



# Water Policy Interim Committee

67th Montana Legislature

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## COMMITTEE STAFF

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

FINAL agenda

# Water Policy Interim Committee

Oct. 12-13, 2021

Room 317

Agenda times are approximate

## Tuesday, October 12

1 p.m. Call to order

- Roll call
- Meeting overview—Mr. Mohr

1:05 p.m. Adoption of final work plan (*Tab 1*)

- Mr. Mohr
  - Committee topics
  - Program review
  - Other oversight duties
- Public comment
- Committee discussion and action, if necessary

1:30 p.m. Drought and water supply update (*Tab 2*)

Update to 1995 Drought Plan

- Michael Downey, supervisor, Water Planning Section (DNRC)
- Public comment
- Committee discussion

2:15 p.m. Water storage in Montana (85-1-704, MCA) (*Tab 3*)

- Brian Holling, chief, Water Projects Bureau (DNRC)
- Public comment
- Committee discussion

2:45 Missouri Headwaters Basin Study *(Tab 4)*

- Marketa McGuire, hydrologic civil engineer, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Technical Service Center
- Public comment
- Committee discussion

3:30 p.m. Water projects and the American Rescue Plan Act *(Tab 5)*

- Amanda Kaster, director, DNRC
- Autumn Coleman, chief, Resource Development Bureau (DNRC)
- Public comment
- Committee discussion

4 p.m. Comprehensive Review of Water Administration and Management: Meeting Montana's Water Needs in the 21<sup>st</sup> century *(Tab 6)*

- Lt. Gov. Kristen Juras
- Rachel Meredith, general counsel, Governor's office
- Director Kaster
- Anna Pakenham Stevenson, administrator, Water Resources Division (DNRC)
- Public comment
- Committee discussion

4:30 p.m. Recess

### **Wednesday, October 13**

8:30 a.m. Adjudication update (85-2-281, MCA) *(Tab 7)*

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

9 a.m. Court decisions on expanded places of use for a water right

- Ms. Hach
- Public comment
- Committee discussion and action

9:30 a.m. Update from Nutrient Work Group

- Amy Steinmetz, administrator, Water Quality Division (DEQ)
- Public comment
- Committee discussion and action

10 a.m. Study of selenium standards for Lake Koocanusa (HJ37) *(Tab 8)*

- EQC appointments to special committee—Mr. Mohr
- Appointment of special committee members—Chairman Welborn
- Administration of special committee—Chairman Welborn
- Public comment
- Committee discussion and action

10:30 a.m. Study of Flathead River erosion (SJ28): Boating survey on the Flathead River and sloughs upstream of Flathead Lake (FWP, 2008) *(Tab 9)*

- Kenny Breidinger, biologist, Fisheries Division (FWP)
- Amber Steed, biologist, Fisheries Division (FWP)
- Public comment
- Committee discussion and action

11 a.m. Legislative audit of Water Right Information System

- Austin Powell, performance auditor, Legislative Audit Division
- Public comment
- Committee discussion

11:30 a.m. Agency rulemaking update

- Ms. Hach
- Public comment
- Committee discussion and action, if necessary

11:45 a.m. Administrative matters

- Future meeting locations, dates
- Direction to staff

Noon Adjourn

Note:

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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](mailto: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.

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