



Water Policy Interim Committee

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65th Montana Legislature

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JON SESSO
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HOUSE MEMBERS

BOB BROWN
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COMMITTEE STAFF

JASON MOHR, Lead Staff
HELEN THIGPEN, Staff Attorney
NADINE SPENCER, Secretary

AGENDA (as of July 28, 2017)

WATER POLICY INTERIM COMMITTEE

Room 152, STATE CAPITOL

JULY 31-Aug. 1, 2017

**The field trip is limited to committee members and confirmed guests, as space is limited. Guests must be confirmed by July 21 by contacting Jason Mohr, WPIC staff, at 444-1640 or jasonmohr@mt.gov.*

AGENDA TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE

Monday, July 31

10 a.m. **Call to order** – Sen. Jon Sesso

- Roll call
- Committee member introductions
- Approval of minutes from October, 2016

10:15 a.m. **Staff introductions**

10:20 a.m. **WPIC overview** – Mr. Mohr

10:30 a.m. **Adoption of rules** – Mr. Mohr

- Public comment
- Committee discussion and action

10:45 a.m. **Review of 2017 water legislation**

- Public comment
- Committee questions and discussion

11 a.m. **Discussion of interim priorities**

- Overview of work plan – Mr. Mohr
- Overview of administrative rulemaking – Todd Everts, director, Legal Services Office
- Public comment
- Committee discussion

Noon **Lunch**

1 p.m. **Field trip: A water tour of the Helena Valley**

- Helena Regulating Reservoir
- Prickly Pear Fishing Access Site
- City of Helena Wastewater Treatment Plant

Presenters include: Bureau of Reclamation, City of Helena, Helena Valley Irrigation District, DNRC, DEQ, Lewis and Clark County Water Quality Protection District, FWP, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology.

5 p.m. **Recess** for day

Tuesday, August 1

9 a.m. **Reconvene**

9:05 a.m. **Election of WPIC presiding officer and vice presiding officer**

9:15 a.m. **Agency overviews of water-related programs**

- Department of Agriculture – Director Ben Thomas
- Department of Environmental Quality – Director Tom Livers
- Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks – Director Martha Williams
- Department of Natural Resources and Conservation – Director John Tubbs
- Public comment
- Committee questions and discussion

10:30 a.m. **Water right adjudication update** (85-2-281, MCA)

- John Peterson, bureau chief, Water Adjudication Bureau (DNRC)
- Chief Water Judge Russ McElyea, Montana Water Court
- Public comment
- Committee questions and discussion

11 a.m. **Drought, water supply, and wildfire outlook**

- Ann Schwend, water resource planner, Water Resources Division (DNRC)
- Hoyt Richards, Central Land Office area manager, Forestry Division (DNRC)
- Public comment
- Committee questions and discussion

11:30 a.m. **Numeric nutrient standards report** (75-5-313, MCA)

- Tim Davis, Water Quality Division administrator, DEQ
- Public comment
- Committee questions and discussion

Noon **Lunch**

- 1 p.m. **Water research (85-2-105, MCA): Overview of water programs at MBMG**
- Ground Water Assessment Program – John LaFave, senior research hydrogeologist and program manager
 - Ground Water Investigation Program – Ginette Abdo, senior research hydrogeologist and program manager
 - Surface Water Assessment and Monitoring Program – John Metesh, director (MBMG) and state geologist
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions and discussion
- 2 p.m. **Clark Fork and Kootenai River Basins Council**
- Erin Farris-Olsen, executive director, Montana Watershed Coordination Council
- 2:30 p.m. **Aquatic Invasive Species update**
- Thomas Woolf, AIS bureau chief, FWP
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions and discussion
- 3 p.m. **Update from Environmental Quality Council**
- Joe Kolman, environmental analyst, LEPO
- 3:15 p.m. **Break**
- 3:30 p.m. **Administrative matters**
- Adoption of committee work plan (continued)
 - Public comment
 - Committee discussion and action
 - Budget overview – Mr. Mohr
 - Adoption of WPIC meeting dates – Mr. Mohr
 - Committee contact information – Mr. Mohr
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions and discussion
- 4:45 p.m. **Public comment on any issue within the jurisdiction of the WPIC**
- 4:55 p.m. **Instructions to staff**
- 5 p.m. **Adjourn**