



CAPITOL MONITOR



THE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN OF THE MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION CENTER

Volume 23, Number 1 — January 9, 2019

Your “Insider’s Guide” to the Legislature since 1973

Welcome to the first issue of MEIC’s Capitol Monitor for the 2019 legislative session. As usual, you can expect to receive high-quality and up-to-date information on the session from MEIC.

We expect that this session will be one of the most challenging in MEIC’s 45-year history. We hope that by communicating promptly and frequently with you—our members—you will be able to participate more effectively in our lobbying efforts.

And—no kidding—we need your help. Our lobbyists cannot do it alone. Protecting the environment this session will require everyone’s efforts. So please use the Capitol Monitor and our website (www.meic.org) to become involved. Let’s protect the things that make Montana special.

Legislators need to be told over and over that Montanans want clean air, clean water, clean energy, and the right to participate in government decision-making. If they don’t hear from you, it could be that they will only hear from well-heeled, self-interested lobbyists. It’s your choice.



The 2019 legislative session has officially begun, and MEIC’s motto for this session will be: “there’s no turning back the clock.” MEIC will do everything possible to make sure that the 66th Legislature does not roll back environment and public health protections. High on the list of things that need protecting are: the State’s “bad actor” law that prevents metal mine executives from obtaining a permit for a new hardrock mine if they left the State with the clean-up bill for a previous mine they were involved in; protecting renewable energy laws such as the State’s renewable energy standard and net metering (a.k.a., rooftop solar); and, of course, protecting existing air and water quality laws.

There are already 3,055 bill draft requests from the 150 legislators, and that number will climb. Many of those draft bills will never be introduced, but many of them will be. Many of the bills related to the environment are certainly

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A How-to Guide for Engaging During the 2019 Session

MEIC Legislative Bill Tracker

MEIC maintains and regularly updates a Legislative Bill Tracker on its website (go to <https://meic.org/bill-tracker/>) that includes the important legislative proposals that could impact Montana’s environment. All of the bills on our bill tracker are categorized by issue, offer easy-to-understand descriptions, list MEIC’s position, and include a tool for contacting key legislators.

Capitol Monitor and Blog

On MEIC’s website you can find an electronic version of the Capitol Monitor (go to <https://meic.org/our-work/montana-legislature/>), as well as a sign-up form to receive the Capitol Monitor and other alerts by e-mail. MEIC also maintains a blog that has frequent posts about environmental and energy issues affecting Montana, and will include relevant writings on the 2019 Montana legislative session.

Calendar of Events

MEIC and other environmental organizations will hold “lobby days,” host legislative socials, and schedule membership meetings across the state to provide legislative updates. MEIC regularly updates its online events calendar, where you can learn the details of different events (go to www.meic.org and look under “Take Action”).



intended to weaken protections that have been on the books for decades. MEIC will review each introduced bill to see how it will impact climate change, fossil fuel giveaways, and clean energy. We will work to ensure that the Smith River mine proponents don't further undermine environmental protections. And, as always, we will be there to make sure that everyone, not just wealthy corporations, have access to government decision making, and are able to actively and meaningfully participate when State government makes a decision that impacts the environment, public health, people's livelihoods, or responsible property rights. As you know, coal is already being replaced by less expensive clean energy. Some people, including some of our legislators, believe that stopping clean energy development

MEIC's Legislative Roadshow!

MEIC's legislative roadshow is coming to a town near you! Plan on attending one of our meetings to learn the latest information on legislative happenings and how you can make a difference in the 2019 session!

Missoula, Jan. 17th 6:30 PM

Goodworks Ventures, 129 W. Alder Street

Kalispell, Jan. 22nd 6:30 PM

The law office of McGarvey, Heberling, Sullivan & Lacey, 345 1st Avenue E.

Helena, Jan. 23rd 6:30 PM

Lewis and Clark Library, 120 S. Last Chance Gulch

Billings, Jan. 30th 6:30 PM

Billings Public Library, 510 N. Broadway

Bozeman, Feb. 6th 6:30 PM

Bozeman Public Library, 626 E. Main Street

Great Falls, Feb. 7th 6:30 PM

Paris Gibson Square, 1400 1st Avenue

will help keep coal limping along. For the sake of the climate, water quality, clean air, and the pocketbooks of utility customers, we must stop the undermining of Montana's clean energy future. Another high priority for MEIC is to make sure that energy resource decisions are made in the open instead of behind a veil of secrecy by utility companies or at the Montana Public Service Commission. It may seem like this is a dry, obscure topic, but it's where decisions that affect our future are being made today. More transparency will help make sure those decisions about our energy future are in the interest of consumers and not just the utility. Together MEIC's lobbying team and its members can make a difference. We look forward to working with you throughout the session to help lawmakers understand the importance of their votes on Montana's future and its natural environment.

You can help by attending one of our volunteer lobby days, signing up for MEIC e-mail alerts, keeping up-to-date using the legislative bill tracker on our website at meic.org, calling or visiting your legislators, or coming to Helena and testifying before a committee on a bill you care about. We can help you help us. Together we can make sure the legislature does not turn back the clock on important environmental protections.

Attend a Lobby Day!

MEIC invites you to join us and other environmental interests at one of our Citizen Lobby Days. We will help guide you through the steps you need to talk effectively to your legislators about issues that matter to you. Please sign up for a citizen lobby day and let us help you protect the environment. Plan to attend one or all. The first one will be held on February 6th.

Leadership of the 66th Legislature

President: Scott Sales, *R-Bozeman*

President Pro Tempore:

Mike Blasdel, *R-Big Fork*

Majority Leader: Fred Thomas, *R-Stevensville*

Majority Whips: Doug Kary, *R-Billings*
Steve Fitzpatrick, *R-Great Falls*
Cary Smith, *R-Billings*

Minority Leader: Jon Sesso, *D-Butte*

Minority Whips: Margie MacDonald, *D-Billings*

JP Pomnichowski, *D-Bozeman*

Officers of the House of Representatives

Speaker: Greg Hertz, *R-Polson*

Speaker Pro Tempore: Wylie Galt, *R-Martinsdale*

Majority Leader: Brad Tschida, *R-Missoula*

Majority Whips: Becky Beard, *R-Elliston*
Dennis Lenz, *R-Billings*
Derek Skees, *R-Kalispell*
Seth Berglee, *R-Joliet*

Minority Leader: Casey Schreiner, *D-Great Falls*

Minority Caucus Chair: Laurie Bishop, *D-Livingston*

CAPITOL MONITOR

Capitol Monitor is a publication of the Montana Environmental Information Center designed to keep our members informed about environmental issues at the Montana legislature.

MEIC President: Robert Gentry
MEIC Executive Director: James Jensen



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www.meic.org

2019 Senate Committees*

NATURAL RESOURCES

MWF, 3 pm, Room 303

Chair: Chas Jeffrey Welborn
(R-Dillon)

Vice Chair: Tom Richmond
(R-Billings)

Vice Chair: JP Pomnichowski
(D-Bozeman)

Duane Ankney (R-Colstrip)

Dick Barrett (D-Missoula)

Jill Cohenour (D-East Helena)

John Esp (R-Big Timber)

Pat Flowers (D-Bozeman)

Bruce Gillespie (R-Ethridge)

Brian Hoven (R-Great Falls)

Tom Jacobson (D-Great Falls)

Scott Sales (R-Bozeman)

ENERGY AND

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Tu/Th, 3 pm, Room 317

Chair: Duane Ankney
(R-Colstrip)

Vice Chair: Jason Small
(R-Busby)

Vice Chair: Mary McNally
(D-Billings)

Dick Barrett (D-Missoula)

Mike Cuffe (R-Eureka)

Terry Gauthier (R-Helena)

Doug Kary (R-Billings)

Sue Malek (D-Missoula)

Mike Phillips (D-Bozeman)

Keith Regier (R-Kalispell)

Tom Richmond (R-Billings)

Russel Tempel (R-Chester)

Gene Vuckovich (D-Anaconda)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

MWF, 3 pm, Room 405

Chair: Mike Lang (R-Malta)

Vice Chair: Terry Gauthier
(R-Helena)

Vice Chair: Gene Vuckovich
(D-Anaconda)

Jason Ellsworth (R-Hamilton)

Jennifer Fielder (R-Thompson
Falls)

Steve Fitzpatrick (R-Great Falls)

Margie MacDonald (D-Billings)

Nate McConnell (D-Missoula)

Jon Sesso (D-Butte)

Roger Webb (R-Billings)

JUDICIARY

M-F, 8 am, Room 303

Chair: Keith Regier (R-Kalispell)

Vice Chair: Jennifer Fielder
(R-Thompson Falls)

Vice Chair: Diane Sands
(D-Missoula)

Bryce Bennett (D-Missoula)

John Esp (R-Big Timber)

Jenn Gross (D-Billings)

Steve Hinebauch (R-Wibaux)

Margie MacDonald (D-Billings)

Scott Sales (R-Bozeman)

Gordy Vance (R-Belgrade)

FISH AND GAME

Tu/Th, 3 pm, Room 422

Chair: Jennifer Fielder
(R-Thompson Falls)

Vice Chair: Steve Hinebauch
(R-Wibaux)

Vice Chair: Jill Cohenour
(D-East Helena)

Jason Ellsworth (R-Hamilton)

Pat Flowers (D-Bozeman)

David Howard (R-Park City)

Tom Jacobson (D-Great Falls)

Mike Lang (R-Malta)

Edie McClafferty (D-Butte)

Cary Smith (R-Billings)

2019 House Committees*

NATURAL RESOURCES

MWF, 3 pm, Room 172

Chair: Kerry White
(R-Bozeman)

Vice Chair: Theresa
Manzella (R-Hamilton)

Vice Chair: Willis Curdy
(D-Missoula)

Bob Brown (R-Thompson
Falls)

Zach Brown (D-Bozeman)

Robert Farris-Olsen

(D-Helena)

Ross Fitzgerald (R-Fairfield)

Steve Gunderson (R-Libby)

Emma Kerr-Carpenter

(D-Billings)

Casey Knudsen (R-Malta)

Rhonda Knudsen

(R-Culbertson)

Marilyn Marler (D-Missoula)

Dale Mortensen (R-Billings)

Mark Noland (R-Bigfork)

Marvin Weatherwax

(D-Browning)

FEDERAL RELATIONS,

ENERGY, AND

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

MWF, 3 pm, Room 472

Chair: Daniel Zolnikov
(R-Billings)

Vice Chair: Derek Skees
(R-Kalispell)

Vice Chair: Christopher
Pope (D-Bozeman)

Geraldine Custer (R-Forsyth)

Alane Doane (R-Bloomfield)

Neil Duram (R-Eureka)

Wylie Galt (R-Martinsdale)

Denise Hayman (D-Bozeman)

Andrea Olsen (D-Missoula)

Alan Redfield (R-Livingston)

Sharon Stewart Peregoy

(D-Crow Agency)

Katie Sullivan (D-Missoula)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Tu/Th, 3 pm, Room 472

Chair: Geraldine Custer
(R-Forsyth)

Vice Chair: Steve Gunderson
(R-Libby)

Vice Chair: Dave Fern
(D-Whitefish)

Greg DeVries (R-Jefferson
City)

Frank Fleming (R-Billings)

Rodney Garcia (R-Billings)

Frank Garner (R-Kalispell)

Bruce Grubbs (R-Bozeman)

Derek Harvey (D-Butte)

Emma Kerr-Carpenter

(D-Billings)

Jasmine Krotkov (D-Neihart)

Theresa Manzella

(R-Hamilton)

Marilyn Marler (D-Missoula)

Christopher Pope

(D-Bozeman)

Casey Schreiner (D-Great
Falls)

Derek Skees (R-Kalispell)

Daniel Zolnikov (R-Billings)

JUDICIARY

M-F, 8 am, Room 137

Chair: Alan Doane
(R-Bloomfield)

Vice Chair: Barry Usher
(R-Billings)

Vice Chair: Kathy Kelker
(D-Billings)

Seth Berglee (R-Joliet)

Barbara Bessette (D-Billings)

Laurie Bishop (D-Livingston)

Bob Brown (R-Thompson
Falls)

Greg DeVries (R-Jefferson
City)

David Dunn (R-Kalispell)

Robert Farris-Olsen
(D-Helena)

Connie Keogh (D-Missoula)

Casey Knudsen (R-Malta)

Jasmine Krotkov (D-Neihart)

Dennis Lenz (R-Billings)

Theresa Manzella

(R-Hamilton)

Terry Moore (R-Billings)

Shane Morigeau

(D-Missoula)

Zac Perry (D-Hungry Horse)

Derek Skees (R-Kalispell)

FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS

Tu/Th, 3 pm, Room 172

Chair: Bob Brown
(R-Thompson Falls)

Vice Chair: Ross Fitzgerald
(R-Fairfield)

Vice Chair: Zac Perry
(D-Hungry Horse)

Seth Berglee (R-Joliet)

Zach Brown (D-Bozeman)

Neil Duram (R-Eureka)

Robert Farris-Olsen

(D-Helena)

John Fuller (R-Kalispell)

Rhonda Knudsen

(R-Culbertson)

Joel Krautter (R-Sidney)

Denley Loge (R-Saint Regis)

Tyson Runningwolf

(D-Browning)

Bridget Smith (D-Wolf Point)

Sharon Stewart Peregoy

(D-Crow Agency)

Mark Sweeney

(D-Philipsburg)

Sue Vinton (R-Billings)

Marvin Weatherwax

(D-Browning)

Kerry White (R-Bozeman)

*This is only a partial list.

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How to Contact Your Legislators

If you do not know who your legislators are, you can search by zip code on Project Vote Smart's website: www.votesmart.org

By computer:

MEIC offers ways to contact legislators on our 2019 legislative session page and online bill tracker:
<http://meic.org/bill-tracker>

MEIC also maintains a list of legislator contact information at:
<http://meic.org/montana-legislature/legislators/>

By telephone:

To leave a message for your legislator or for session information, call (406) 444-4800 between 7:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. until adjournment on Saturday. You may need to be patient; the line has been understaffed in previous years.

By mail:

Montana Senate
P.O. Box 200500
Helena, MT 59620

Montana House of Representatives
P.O. Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620



MEIC's Team at the Capitol

Leading MEIC's lobbying staff at the Capitol is Anne Hedges, MEIC's Deputy Director. Anne joined MEIC in May 1993, and has lobbied every session since. She handles a wide range of issues that are important to MEIC members including energy, land-use planning, environmental policy, and air quality.

Jim Jensen has been MEIC's Executive Director since 1985. He attended Westminster College in Salt Lake City and holds a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Montana (1980). Jim will focus primarily on clean water and mining issues at the legislature.

Derf Johnson, MEIC's Water Program Director, will be lobbying primarily on oil and gas development, hardrock mining, clean water, and energy issues. He is beginning his sixth year at MEIC. He is a graduate of the UM School of Law.

Brian Fadie, MEIC's Clean Energy Program Director, will be lobbying primarily on renewable energy and energy efficiency issues. Brian is a graduate of the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment in 2016.

Malcolm Gilbert, MEIC's Legislative Assistant, will be assisting MEIC's lobbying team during the 2019 Montana Legislature. Malcolm joins us with a broad background in biology and penchant for environmental advocacy. He is a Helena native, Smith and Blackfoot River fly fishing guide, an avid trail runner, backcountry and Nordic skier, cyclist, and oarsman.



Left to right: Brian Fadie; Jim Jensen; Anne Hedges; and Derf Johnson



Malcolm Gilbert

Save this Newsletter! While the information in this newsletter will all be available on our web site (www.meic.org) it will not all be repeated in future issues. Please put this issue in some prominent place on your refrigerator or in your "TO DO" pile, so that you can refer to it in the future.

Save paper and money

Do you want to save paper, have one less item in your mailbox, and save MEIC much-needed funds this session? Send us your e-mail address. We'll remove your name from our postal mail list and add you to our e-Activists list. You'll receive Capitol Monitor, updates on the bills we're lobbying, and alerts when important bills need an extra push from citizens contacting their legislators. Send your e-mail address, if we don't already have it, to Adam McLane: mclane@meic.org.

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