



Water Policy Interim Committee

68th Montana Legislature

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FINAL agenda Water Policy Interim Committee

Jan. 16-17, 2024

Room 317

Agenda times are approximate

Tues., Jan. 16

10 a.m. Call to order—Chairman Walsh

- Roll call

10:05 a.m. Meeting overview

- Committee staff

10:15 a.m. HB520 (Study of private ponds)

- Follow-up on cost of permitting, number of permit denials
 - Eileen Ryce, administrator, Fisheries Division (FWP)
- Threats of stocked fish and pathogens
 - FWP
- Public comment
- Committee questions, discussion

11 a.m. Report on instream leasing (85-2-436, MCA)

- Bill Schenk, manager, Land and Water Program (FWP)
- Public comment
- Committee questions, discussion

11:30 a.m. Update on Western Montana Conservation Commission (85-1-904)

- Casey Lewis, executive director
- Public comment
- Committee questions, discussion

Noon Lunch

1 p.m. Water research: Montana Water Center (85-2-105)

- Dr. Stephanie Ewing, center director (Montana St. Univ.)
- Public comment
- Committee questions, discussion

- 1:30 p.m. Study of water storage
- Aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) and aquifer recharge/infiltrations basins (AR)
 - Ginette Abdo, manager, Ground Water Investigation Program (MBMG)
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion
- 2:30 p.m. Proposed administrative rules
- WPIC review of rules
 - Alexis Sandru, committee legal staff
 - DEQ proposed rules:
 - Lindsey Krywaruchka, administrator, Water Quality Division (DEQ)
 - Narrative nutrient standards
 - Non-degradation
 - Groundwater discharge
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion
- 3:30 p.m. Federal rules related to water
- “Lead in schools” program, lead service line inventory
 - Greg Montgomery, drinking water scientist (DEQ)
 - New regulations for PFAs (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances)
 - Lindsey Krywaruchka (DEQ)
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion
- 4 p.m. Growth-related demands and impacts: Water quality protection and process litigation
- Chris Dorrington, director, DEQ
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion
- 4:30 p.m. Update on Gallatin River impaired waters
- Eric Sivers, policy analyst, Water Quality Division (DEQ)
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion
- 4:45 Update on operation of SKQ Dam and Flathead Lake
- David Lipscomb, CEO, Energy Keepers Inc.
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion
- 5 p.m. Recess

Wed., Jan. 17

8 a.m. Reconvene

8:05 a.m. Update from Subcommittee on Water Rights Information System

- Jason Mohr, committee staff
- Chairman Walsh
- DNRC
- Sara Calkins, administrator/clerk of court, Montana Water Court
- Public comment
- Committee questions, discussion

8:30 a.m. Update on Comprehensive Water Review

- DNRC
- Public comment
- Committee questions, discussion

9 a.m. Update on HB114 implementation

- DNRC
- Public comment
- Committee questions, discussion

9:30 a.m. Water rights adjudication update (85-2-281, MCA)

- DNRC
- Sara Calkins, administrator/clerk of court, Montana Water Court
- Public comment
- Committee questions, discussion

10 a.m. Final drought plan: Decisions for legislators

- Valerie Kuth, regional water planner (DNRC)
- Public comment
- Committee questions, discussion

10:30 a.m. Report on USFS water reservations (85-20-1401)

- DNRC
- Public comment
- Committee questions, discussion

11 a.m. Public comment on any issue within the jurisdiction of WPIC

11:15 a.m. Administrative matters

- Directions to staff

11:30 a.m. Adjourn

Note:

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

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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.

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