



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

Maddelyn Pennington - Secretary
Toni Henneman - Lead Staff
Alexis Sandru - Legal Staff

MINUTES LOG

October 20, 2025
Capitol Room 137 & Zoom
Helena, Montana

Please note: This document is a Minutes Log and provides annotation of the time elapsed between the beginning of the meeting and the time at which the item was presented or discussed, a motion was made, or a vote was taken. The narrative presented here is provided only as a guide to the audio or video recording of the meeting. The official discussion, motion, or vote is available on the audio or video archive of this meeting. The Legislature does not prepare a transcript of the meeting activities. The time designation may be used to locate the referenced discussion on the audio or video recording of this meeting.

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MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Wylie Galt, Presiding Officer (R)
Rep. Jill Cohenour, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
Sen. Willis Curdy (D)
Rep. Jamie Isaly (D)
Rep. Tom Millett (R)
Rep. Russ Miner (R)
Sen. Bob Phalen (R)
Rep. Tracy Sharp (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Sen. Bruce "Butch" Gillespie (R)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Maddelyn Pennington, Secretary
Toni Henneman, Lead Staff
Alexis Sandru, Legal Staff

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

VISITORS' LIST ([Attachment 2](#))

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

09:31:56 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt called the meeting to order at 9:36 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

MEETING OVERVIEW

09:32:57 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt

09:33:04 Toni Henneman, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

09:33:16 Maddelyn Pennington, Secretary, LSD

09:33:36 Toni Henneman, LSD

[EXHIBIT 1](#)

[EXHIBIT 2](#)

[EXHIBIT 3](#)

[EXHIBIT 4](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

09:42:12 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt

09:42:15 Rep. Russ Miner

09:42:32 Toni Henneman, LSD

09:43:12 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt

09:43:14 Vice Presiding Officer Jill Cohenour

09:43:28 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 74 STUDY: WATER REUSE SYSTEMS

Overview Of Study Strategy

09:43:43 Toni Henneman, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

[EXHIBIT 5](#)

[EXHIBIT 6](#)

[EXHIBIT 7](#)

[EXHIBIT 8](#)

[EXHIBIT 9](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

09:52:23 None

Current Permitting Processes

09:52:39 Lindsey Krywaruchka, Water Quality Division Administrator, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Committee Questions / Discussion

09:58:42 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt

09:58:48 Rep. Russ Miner
09:59:06 Lindsey Krywaruchka, DEQ
10:00:25 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
10:00:27 Sen. Willis Curdy
10:01:28 Lindsey Krywaruchka, DEQ
10:02:32 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
10:02:36 Sen. Bob Phalen
10:03:16 Lindsey Krywaruchka, DEQ
10:03:31 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
10:03:34 Rep. Jamie Isaly
10:03:53 Lindsey Krywaruchka, DEQ

Public Comment

10:03:58 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
10:04:14 Clayton Elliot, Montana Trout Unlimited
10:07:20 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
10:07:29 Karli Johnson, Montana Farm Bureau Federation
10:08:37 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
10:08:44 Ann Hallowell, Livingston
10:09:45 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
10:10:18 Sarah Borduin

Committee Questions / Discussion

10:11:25 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
10:11:44 Toni Henneman, LSD
10:12:05 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
10:12:07 Vice Presiding Officer Jill Cohenour
10:13:34 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
10:13:35 Rep. Tom Millett
10:13:54 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
10:14:33 Toni Henneman, LSD
(See Exhibit 8)
10:15:26 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
10:15:29 Rep. Jamie Isaly
10:15:40 Lindsey Krywaruchka, DEQ
10:17:34 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
10:18:02 Lindsey Krywaruchka, DEQ
10:19:35 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
10:19:37 Sen. Willis Curdy
10:20:15 Lindsey Krywaruchka, DEQ

TRACKING FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING CHANGES

10:21:50 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt

10:22:14 Robert Miller, Senior Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)

Public Comment

10:27:33 None

Committee Questions / Discussion

10:27:49 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt

10:27:53 Vice Presiding Officer Jill Cohenour

10:28:08 Robert Miller, LFD

10:30:00 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt

10:30:14 Robert Miller, LFD

10:30:42 **Recessed**

10:49:55 **Reconvened**

AGENCY UPDATE & MONITORING

Department Of Fish, Wildlife, And Parks (FWP)

10:49:56 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt

10:50:19 Christy Clark, Director, FWP

[EXHIBIT 10](#)

10:54:05 Adam Strainer, Administrator, Fisheries Division, FWP

10:58:23 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt

10:58:37 Bill Schenk, Land and Water Program Manager, FWP

11:04:40 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt

Department Of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

11:05:05 Lindsey Krywaruchka, Water Quality Division Administrator, DEQ

11:12:32 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt

Public Comment

11:12:50 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited

11:21:22 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt

Committee Questions / Discussion

11:21:37 Vice Presiding Officer Jill Cohenour

11:21:48 Lindsey Krywaruchka, DEQ

11:23:06 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt

11:23:09 Vice Presiding Officer Jill Cohenour

11:23:14 Christy Clark, Director, FWP

11:25:49 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt

11:25:50 Sen. Willis Curdy

11:26:29 Lindsey Krywaruchka, DEQ
11:27:21 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
11:27:22 Sen. Willis Curdy
11:27:33 Adam Strainer, FWP
11:29:14 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
11:29:15 Sen. Willis Curdy
11:29:25 Lindsey Krywaruchka, DEQ
11:34:27 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt

AGENCY UPDATE & MONITORING – Continued

Department Of Natural Resources And Conservation (DNRC)

11:34:39 Amanda Kaster, Director, DNRC
11:38:17 Dr. Anna Pakenham Stevenson, Water Resources Division Administrator, DNRC

Committee Questions / Discussion

11:41:46 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
11:41:54 Rep. Russ Miner
11:42:05 Dr. Anna Pakenham Stevenson, DNRC

Public Comment

11:42:55 None

Committee Questions / Discussion - Continued

11:43:10 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
11:43:15 Rep. Tracy Sharp
11:43:25 Bill Schenk, Land and Water Program Manager, FWP

RULE REVIEW

11:45:34 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
11:45:47 Alexis Sandru, Legal Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

[EXHIBIT 11](#)

[EXHIBIT 12](#)

Public Comment

11:47:06 None

Committee Questions / Discussion

11:47:17 None

11:47:34 **Recessed**

13:01:38 **Reconvened**

WEATHER MODIFICATION REPORT (HOUSE BILL 2, 2023)

Background And History Of Report Requirements

13:01:39 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt

13:02:04 Michael Downey, Drought Program Coordinator, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

[EXHIBIT 13](#)

[EXHIBIT 14](#)

Study Methodology and Results

13:21:28 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt

13:21:36 Sarah Tessendorf, Interim Director of Hydrometeorological Applications Program, National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR)

[EXHIBIT 15](#)

Public Comment

13:41:51 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt

13:42:09 Ann Hallowell, Livingston

[EXHIBIT 16](#)

[EXHIBIT 17](#)

[EXHIBIT 18](#)

13:46:04 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt

13:46:17 Steve Jackson

13:47:30 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt

13:47:47 Rep. Jane Gillette, HD 77

13:50:41 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt

Committee Questions / Discussion

13:50:53 Vice Presiding Officer Jill Cohenour

13:51:23 Sarah Tessendorf, NCAR

13:52:44 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt

13:52:50 Rep. Tom Millett

13:53:01 Michael Downey, DNRC

13:57:08 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt

13:57:11 Rep. Tracy Sharp

13:57:17 Michael Downey, DNRC

14:01:28 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt

14:01:30 Rep. Tracy Sharp

14:01:54 Sarah Tessendorf, NCAR

14:03:49 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt

14:03:51 Sen. Willis Curdy

14:04:11 Michael Downey, DNRC

14:04:42 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt

14:04:44 Rep. Russ Miner
14:04:49 Michael Downey, DNRC
14:08:10 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
14:08:11 Rep. Russ Miner
14:08:15 Sarah Tessendorf, NCAR
14:09:18 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
14:09:20 Vice Presiding Officer Jill Cohenour
14:10:08 Sarah Tessendorf, NCAR
14:11:21 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
14:11:27 Sen. Bob Phalen
14:11:54 Sarah Tessendorf, NCAR
14:13:53 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
14:13:57 Sen. Bob Phalen
14:14:15 Ann Hallowell, Livingston
14:15:07 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 44 STUDY: ENDOCRINE DISRUPTING CHEMICALS AND WATER QUALITY

Overview Of Study Strategy

14:15:17 Toni Henneman, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

[EXHIBIT 19](#)

[EXHIBIT 20](#)

14:23:39 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt

Review Of Department Of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Work

14:23:52 Lindsey Krywaruchka, Water Quality Division Administrator, DEQ

[EXHIBIT 21](#)

[EXHIBIT 22](#)

Public Comment

14:42:30 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
14:42:42 Matt Elsaesser, Upper Missouri Waterkeeper
14:43:56 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
14:44:07 Ronda Wiggers, Montana Well Drillers Association
14:45:43 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
14:45:51 Ann Hallowell, Livingston

[EXHIBIT 23](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

14:48:37 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
14:48:39 Sen. Willis Curdy
14:49:18 Lindsey Krywaruchka, DEQ

14:50:50 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
 14:50:57 Terri Dorrington, Bureau Chief, Tanks, Brownfields, and Federal Facilities Bureau, DEQ
 14:51:36 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
 14:51:41 Sen. Bob Phalen
 14:51:57 Lindsey Krywaruchka, DEQ
 14:54:20 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
 14:54:28 Sen. Bob Phalen
 14:54:53 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
 14:54:57 Rep. Tom Millett
 14:55:03 Lindsey Krywaruchka, DEQ
 14:57:32 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
 14:57:39 Terri Dorrington, DEQ
 15:01:13 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
 15:01:14 Vice Presiding Officer Jill Cohenour
 15:01:21 Lindsey Krywaruchka, DEQ

WATER RESEARCH – HOUSE BILL 935 & BURIED CHANNEL AQUIFER STUDIES UPDATE

15:06:34 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
 15:07:01 Alan English, Ground Water Assessment Program Manager, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology (MBMG)
[EXHIBIT 24](#)

Public Comment

15:50:10 None

Committee Questions / Discussion

15:50:22 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
 15:50:30 Vice Presiding Officer Jill Cohenour
 15:51:00 Alan English, MBMG
 15:52:58 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
 15:53:02 Rep. Tracy Sharp
 15:53:23 Alan English, MBMG

LAND BOARD TOPIC: WATER RIGHTS ON STATE TRUST LANDS

15:55:01 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
 15:55:48 Shawn Thomas, Forestry-Trust Lands Division Administrator, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
[EXHIBIT 25](#)

Public Comment

16:15:34 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt

16:15:49 Jocelyn Cahill, Senior Ag Water Rights Alliance (SAWRA)
16:19:16 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
16:19:24 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stockgrowers Association
16:20:44 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
16:20:49 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited
16:24:37 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
16:24:41 Karli Johnson, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

Committee Questions / Discussion

16:25:59 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
16:26:13 Sen. Willis Curdy
16:26:55 Shawn Thomas, DNRC
16:27:58 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
16:28:01 Sen. Bob Phalen
16:28:51 Shawn Thomas, DNRC
16:29:45 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
16:29:49 Vice Presiding Officer Jill Cohenour
16:29:53 Shawn Thomas, DNRC
16:30:57 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
16:33:51 Shawn Thomas, DNRC
16:36:17 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
16:36:21 Sen. Bob Phalen
16:37:05 Shawn Thomas, DNRC
16:42:15 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
16:42:16 Sen. Willis Curdy
16:42:29 Shawn Thomas, DNRC
16:45:40 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
16:45:41 Vice Presiding Officer Jill Cohenour
16:46:10 Shawn Thomas, DNRC
16:48:01 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt

COMMITTEE WORK SESSION

General Committee Discussion

16:48:22 Toni Henneman, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
16:48:56 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
16:48:58 Vice Presiding Officer Jill Cohenour
16:50:32 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
16:50:53 Toni Henneman, LSD
(See Exhibit 3)
16:54:52 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
16:54:54 Vice Presiding Officer Jill Cohenour

16:55:42 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
16:56:00 Toni Henneman, LSD
16:56:15 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
16:56:16 Sen. Willis Curdy
16:56:29 Toni Henneman, LSD
16:58:17 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
16:58:22 Rep. Tracy Sharp
16:58:25 Toni Henneman, LSD
16:59:38 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
16:59:39 Sen. Willis Curdy
17:00:11 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt

Committee Updates

17:00:23 Toni Henneman, LSD
17:02:08 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
17:02:09 Vice Presiding Officer Jill Cohenour
17:02:27 Presiding Officer Wylie Galt
17:03:06 Toni Henneman, LSD

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM IN WATER POLICY INTERIM COMMITTEE'S (WPIC'S) SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION

17:03:27 None

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:03:55