



Water Policy Interim Committee

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64th Montana Legislature

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Aug. 18, 2015

To: Water Policy Interim Committee
From: Jason Mohr, committee staff
Re: Sept. 2-3 meeting

Committee members,

The Sept. 2-3 meeting begins at 1 p.m. in room 172 of the State Capitol. Enclosed are meeting materials, which are also posted at www.leg.mt.gov/water.

A few notes about the upcoming meeting:

- Enclosed is a history of the Water Court for the committee's future of the Water Court study. I will also present this information and explain the adjudications process at the September meeting.
- Sen. Pat Connell will present a paper related to the U.S. Forest Service water rights compact.
- The committee will hear its first program evaluation of a program under its oversight, the Water Protection Bureau.
- The committee's SJ2 study (assumption of federal Section 404 permits), includes a discussion of the recently finalized federal definition of "waters of the United States." The Environmental Protection Agency declined to explain their rule at the September meeting, however this packet includes some background information. I will also summarize my interpretation of the rule, and parties litigating the issue will share their concerns with the rule.
- The committee will consider a letter of support for S.338, a U.S. Senate bill to provide permanent funding to the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Please let me know if you have any other questions. Otherwise, I'll see you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Mohr".

Jason Mohr
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