



Water Policy Interim Committee

68th Montana Legislature

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COMMITTEE STAFF

JASON MOHR, Lead Staff
ALEXIS SANDRU, Legal Staff
JACELYN STERLING, Secretary

Water Policy Interim Committee

July 15-16, 2024

Dillon, Mont.

Agenda times are approximate

Field trip stops are limited to committee members and confirmed guests. Guests must be confirmed by July 12 by contacting Jacelyn Sterling, committee secretary, at (406)865-0972 or jacelyn.sterling@legmt.gov. Guests must provide their own transportation.

Monday, July 15 (Great Room, Swysgood Technology Center, University of Montana-Western)

9 a.m. Call to order—Chairman Walsh

- Roll call

9:05 a.m. Meeting overview

- Jason Mohr, committee staff

9:15 a.m. HB520 (Study of private ponds): Draft report, committee recommendations or legislation

- Jason Mohr, committee staff
- Public comment
- Committee questions, discussion

9:45 a.m. Proposed administrative rules

- Committee review of rules
 - Alexis Sandru, committee legal staff
- Update on narrative nutrient rulemaking
 - Lindsey Krywaruchka (DEQ)
- Public comment
- Committee questions, discussion

10:15 a.m. Update on Water Resources Information System

- DNRC
- Public comment
- Committee questions, discussion

10:15 a.m. Update on water storage in Montana's national forests

- USFS
- Public comment

- Committee questions, discussion

11 a.m. District court administration of water commissioners

- Hon. Luke Berger, Montana Fifth Judicial District
- Public comment
- Committee questions, discussion

11:30 a.m. Public comment on any issue within the jurisdiction of WPIC

11:45 a.m. Administrative matters

- Directions to staff

Noon Lunch (provided to committee members)

12:30 p.m. Begin tour (in this order)

- 1:30 p.m.–Ruby River Reservoir (Ruby River Water Users Assoc., Montana State Water Projects Bureau (DNRC))
- 2:30 p.m.–Woodson Ranch private pond restoration project (Ruby Habitat Foundation, Sheridan)
- 4 p.m.–Tash Pond (Twin Bridges)
- 5 p.m.–Miller Pond (Poindexter Slough, Dillon)
- 5:30 p.m.–Clark Canyon Dam and Reservoir (Bureau of Reclamation)

6:30 p.m. Tour end, return to Dillon

7 p.m. Dinner (TBD)

Tuesday, July 16

8:30 a.m. Meet at Glen, Mont. (Interstate 15 exit)

9 a.m. Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology presentations on:

- Big Hole River and canal temperature study, managed aquifer recharge (Kalstad Ranch, Glen)
- Irrigation efficiency (Trapper Creek Ranch, Melrose)

Noon Lunch (provided to committee members) and adjourn

Note:

All meeting materials are available on the WPIC website at <http://leg.mt.gov/water>. This meeting is open to the public (see note above on field trip).

Written public comment may be sent via the committee website (<https://leg.mt.gov/committees/interim/wpic/public-comments-wpic/>) and will be provided to committee members. Any oral or written public comment provided to the committee is a public record that is recorded, archived, and available on the web.

The Montana Legislative Services Division will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this public meeting. For questions about accessibility or to request accommodations, please contact Jason Mohr (jason.mohr@legmt.gov or (406)444-1640) as soon as possible before the meeting date.