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# Water Policy Interim Committee

69th Montana Legislature

## SENATE MEMBERS

WILLIS CURDY  
WYLIE GALT  
BRUCE "BUTCH" GILLESPIE  
BOB PHALEN

## HOUSE MEMBERS

JILL COHENOUR  
JAMIE ISALY  
TOM MILLETT  
RUSS MINER  
TRACY SHARP

## COMMITTEE STAFF

TONI HENNEMAN, Lead Staff  
ALEXIS SANDRU, Legal Staff  
ALLISON DUNBAR, Secretary

## AGENDA

### Water Policy Interim Committee

July 30, 2025

State Capitol Building, Room 102

*Agenda times are approximate.*

- 9:00 am**      **Call to Order & Roll Call** – Sen. Butch Gillespie, Acting Presiding Officer
- Committee member introductions
  - Staff introductions
- 9:10 am**      **Administrative Matters** – Toni Henneman, Lead Staff
- Staff Roles and Responsibilities
  - Website overview
  - Adoption of Committee Rules (*action item*)
  - Legislator Compensation – Dan Messerli, Legislative Branch Financial Office
  - Committee questions and discussion
- 9:30 am**      **Election of Presiding Officer and Vice-Presiding Officer**
- 9:45 am**      **2025-26 WPIC Interim Priorities Discussion**
- Summary of 2025 Natural Resource Legislation – Toni Henneman
  - Overview of draft workplan
  - Overview of administrative rule review – Alexis Sandru, Legal Staff
    - July 2025 ARM: MAR Notice 2025-157.1
  - Public Comment
  - Committee questions, discussion
- 10:30 am**      **Agency Introductions & Overview of Water-Related Programs**
- Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks - Christy Clark, Director
  - Department of Environmental Quality – Sonja Nowakowski, Director
  - Department of Natural Resources and Conservation – Amanda Kaster, Director
  - Public Comment
  - Committee questions, discussion
- 12:00 pm**      **LUNCH**

- 1:00 pm**      **Water Quality Nutrient Standards Update ([HB 664](#))**
- Lindsey Krywaruchka, Water Quality Division Administrator, DEQ
  - Public Comment
  - Committee questions, discussion
- 1:15 pm**      **Water Rights Adjudication Update ([85-2-281](#), MCA)**
- Anna Pakenham Stevenson, Water Resources Division Administrator, DNRC
  - Hon. Stephen Brown, Chief Judge, Montana Water Court
  - Public Comment
  - Committee questions, discussion
- 1:45 pm**      **2025 Drought and Fire Outlook**
- Michael Downey, Drought Program Coordinator, DNRC
  - Shawn Thomas, State Forester, DNRC
  - Public Comment
  - Committee questions, discussion
- 2:30 pm**      **Stream Gage Report ([2-15-3308](#), MCA)**
- Anna Pakenham Stevenson, Water Resources Division Administrator, DNRC
  - Public Comment
  - Committee questions, discussion
- 3:00 pm**      **Milk River Project – St. Mary Siphon Update**
- Steve Darlinton, Project Manager, Bureau of Reclamation
  - Public Comment
  - Committee questions, discussion
- 3:30 pm**      **Water Research ([85-2-105](#), MCA)**
- John Metesh, State Geologist and Director, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology
  - Public Comment
  - Committee questions, discussion
- 4:00 pm**      **Committee Work Session**
- Work Plan decision matrix – *action item*
  - Adopt meeting dates – *action item*
  - Additional instructions to staff, if any
  - Committee questions, discussion
- 4:45 pm**      **Public comment** on any item in WPIC’s subject matter jurisdiction
- 5:00 pm**      **Adjourn**

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The public may attend the meeting and offer public comment in the Capitol or provide public comment either using remote meeting technology or in writing.

**To offer public comment** via remote meeting technology, please submit the online form for remote participation at least 2 hours before the scheduled start of the meeting: <https://participate.legmt.gov/>.

**Written public comment** may be submitted either through the [online form](#) for written comment or by mailing the comments to the Water Policy Interim Committee, PO Box 201706, Helena, MT 59620.

*\*Public comment provided in person or remotely at a legislative meeting is a public record that is videotaped, archived, and available on the internet. Public comment submitted in writing at a meeting is a public record that will be posted to the legislative website as part of the minutes log for the meeting.*

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