discussion of 2021-22 interim priorities

- Overview of work plan—Mr. Mohr
- Overview of administrative rulemaking—Ms. Hach
- Public comment, remote comments
- Committee discussion

4:30 p.m. Recess

Thursday, July 15

9 a.m. Water rights adjudication update (85-2-281, MCA)

- Matt Murphy, chief, Adjudication Bureau (DNRC)
- Hon. Russ McElyea, chief judge, Montana Water Court
- Public comment
- Committee discussion

9:30 a.m. Drought, water supply, and wildfire outlook

- Michael Downey, supervisor, Water Planning Section (DNRC)
- Sonya Germann, state forester (DNRC)
- Public comment
- Committee discussion

10 a.m. Update from Nutrient Work Group (SB 358 (Repeal numeric nutrient standards for water quality (2021)))

- George Mathieus, deputy director, DEQ
- Public comment
- Committee discussion

10:30 a.m. Water research (85-2-105, MCA)

- Whitney Lonsdale, assistant director, Montana Water Center (Montana St. University)
- John Metesh, state geologist and director, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology

11 a.m. Aquatic invasive species update

- Thomas Woolf, chief, AIS bureau (FWP)
- Public comment
- Committee discussion

11:30 a.m. Administrative matters

- Adoption of work plan
- Budget overview
- Adoption of WPIC meeting dates
- Committee contact information
- Public comment
- Committee discussion

11:45 Public comment on any issue within the jurisdiction of WPIC

Noon Adjourn