



## **WATER POLICY INTERIM COMMITTEE**

### **68th Montana Legislature**

#### **SENATE MEMBERS**

Willis Curdy  
Bruce Gillespie  
Walt Sales  
Jeffrey Welborn

#### **HOUSE MEMBERS**

Bob Carter  
Jill Cohenour  
Marty Malone  
Russel Miner  
Bob Phalen  
Kenneth Walsh

#### **COMMITTEE STAFF**

Jason Mohr - Research Analyst  
Alexis Sandru - Attorney  
Jacelyn Sterling - Secretary

# **Water Rights Information System**

## **Subcommittee**

### **MINUTES LOG**

March 04, 2024

zoom

Helena, Montana

Please note: This document is a Minutes Log and provides annotation of the time elapsed between the beginning of the meeting and the time at which the item was presented or discussed, a motion was made, or a vote was taken. The narrative presented here is provided only as a guide to the audio or video recording of the meeting. The official discussion, motion, or vote is available on the audio or video archive of this meeting. The Legislature does not prepare a transcript of the meeting activities. The time designation may be used to locate the referenced discussion on the audio or video recording of this meeting.

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#### **MEMBERS OF SUBCOMMITTEE PRESENT:**

Rep. Kenneth Walsh, Chair (R)

Rep. Jill Cohenour, Vice Chair (D)

Rep. Bob Carter (D)

Sen. Walt Sales (R)

Sen. Jeffrey Welborn (R)

#### **MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Jason Mohr, Research Analyst

Alexis Sandru, Attorney

Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary

#### **AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))**

## **VISITORS' LIST ([Attachment 2](#))**

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

#### **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

09:00:56 Presiding Officer Kenneth Walsh called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

#### **STATUS UPDATE ON WATER RIGHTS INFORMATION SYSTEM (WRIS)**

09:04:11 Presiding Officer Walsh

09:06:22 Anna Pakenham Stevenson, Administrator, Water Resources Division, DNRC  
[EXHIBIT1](#)

09:31:26 Presiding Officer Walsh

09:31:51 Sara Calkins, Administrator, Montana Water Court

#### **Committee Questions, Discussion**

09:34:45 Rep. Carter

09:35:10 Anna Pakenham Stevenson

09:38:05 Sen. Welborn

09:40:41 Sen. Sales

09:46:47 Sara Calkins

09:48:30 Anna Pakenham Stevenson

09:50:40 Presiding Officer Walsh

09:51:48 Sara Calkins, Water Court

09:54:21 Anna Pakenham Stevenson

09:55:28 Presiding Officer Walsh

09:56:10 Anna Pakenham Stevenson

09:57:27 Sen. Welborn

10:01:59 Anna Pakenham Stevenson

10:04:49 Sen. Welborn

10:07:15 Russ McElyea, Judge, Montana Water Court

10:10:49 Sen. Welborn

10:11:19 Anna Pakenham Stevenson

10:16:03 Sen. Welborn

10:17:46 Anna Pakenham Stevenson

10:20:56 Presiding Officer Walsh

10:21:32 Anna Pakenham Stevenson

10:24:38 Rep. Carter

10:24:46 Anna Pakenham Stevenson

10:27:15 Trevor Watson, Deputy Administrator, Water Resources Division, DNRC

10:28:35 Sen. Sales  
10:31:02 Anna Pakenham Stevenson  
10:33:26 Trevor Watson, DNRC  
10:34:41 Sara Calkins  
10:35:03 Sen. Sales  
10:36:16 Presiding Officer Walsh  
10:36:37 Sara Calkins  
10:37:32 Judge Russ McElyea  
10:39:40 Presiding Officer Walsh  
10:42:02 Judge Russ McElyea  
10:43:06 Presiding Officer Walsh  
10:44:14 Chris Powell, Chief Information Officer, DNRC

**Public Comment**

10:50:16 Julie Merritt,  
10:52:47 Krista Lee Evans, Blake Creek Project Management

**Committee Discussion, Instructions to Staff**

11:13:36 Sen. Sales  
11:13:52 Jason Mohr  
11:15:03 Presiding Officer Walsh

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 11:19:09