



Water Policy Interim Committee

68th Montana Legislature

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FINAL agenda Water Policy Interim Committee

March 18-19, 2024

Room 317

Agenda times are approximate

Monday, March 18

1 p.m. Call to order—Chairman Walsh

- Roll call

1:05 p.m. Meeting overview

- Committee staff

1:15 p.m. Study of water storage

- Operation and maintenance costs for state projects
 - DNRC
- Geologic suitability of storage projects
 - Yann Gavillot, geologist and associate professor, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology
 - Michael Stickney, geologist and director, Earthquake Studies Office (MBMG)
- Discussion of potential pilot projects
 - Nathan Shackelford, supervisor, Sheridan County Conservation District
 - Jeff Wivholm, supervisor, Sheridan County Conservation District
 - Colin Threlkeld, conservation program manager, Madison Conservation District
 - Clifford Merriman, supervisor, Phillips Conservation District
 - Gallatin Local Water Quality District (invited)
 - DNRC
- Public comment
- Committee questions, discussion

2:15 p.m. Agency records requests

- Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
- Department of Administration
- Public comment
- Committee questions, discussion

2:30 p.m. Report on oversight of stream gauge network (2-15-3308)

- Jake Mohrmann, chief, Water Sciences Bureau (DNRC)
- Public comment
- Committee questions, discussion

3 p.m. Elk River pollution study

- Meryl Storb, hydrologist, U.S. Geological Survey
- Public comment
- Committee questions, discussion

3:30 p.m. Activation of International Joint Commission for Elk-Kootenai watershed pollution

- Department of Environmental Quality
- Public comment
- Committee questions, discussion

4 p.m. Proposed administrative rules

- WPIC review of rules
 - Committee legal staff
- Update on narrative nutrient standards
 - DEQ
- Public comment
- Committee questions, discussion

4:30 p.m. Recess

Tuesday, March 19

8 a.m. Reconvene

8:05 a.m. Update on Comprehensive Water Review

- DNRC
- Public comment
- Committee questions, discussion

8:30 a.m. Update from Subcommittee on Water Rights Information System

- Chairman Walsh
- DNRC
- Montana Water Court
- Public comment
- Committee questions, discussion

- 9 a.m. Water commissioners: appointments, duties, powers
- Topic overview
 - Committee staff
 - George Alberda, water commissioner (Baker Creek, Hyalite Creek, Middle Cottonwood Creek, Sourdough Creek, S. Cottonwood Creek, West Gallatin River, Big Bear Creek)
 - Peter Bertolino, water commissioner (Rock Creek)
 - Peter Fritsch, chief water commissioner (Teton River, Deep and Spring creeks; Mill Creek; Flatwillow Creek)
 - Lezlie Kinne, water commissioner (Willow Creek, Whitetail Creek)
 - Jerry Lince, water commissioner (Fish Creek and tributaries, South Boulder River)
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion
- 10 a.m. Agency and court roles in water distribution process
- DNRC
 - Water Court
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion
- 10:30 a.m. Exempt groundwater wells: Summary of ruling in Upper Missouri Waterkeeper v. Broadwater Co.
- Committee legal staff
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion
- 11:30 a.m. Public comment on any issue within the jurisdiction of WPIC
- 11:45 a.m. Administrative matters
- Directions to staff
- Noon 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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