



# Water Policy Interim Committee

69th Montana Legislature

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## SENATE MEMBERS

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## COMMITTEE STAFF

TONI HENNEMAN, Lead Staff  
ALEXIS SANDRU, Legal Staff  
MADDELYN PENNINGTON, Secretary

## AGENDA *as of 5/8/26*

### Water Policy Interim Committee

May 11, 2026

State Capitol Building, Room 317

*Agenda times are approximate.*

- 9:00 am**      **Call to Order & Roll Call** – Sen. Wylie Galt, Presiding Officer
- 9:05 am**      **Meeting Overview** – Toni Henneman, Lead Staff
- 9:10 am**      **HJ 74 Study: Water Reuse and Storage**
- Review committee requests from March – Toni Henneman
  - Department of Environmental Quality – Lindsey Krywaruchka, Water Quality Division Administrator
  - Department of Natural Resources and Conservation – Nate Ward, Water Rights Bureau Chief
  - Public Comment
  - Committee questions, discussion
- 10:00 am**      **HB 935: Fox Hills-Hell Creek Study Update**
- Sara Edinberg, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology Hydrologist
  - Public Comment
  - Committee questions, discussion
- 10:45 am**      **Agency Update & Monitoring**
- Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks – Christy Clark, Director
  - Department of Natural Resources and Conservation – Amanda Kaster, Director
  - Department of Environmental Quality – Sonja Nowakowski, Director
  - Public Comment
  - Committee questions, discussion
- 11:45 am**      **Rule Review**
- Rule Review Memo – Alexis Sandru, Legal Staff
  - Public Comment
  - Committee questions, discussion

- 12:00 pm**      **LUNCH**
- 1:00 pm**      **Member Topic: Exempt Groundwater Wells**
- Litigation update – Alexis Sandru
  - Committee questions, discussion
- Committee Bill Review: PD2 – Grandfathering of certain exempt wells**
- Review of draft & considerations – Toni Henneman
  - Public Comment
  - Committee questions, discussion
- Committee Bill Review: PD3 – Metering and Reporting**
- Review of draft & considerations – Toni Henneman
  - Public Comment
  - Committee questions, discussion
- Committee Bill Concept: De Minimus proposal**
- Review of proposal & updates – Toni Henneman
  - Public Comment
  - Committee questions, discussion
- Committee Bill Concept: Mitigation**
- Stakeholders to present update
  - Public Comment
  - Committee questions, discussion
- 4:00 pm**      **Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Water Compact**
- Overview presentation – Rick Jore
  - Public Comment
  - Committee questions, discussion
- 5:00 pm**      **Public comment** on any item in WPIC’s subject matter jurisdiction
- 5:15 pm**      **Committee Work Session**
- Review draft letter to Legislative Council
  - Review and suggest next steps for any topic on this agenda
  - Committee questions, discussion
- 5:30 pm**      **Adjourn**

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**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.

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