



Water Policy Interim Committee

63rd Montana Legislature

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DRAFT AGENDA WATER POLICY INTERIM COMMITTEE

State Capitol, Room 137
July 8, 2014

AGENDA ITEM TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE

Tuesday, July 8

- 8 a.m. Call to Order - Sen. Vincent
- Roll Call
 - Approval of minutes from June 2013 WPIC
- 8:05 p.m. HJ26 ditch easement study: Review of draft report (*Tab 1*)
- Mr. Mohr
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion, and action, if any
- 8:25 a.m. Adjudication update (85-2-281, MCA) (*Tab 2*)
- John Peterson, chief, Water Adjudication Bureau, DNRC
 - Russ McElyea, chief water judge, Montana Water Court
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion, and action, if any
- 8:40 a.m. Annual report from Clark Fork River Basin Task Force (85-2-350, MCA) (*Tab 3*)
- Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion, and action, if any
 - Review of statutorily required reports: Recommendation to EQC (5-5-215, MCA)
- 9 a.m. Annual report from nutrient work group (75-5-313, MCA) (*Tab 4*)
- George Mathieus, administrator, Planning, Prevention and Assistance Division, Department of Environmental Quality
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion, and action, if any
 - Review of statutorily required reports: Recommendation to EQC (5-5-215, MCA)

- 9:15 a.m. Biennial report on Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) (75-5-703, MCA) (Tab 5)
- Mark Bostrom, bureau chief, Water Quality Protection Bureau, DEQ
 - Committee questions, discussion, and action, if any
 - Review of statutorily required reports: Recommendation to EQC (5-5-215, MCA)
- 9:30 a.m. Agency rulemaking update (Tab 6)
- Ms. Thigpen
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion, and action, if any
- 9:40 a.m. Break
- 9:50 a.m. Proposed federal administrative rule: Definition of "Waters of the U.S."
- Julia McCarthy, environmental/life scientist, Environmental Protection Agency (via phone)
 - Karen Hamilton, chief, Aquatic Resource Protection and Accountability Unit, EPA
 - John Tubbs, director, DNRC
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion, and action, if any
- 10:50 a.m. State Water Plan update: Final basin recommendations (85-1-203, MCA) (Tab 7)
- Tim Davis, administrator, Water Resources Division, DNRC (via phone)
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion, and action, if any
- 11:20 a.m. Discussion of budget issues for water rights adjudication process
- Beth McLaughlin, court administrator, Office of Court Administrator
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion, and action, if any
- Noon Lunch
- 1 p.m. Future of the Water Court: Identifying policy issues
- Russ McElyea, chief water judge, Montana Water Court
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion, and action, if any
- 2 p.m. Proposed federal directives: Best management practices for water quality protection on forest service lands, Groundwater resource management
- Eric Johnston, assistant regional director for renewable resources, U.S. Forest Service (via phone)
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion, and action, if any

- 2:30 p.m. Update from CSKT compact technical working group
- John Metesh, director, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion, and action, if any
- 3:30 p.m. Break
- 3:45 p.m. Proposed CSKT reserved water rights settlement: Unitary management ordinance
- Melissa Hornbein, Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission
 - Jon Metropoulos, counsel, Flathead Joint Board of Control
 - Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion, and action, if any
- 5 p.m. Public Comment on any issue within the jurisdiction of the WPIC
- 5:10 p.m. Other business
- 5:20 p.m. Administrative matters
- Revisions to work plan, if necessary
 - Budget update
 - Identification of areas where more information is needed
 - Instructions to staff
- 5:30 p.m. Adjourn

NOTE: Meeting materials available online: <http://leg.mt.gov/water>

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