

# FINAL AGENDA

## WATER POLICY INTERIM COMMITTEE

Room 102 of the State Capitol  
March 10 and 11, 2010

### AGENDA ITEM TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE

#### March 10

- 9:00 a.m. **Call to Order** - Rep. Walt McNutt, chairman
1. Roll Call
  2. Approval of draft January 2010 WPIC minutes
  3. Overview of agenda - Joe Kolman, staff
- 9:05 a.m. **Draft letter opposing Clean Water Restoration Act**
1. Review of draft letter - Joe Kolman, staff
  2. Public comment
  3. Committee questions, discussion and action, if any
- 9:15 a.m. **Levee certification**
1. Rep. Robert Mehlhoff, Great Falls
  2. Public comment
  3. Committee questions, discussion and action, if any
- 9:30 a.m. **Change of water right**
1. Scott Irvin, DNRC - change process
  2. Anne Yates, DNRC - pending legal issues
  3. John Bloomquist, private attorney
  4. Holly Franz, private attorney
  5. Public comment
  6. Committee questions, discussion and action, if any
- 11:00 a.m. **Break**
- 11:15 a.m. **Water storage**
1. State water projects - Kevin Smith, DNRC
  2. Aquifer storage options - John Metesh, MBMG
  3. Evaporation, John Wheaton - MBMG
  4. Public comment
  5. Committee questions, discussion and action, if any
- Noon Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. **Water marketing -- present and future**
1. Mike McLane, FWP
  2. Barbara Hall, Clark Fork Coalition
  3. Deb Stephenson, WestWater Research
  4. Chris Corbin, Lotic Water Marketing
  5. David Schmidt, Water Right Solutions

6. Public comment
7. Committee questions, discussion and action, if any

3:00 p.m.     **Break**

3:15 p.m.     **Menu options for exempt wells, mitigation, etc.**

1. Overview - Joe Kolman, staff
2. Work Group comments
  1. Laura Ziemer, Trout Unlimited
  2. Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Coalition
  3. Abby St. Lawrence, Montana Association of Realtors
  4. Steve Kilbreath, DEQ
  5. Terri McLaughlin, DNRC
  6. Bill Schenk, FWP
  7. John Metesh, MBMG
3. Public comment
4. Committee questions, discussion and action, if any

4:30 p.m.     **Menu options for coal bed methane water**

1. Joe Kolman, staff
2. Public comment
3. Committee questions, discussion and action, if any

5:00 p.m.     **Public comment on any matter within the WPIC jurisdiction.**

## **Recess**

## **Reconvene**

**March 11, 2010**

8:00 a.m.     **Call to Order** - Rep. Walt McNutt, chairman

1. Roll Call
2. Overview of agenda - Joe Kolman, staff

8:05 a.m.     **Water right adjudication/ownership update**

1. Director Mary Sexton, DNRC
2. Judge Bruce Loble, Water Court
3. Public comment
4. Committee questions, discussion and action, if any

8:30 a.m.     **Water right enforcement**

1. Legal overview of water as property- Helen Thigpen, staff
2. Role of DNRC - Candy West, DNRC chief legal counsel
3. Role of Water Court - Colleen Coyle, senior water master
4. Role of Attorney General - TBA
5. Role of Water Commissioners - Lezlie Kinne, water commissioner
6. Public comment
7. Committee questions, discussion and action, if any

- 10:30 a.m. **Break**
- 10:45 a.m. **Municipal Water**
1. Overview - Joe Kolman, staff
  2. Senior Water Rights Perspective - Krista Lee Evans
  3. City Views - Ross Miller, Mountain Water
  4. DNRC Position - Anne Yates
  5. Public comment
  6. Committee questions, discussion and action, if any
- 11:30 a.m. **Montana - Alberta St. Mary and Milk Rivers Water Management Initiative**
1. Anne Yates, DNRC
  2. Public comment
  3. Committee questions, discussion and action, if any
- Noon Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. **Ground Water Investigation Program update**
1. John Wheaton, MBMG
  2. Public comment
  3. Committee questions, discussion and action, if any
- 1:30 p.m. **Update on Milltown water right**
1. Gerald Mueller, Upper Clark Fork River Basin Steering Committee
  2. Public comment
  3. Committee questions, discussion and action, if any
- 2:00 p.m. **Water Marketing and the Bureau of Reclamation**
1. Mark Beatty, Bureau of Reclamation
  2. Status of Hungry Horse negotiations, Gerald Mueller, Clark Fork Basin Water Management Task Force
  3. Moonlight Basin/BOR experience, Kevin Germain
  4. Public comment
  5. Committee questions, discussion and action, if any
- 3:00 p.m. **Break**
- 3:15 p.m. **Continued discussion on menu options for exempt wells, mitigation, etc.**
1. Identify areas where more information is needed
  2. Revisions to work plan, if necessary
  3. Suggestions or proposals for report or legislation, if necessary
  4. Public comment
- 3:30 p.m. **Continued discussion on menu options for coal bed methane water**
1. Identify areas where more information is needed
  2. Revisions to work plan, if necessary.
  3. Suggestions or proposals for report or legislation, if necessary
  4. Public comment

- 4:00 p.m.      **Committee discussion other issues**
1. Identify areas where more information is needed
  2. Revisions to work plan, if necessary.
  3. Suggestions or proposals for report or legislation, if necessary
  4. Public comment
- 4:30 p.m.      **Administrative matters**
1. Next meeting - Scheduled May 11-12, Helena
- 4:45 p.m.      **Other business**
- 4:50 p.m.      **Instructions to staff**
- 5:00 p.m.      **Public comment on any matter within the WPIC jurisdiction.**
- 5:30 p.m.      **Adjourn.**

**The Montana Legislative Services Division will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this public hearing. If you require an accommodation, contact Joe Kolman, Legislative Environmental Policy Office, at (406) 444-9280 or [jkolman@mt.gov](mailto:jkolman@mt.gov) at least five working days before the meeting to advise of the nature of the accommodation that you need.**

The website address for this interim is: [www.leg.mt.gov/water](http://www.leg.mt.gov/water)