



## Water Policy Interim Committee

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### 65th Montana Legislature

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JILL COHENOUR  
JON SESSO  
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#### HOUSE MEMBERS

ZACH BROWN, Vice Chairman  
BOB BROWN  
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#### COMMITTEE STAFF

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

#### FINAL AGENDA

# WATER POLICY INTERIM COMMITTEE

Bozeman City Hall, 121 N. Rouse Ave

May 21-22, 2018

AGENDA TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE

*\*Field trips are limited to committee members and confirmed guests, as space is limited. Guests must be confirmed by May 18 by contacting Jason Mohr, WPIC staff, at 444-1640 or jasonmohr@mt.gov.\**

## Monday, May 21

### 10 a.m. Call to order

- Roll call
- Approval of March 2018 minutes
- Review of planned activities – Mr. Mohr

### 10:10 a.m. Adjudication update (85-2-281, MCA) and Effects of HB110 (2017)

- Jan Langel, Water Resources Division administrator (DNRC)
- Hon. Russ McElyea, chief water judge, Montana Water Court
- Public comment
- Committee questions and discussion

### 10:30 a.m. Committee study of the process of changing a water right

- Mr. Mohr
- Panel discussion on administrative process
  - Holly Franz, water rights attorney
  - Patrick Byorth, attorney, Trout Unlimited
  - Mack White, ag producer
  - Shiel Anderson, ag producer
  - Millie Heffner, Water Rights Bureau chief (DNRC)
- Public comment
- Draft findings and conclusions
- Proposals of draft legislation
- Committee questions, discussion, decisions

### Noon Lunch

### 1 p.m. Proposed legislation from the Adjudication Advisory Committee

- TBA
- Public comment
- Committee questions and discussion

1:30 p.m.        **Update from Governor's Drought and Water Supply Advisory Committee**

- Ann Schwend, water resource planner, DNRC
- DNRC: Potential legislation
- Public comment
- Committee questions and discussion

2 p.m.            **Leave for field trip: Water Management in the Gallatin Valley**

- Includes discussion of Farmer's Canal case study, SWAMP pilot project, infrastructure management, agricultural-municipal cooperation
- Stops include Farmer's Canal (intersection of U.S. Highway 191 and Fowler Ave. near Rosauers Supermarket), Section Line and Pipeline lateral ditches (near Meadowlark School, 4415 Durston Road), Bozeman Sports Park (Flanders Mill Rd., north of Meadowlark Elementary School), and Bozeman Water Reclamation Facility (2245 Springhill Road)

5 p.m.            **Recess**

**Tuesday, May 22**

9 a.m.            **Reconvene**

9:05 a.m.        **Study of exempt groundwater wells**

- Ground Water Investigation Program: Current and future studies
  - John Metesh, state geologist (Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology)
  - Ginette Abdo, GWIP manager (MBMB)
- Status of water availability issues related to Home40 subdivision (tentative)
- Update on Vision2020
  - Mark Simonich, CEO, Montana Association of Realtors
- Public comment
- Draft findings and conclusions
- Proposals of draft legislation
- Committee questions, discussion, decisions

10 a.m.          **Review of water issues from Montana Climate Assessment**

- Cathy Whitlock, Montana Institute on Ecosystems co-director (Montana State University)
- Public comment
- Committee questions and discussion

10:30 a.m.      **Stream gauges: Who pays for them, who uses them**

- Jennifer Downing, Big Hole Watershed Committee
- John Kilpatrick, Montana-Wyoming Water Science Center director (U.S. Geological Survey)
- Paul Azevedo, Water Management Bureau chief (DNRC)
- Don Skaar, Habitat Access Bureau chief (FWP)
- Public comment
- Committee questions and discussion

11:30 a.m.      **Overview of the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service efforts in Montana**

- Steve Becker, state conservation engineer, NRCS
- Public comment
- Committee questions and discussion

Noon

**DEQ nutrient reports**

- Tim Davis, Water Division administrator (Department of Environmental Quality)
  - Nutrient work group: Biennial summary report (75-5-313, MCA)
  - Nutrient standards update (75-5-313, MCA)

12:30 p.m.      **Temporary leasing report** (85-2-427, MCA)

- Mr. Langel

12:45 p.m.      **Administrative matters**

- Administrative rule review and update – Ms. Bills
- July meeting preview – Mr. Mohr
- Instructions to staff
- Public comment
- Committee questions and discussion

12:55 p.m.      **Public comment on any issue within the jurisdiction of the WPIC**

1 p.m.            **Adjourn**

*Meeting attendees who may need services or accommodations should contact Jason Mohr (406-444-1640 or [jasonmohr@mt.gov](mailto:jasonmohr@mt.gov)) at least 5 working days before the meeting.*