

2025-26 Water Policy Interim Committee

Work Plan Decision Matrix - *Preliminarily adopted 7/30*

Study Resolutions

Resolution	Option A	Option B	Option C	Opt D
HJ 44: Endocrine-disrupting chemicals and water quality	.40 FTE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All of option B Additional panel discussions, focused on multi-state and federal participation Attempt to determine the prevalence of EDCs* in Montana Deeper dive into methods to regulate or prevent EDCs Analysis of costs to regulate or mitigate EDCs 	.20 FTE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All of option C Analysis of state water quality laws and federal acts that protect water and may regulate EDCs Review other states' policies related to EDCs Review methods to identify, measure, and test EDCs Analyze research related to the health effects of EDCs Potential legislation 	.10 .05 FTE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel discussion Staff background paper/presentation Update from DEQ on past work on topic <i>Receive existing research materials from stakeholders</i> 	No Action

Resolution	Option B		Option C	Opt D
HJ 74: Water re-use	.25 FTE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All of option B Additional analysis of the efficacy of various water reuse systems Comparison and analysis of systems used in other states, with a focus on what may work in Montana Examination of potential roadblocks that may prevent implementation of water reuse Determination of factors needed to implement a successful water reuse system and whether those factors are present in Montana. 		.15 .10 FTE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel discussion Staff background paper/presentation on water reuse systems and what is currently allowed in Montana Staff review of the levels of treatment required for different water uses and water users Potential legislation <i>Include discussion of water storage</i> 	No Action

Statutorily Required Duties

Full Review	Medium Review
0.25 FTE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All components of medium review Participate in water-related meetings (agencies, outside groups) Accept reports and select some for WPIC review, analysis, and comment Background summaries and legal analysis Review and discuss applicability of statutory responsibilities related to water policy issues Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations or WPIC position letters Legislation to address statutory responsibilities 	0.10 FTE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All mandatory duties including rule review Water issues identified during 2023-24 interim Public involvement through WPIC meetings Basic involvement and oversight Review reports (see table on page 3 of Work Plan) Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations or WPIC position letters Legislation to address statutory responsibilities

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Program Evaluation

Full review	Medium Review	Minimum Review	No Review
<p>0.2+ FTE (per program evaluated)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple staff reports on issues within program, including history, overview of applicable laws and rules, and summary of issues Possible multiple staff site visits Additional information from agency and staff analysis Possible field trip <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff report(s) Recommendations and/or Legislation 	<p>0.1-0.2 FTE (per program evaluated)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff report on program, including history, overview of applicable laws and rules, and summary of issues Interview with program personnel Possible staff site visit Multiple agency presentations Multiple regulated community panels Staff summaries on related audits, fiscal analyses, court decisions Possible presentations from LAD, LFD on issues of interest Possible legal review of specific issue <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff report Recommendations and/or Legislation 	<p>0.02-0.1 FTE (per program evaluated)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff summary of program. May include interview with program lead Agency presentation Regulated community panel Bibliography including audits, fiscal analyses, court decisions Limited follow up by WPIC staff <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations Legislation 	

Member Suggested Topics

Topic	Est. Time Range
Exempt groundwater wells (SB358, 2025)	.40 FTE
Water use regulation and enforcement	.10 FTE
Track federal changes that affect water (USGS changes, stream gages)	.01 FTE
Water storage (continuation of past interim work) - <i>add to HJ74 study</i>	.05 FTE
Review and analyze CSKT Water Compact	.01 FTE
HB676, Land Board decision re: water rights on state trust lands	.01 FTE
Data center water use - capacity	.01 FTE

Staff-suggested Topics

Water Rights in Montana Handbook - review and update (last update: 2018)	.02 FTE
A Guide to MT Water Quality Regulation - review and update (last update: 2021)	.02 FTE

**Total Resources Utilized/
Total Resources Available**

0.86/1.0 FTE

1.0 FTE = 2,000 hrs.

.50 FTE = 1,000 hrs.

.25 FTE = 500 hrs.

.10 FTE = 250 hrs.

.05 FTE = 125 hrs.

.01 FTE = 25 hrs.

The Committee moved to reserve .14 FTE for emerging issues and to remain flexible through the interim. The additional time may also be used to facilitate a travel meeting/field trip in May of 2026.