



Water Policy Interim Committee

PO BOX 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706
(406) 444-3064
FAX (406) 444-3036

65th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

JILL COHENOUR
PAT CONNELL
JON SESSO
JEFF WELBORN

HOUSE MEMBERS

BOB BROWN
ZACK BROWN
JOHN FLEMING
CARL GLIMM

COMMITTEE STAFF

JASON MOHR, Lead Staff
ERIN BILLS, Staff Attorney
NADINE SPENCER, Secretary

To: Water Policy Interim Committee members

Sept. 22, 2017

From: Jason Mohr, committee staff

Re: Oct. 9-10 meeting

WPIC meets for two days, beginning at 10 a.m. Oct. 9 in room 172 of the State Capitol. At this meeting, WPIC will begin work on its two studies – study of exempt groundwater wells and study for the process for changing a water right – and finalize its work plan. Please take a look at the work plan (at tab 11) to ensure it reflects the committee’s discussion in August. Discussions on that day were wide ranging, so the enclosed work plan may need further clarification.

The enclosed meeting materials will be posted online at www.leg.mt.gov/water. I’d like to point your attention to the following documents:

- A Legal Services Office memo (tab 7) regarding administrative rule review. Your new attorney, Erin Bills, has reviewed the DNRC’s proposed administrative rule amendments, which include redefining a “combined appropriation.” The department has extended the comments deadline to Oct. 20.
- A DNRC memo (tab 8) on the future of the National Flood Insurance Program. The committee included the program on its list of issues. The program is set to expire in the coming months.
- A DNRC memo (tab 9) regarding their process for a change of water right.
- A memo (tab 12) from Susan Byorth Fox, Legislative Services Division executive director, regarding budget reduction plans. Legislative Council agreed that the branch should equal the percentage of the governor’s reduction request of state agencies.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Otherwise, I will see you in October.

Sincerely,

Jason Mohr, research analyst
Montana Legislative Environmental Policy Office
Capitol Building, room 171
jasonmohr@mt.gov
(406)444-1640