



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

**W**elcome to the first issue of MEIC’s **Capitol Monitor** for the 2017 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 43-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](http://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.**



### It’s Going to Be Quite a Session

**T**he post-election news may induce mental paralysis for many people concerned about environmental protection and public health. Many are asking: what do we do now? We know that action on climate change will stop at the federal level as climate liars take the helm of government and try to undo eight years of progress. Despite the fact that some Montana legislators who will be serving in the 2017 legislative session will be buoyed by this anti-science, anti-government, anti-right-to-know extremism at the federal level, MEIC and all environmentalists must face the challenge head on and continue to fight for clean water, clean air, and clean energy. Montanans want us to do just that, and many of Montana’s legislators and Gov. Steve Bullock need our support as they try to work in a bipartisan manner to move Montana forward.

Montana legislators from all across the state have already requested well over 2,000 bills. Most of those will never be introduced, but many are intended

*Continued on page 2*

## A How-to Guide for Engaging During the 2017 Session

### MEIC Legislative Bill Tracker

MEIC maintains and regularly updates a **Legislative Bill Tracker** on its website (go to [www.meic.org/legislature](http://www.meic.org/legislature)) 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 **Capitol Monitor** (go to [www.meic.org](http://www.meic.org) and look under “Media Center”), as well as a sign-up form to receive **Capitol Monitor** and other alerts by e-mail. MEIC also maintains a blog (also under “Media Center”) that has frequent posts about environmental and energy issues affecting Montana, and will include relevant writings on the 2017 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](http://www.meic.org) and look under “Get Involved/Attend an Event”).



to weaken important environmental protections, for example, so that the Smith River mine and new and expanded coal mines can be developed regardless of their impact on water quality and the global climate. Clean energy is a bipartisan issue that lowers electricity bills and brings much needed revenue to communities across the state. MEIC will work on climate change and encouraging the transition away from coal, as well as on many other issues such as land use planning, air quality, oil and gas pollution, protecting constitutional rights, and much more.

MEIC will need the help of all of its members and supporters. We will make it easy for you:

- sending periodic newsletters updating you on happenings at the Capitol;
- constantly updating our website so you can know day-to-day what is going on and what you can do;
- working with other organizations to organize citizen lobby days, not only to teach you how to talk to legislators, but directing you to what most needs doing on that particular day;
- sending alerts asking for quick action from you, whether it is a telephone call or an e-mail message;
- letting you know about legislative hearings you can attend and testify at (it can feel good to give legislators a piece of your mind once in a while); and
- making maximum use of both traditional and social media to publicize our issues and concerns.

In short, there will be many ways to become involved and help protect Montana's environment. Please plan on participating. MEIC and the environment need you now, more than ever.

### MEIC's Legislative Roadshow!

MEIC's legislative roadshow is coming to a town near you! Plan on attending one of our meetings, and get the latest information on legislative happenings and how you can make a difference in the 2017 session!

#### **Kalispell, January 5th at 6:30 PM**

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

#### **Helena, January 9th at 7:00 PM**

Lewis and Clark Library, 120 S Last Chance Gulch

#### **Billings, January 11th at 7:00 PM**

Billings Public Library, 510 N. Broadway

#### **Bozeman, January 18th at 7:30 PM**

Bozeman Public Library, 626 E Main Street

#### **Great Falls, January 24th at 6:30 PM**

Great Falls Public Library, 301 2nd Avenue N.

#### **Missoula, January 31st at 7:00 PM**

Missoula Public Library, 301 E Main Street

### 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 January 26th.

### Save this Newsletter

While the information in this newsletter will all be available on our web site ([www.meic.org](http://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.

## LEADERSHIP OF THE 65TH LEGISLATURE

### Officers of the Senate

**President:** Scott Sales, *R-Bozeman*

**President Pro Tempore:** Bob Keenan, *R-Bigfork*

**Majority Leader:** Fred Thomas, *R-Stevensville*

**Majority Whips:** Mark Blasdel, *R-Kalispell*,  
Ed Buttrey, *R-Great Falls*,  
Cary Smith, *R-Billings*

**Minority Leader:** Jon Sesso, *D-Butte*

**Minority Whips:** Tom Facey, *D-Missoula*,  
JP Pomnichowski, *D-Bozeman*

### Officers of the House of Representatives

**Speaker:** Austin Knudsen, *R-Culbertson*

**Speaker Pro Tempore:** Greg Hertz, *R-Polson*

**Majority Leader:** Ron Ehli, *R-Hamilton*

**Majority Whips:** Seth Berglee, *R-Joliet*,  
Alan Doane, *R-Bloomfield*,  
Theresa Manzella, *R-Hamilton*,  
Brad Tschida, *R-Missoula*

**Minority Leader:** Jenny Eck, *D-Helena*

**Minority Caucus Chair:** Tom Woods, *D-Bozeman*

**Minority Whips:** Nate McConnell, *D-Missoula*,  
Shane Morigeau, *D-Missoula*,  
Casey Schreiner, *D-Great Falls*

## 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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**2017 Senate Committees\***

**NATURAL RESOURCES**

*MWF, 3 pm, Room 303*

**Chair:** Chas Vincent (*R-Libby*)  
**Vice Chair:** Jeffrey Welborn (*R-Dillon*)

**Vice Chair:** Jill Cohenour (*D-East Helena*)

Duane Ankney (*R-Colstrip*)  
Dick Barrett (*D-Missoula*)  
Pat Connell (*R-Hamilton*)  
Jennifer Fielder (*R-Thompson Falls*)

Jedediah Hinkle (*R-Belgrade*)  
Mary McNally (*D-Billings*)  
Mike Phillips (*D-Bozeman*)  
JP Pomnichowski (*D-Bozeman*)  
Tom Richmond (*R-Billings*)  
**Secretary:** Laura Evilsizer, (406) 444-4610

**ENERGY AND**

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

*Tu/Th, 3 pm, Room 317*

**Chair:** Duane Ankney (*R-Colstrip*)

**Vice Chair:** Pat Connell (*R-Hamilton*)

**Vice Chair:** Cynthia Wolken (*D-Missoula*)

Dick Barrett (*D-Missoula*)  
Mark Blasdel (*R-Kalispell*)  
Doug Kary (*R-Billings*)  
Sue Malek (*D-Missoula*)  
Mary McNally (*D-Billings*)  
Keith Regier (*R-Kalispell*)  
Tom Richmond (*R-Billings*)  
Jason Small (*R-Busby*)  
Gene Vuckovich (*D-Anaconda*)

**Secretary:** Charlene Devine, (406) 444-1619

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

*MWF, 3 pm, Room 405*

**Chair:** Roger Webb (*R-Billings*)

**Vice Chair:** Mike Lang (*R-Malta*)

**Vice Chair:** Gene Vuckovich (*D-Anaconda*)

Ed Buttrey (*R-Great Falls*)  
Steve Fitzpatrick (*R-Great Falls*)

Terry Gauthier (*R-Helena*)  
Brian Hoven (*R-Great Falls*)  
Margie MacDonald (*D-Billings*)  
Jon Sesso (*D-Butte*)  
**Secretary:** Jamie Wilson, (406) 444-7363

**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*)

Jen Gross (*D-Billings*)  
Steve Hinebauch (*R-Wibaux*)  
Jedediah Hinkle (*R-Bozeman*)  
Margie MacDonald (*D-Billings*)  
Mary Sheehy Moe (*D-Great Falls*)

Scott Sales (*R-Bozeman*)  
Nels Swandal (*R-Livingston*)  
Chas Vincent (*R-Libby*)

**Secretary:** Pam Schindler, (406) 444-4618

**FISH AND GAME**

*Tu/Th, 3 pm, Room 422*

**Chair:** Jennifer Fielder (*R-Thompson Falls*)

**Vice Chair:** Jedediah Hinkle (*R-Belgrade*)

**Vice Chair:** Mike Phillips (*D-Bozeman*)

Jill Cohenour (*D-East Helena*)  
Tom Facey (*D-Missoula*)  
Steve Hinebauch (*R-Wibaux*)  
David Howard (*R-Park City*)  
Edie McClafferty (*D-Butte*)  
Cary Smith (*R-Billings*)  
Chas Vincent (*R-Libby*)  
Jeffrey Welborn (*R-Billings*)

**Secretary:** Laura Evilsizer, (406) 444-4610

*\*This is only a partial list.*

**2017 House Committees\***

**NATURAL RESOURCES**

*MWF, 3 pm, Room 172*

**Chair:** Kerry White (*R-Bozeman*)

**Vice Chair:** Theresa Manzella (*R-Hamilton*)

**Vice Chair:** Zach Brown (*D-Bozeman*)

Kim Abbott (*D-Helena*)  
Bob Brown (*R-Thompson Falls*)  
Virginia Court (*D-Billings*)  
Willis Curdy (*D-Missoula*)  
Ross Fitzgerald (*R-Fairfield*)  
John Fleming (*D-St. Ignatius*)  
Kelly Flynn (*R-Townsend*)  
Wylie Galt (*R-Martinsdale*)  
Steve Gunderson (*R-Libby*)  
Dale Mortensen (*R-Billings*)  
Mark Noland (*R-Bigfork*)  
Jonathan Windy Boy (*R-Box Elder*)

**Secretary:** Lexi Goble, (406) 444-4185

**FEDERAL RELATIONS, ENERGY, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

*MWF, 3 pm, Room 172*

**Chair:** Daniel Zolnikov (*R-Billings*)

**Vice Chair:** Derek Skees (*R-Kalispell*)

**Vice Chair:** Denise Hayman (*D-Bozeman*)

Laurie Bishop (*D-Livingston*)  
Geraldine Custer (*R-Forsyth*)  
Adam Hertz (*R-Missoula*)  
Austin Knudsen (*R-Culbertson*)  
Casey Knudsen (*R-Malta*)  
Nate McConnell (*D-Missoula*)  
Shane Morigeau (*D-Missoula*)  
James O'Hara (*R-Fort Benton*)  
Andrea Olsen (*D-Missoula*)  
Zac Perry (*D-Hungry Horse*)  
Alan Redfield (*R-Livingston*)  
Adam Rosendale (*R-Billings*)  
Sharon Stewart-Perego (*D-Crow Agency*)

**Secretary:** Sydney Kessel, (406) 444-1513

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

*Tu/Th, 3 pm, Room 172*

**Chair:** Edward Greef (*R-Florence*)

**Vice Chair:** Forrest Mandeville (*R-Columbus*)

**Vice Chair:** Kathy Swanson (*D-Anaconda*)

Kim Abbott (*D-Missoula*)  
Laurie Bishop (*D-Livingston*)  
Amanda Curtis (*D-Butte*)  
Geraldine Custer (*R-Forsyth*)  
Mary Ann Dunwell (*D-Helena*)  
Dave Fern (*D-Whitefish*)  
Ross Fitzgerald (*R-Fairfield*)  
Frank Garner (*R-Kalispell*)  
Bruce Grubbs (*R-Bozeman*)  
Steve Gunderson (*R-Libby*)  
Denise Hayman (*D-Bozeman*)  
Adam Hertz (*R-Missoula*)  
Jessica Karjala (*D-Billings*)  
Kathy Kelker (*D-Billings*)  
Steve Lavin (*R-Kalispell*)  
Derek Skees (*R-Kalispell*)

Jeremy Trebas (*R-Great Falls*)  
Barry Usher (*R-Billings*)  
Susan Webber (*D-Browning*)  
Daniel Zolnikov (*R-Great Falls*)

**Secretary:** Andrew Watne, (406) 444-4467

**JUDICIARY**

*M-F, 8 am, Room 137*

**Chair:** Alan Doane (*R-Bloomfield*)

**Vice Chair:** Seth Berglee (*R-Joliet*)

**Vice Chair:** Virginia Court (*D-Billings*)

Laurie Bishop (*D-Livingston*)  
Bob Brown (*R-Thompson Falls*)

Jenny Eck (*D-Helena*)  
Bill Harris (*R-Winnett*)

Ellie Boldman Hill (*D-Missoula*)

Kathy Kelker (*D-Billings*)  
Casey Knudsen (*R-Malta*)

Theresa Manzella (*R-Hamilton*)  
Nate McConnell (*D-Missoula*)  
Shane Morigeau (*D-Missoula*)  
Dale Mortensen (*R-Billings*)  
Zac Perry (*D-Bozeman*)  
Matt Regier (*R-Kalispell*)  
Lola Sheldon-Galloway (*R-Great Falls*)  
Barry Usher (*R-Billings*)  
Kirk Wagoner (*R-Montana City*)  
**Secretary:** Sara Fleming, (406) 444-4709

**FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS**

*Tu/Th, 3 pm, Room 152*

**Chair:** Kelly Flynn (*R-Townsend*)

**Vice Chair:** Bob Brown (*R-Vice Chair*)

**Vice Chair:** Bridget Smith (*D-Wolf Point*)

Zach Brown (*D-Bozeman*)  
Virginia Court (*D-Billings*)  
Tom Jacobson (*D-Great Falls*)  
George Kipp III (*D-Heart Butte*)  
Casey Knudsen (*R-Malta*)

Denley Loge (*R-Saint Regis*)  
Jean Price (*D-Great Falls*)

Matt Regier (*R-Kalispell*)  
Adam Rosendale (*R-Billings*)

Ray Shaw (*R-Sheridan*)  
Sharon Stewart-Perego (*D-Crow Agency*)

Sue Vinton (*R-Billings*)  
Tom Welch (*R-Billings*)

Kerry White (*R-Bozeman*)

**Secretary:** Jessica Riffel, (406) 444-4877

*\*This is only a partial list.*

**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](http://www.votesmart.org)

**By computer:**

MEIC will regularly offer ways to contact legislators via our 2017 legislative session page and online bill tracker:

<http://meic.org/legislature>

MEIC also maintains a list of legislators and contact information at:

<http://meic.org/issues/2017-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 recently started with MEIC, having graduated from the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment in 2016.



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



**Nadine Nadow**, MEIC's Legislative Assistant, will be assisting MEIC's lobbying team during the 2017 Montana Legislature. Nadine is finishing her last year as a student at Vermont Law School. Her studies are focused in land use law and water law. She enjoys spending time with her dog running trails, skiing, and playing ultimate frisbee.

### 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](mailto:mclane@meic.org).

**THANK YOU!**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**meic**  
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Clean & Healthy. It's your right, our mission.  
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