



Colorado
Legislative
Council
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MEMORANDUM

April 22, 2009

TO: Members of the Water Resources Review Committee
FROM: David Beaujon, Senior Analyst, 303-866-4781
SUBJECT: Overview of the Water Resources Review Committee

This memorandum describes the Water Resources Review Committee's membership, charge, bill limits, and bill request deadlines. Table 1 also summarizes the committee's activities since 2004 including the number of meetings, tours, and legislative recommendations. Final reports, memorandum, and other information from previous years are available on the General Assembly's website.¹

2009 Water Resources Review Committee

Senator Jim Isgar Chair	Representative Kathleen Curry Vice-chair
Senator Greg Brophy	Representative Randy Baumgardner
Senator Mary Hodge	Representative Randy Fischer
Senator Gail Schwartz	Representative Cory Gardner
Senator Al White	Representative Wes McKinley

Membership requirements. The Water Resources Review Committee is a ten-member committee with terms extending from January 1 of an odd-numbered year to December 31 of the following even-numbered year (two years).² During odd-numbered years, the President appoints the chair and the Speaker appoints the vice-chair. Members are appointed according to the following criteria:

- five Senate members, three appointed by the Senate President and two appointed by the Senate Minority Leader;
- five House members appointed by the House Speaker in consultation with the House Minority Leader;
- at least four members must reside west of the Continental Divide or their district must have a majority of its population residing west of the Continental Divide; and
- members should represent each of the seven water divisions.

¹www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/committee

²Section 37-98-102 (2), C.R.S.

Committee charge. The committee is authorized to review water issues and propose legislation related to the conservation, use, development, and financing of Colorado's water resources. In conducting its review, the committee is required to consult with experts in the field of water conservation, quality, use, finance, and development.

Tours and meetings. The committee is authorized to meet up to eight times during odd-numbered years and to take up to two field trips.³

Committee Recommendations to Legislative Council

Bill limits. Each bill recommended by the committee must be approved by a two-thirds vote. The committee is limited to recommending three bills to the Legislative Council, unless two-thirds of the members of the Water Resources Review Committee vote to recommend a greater number.⁴ The Joint Rules of the House and Senate limit to eight the total number of bills that may be recommended by any committee unless the Executive Committee of the Legislative Council approves a greater number.⁵

Legislative Council review. The Legislative Council will review interim committee recommendations on November 13, 2009.⁶ Bills approved by the Legislative Council do not count against a member's five bill limit for the regular legislative session.⁷ Bills not approved by Legislative Council may be introduced into the regular session but such bills will count against a member's five bill limit. Interim committee bills must have prime sponsors prior to consideration by the Legislative Council.⁸

Legislative Council's requirements for bill drafts. Legislative Council typically issues guidelines for interim committees that require that at least a majority of the committee membership approve a bill in concept prior to requesting a bill draft. Requests must also be made at least two weeks before the final meeting to allow sufficient time for drafting and final consideration by the committee. In keeping with this practice, bills must be approved by the committee by Friday, October 30, 2009, to be considered at the November 13, 2009, meeting of the Legislative Council.

³Section 37-98-102 (1) (a), C.R.S.

⁴Section 37-98-103 (1), C.R.S.

⁵Joint Rule 24 (b) (1) (D), of the House and Senate.

⁶Joint Rule 24 (b) (1) (D), of the House and Senate requires that this meeting occur by November 15 in odd-numbered years which falls on a Sunday in 2009.

⁷Joint Rule 24 (b) (1) (D), of the House and Senate.

⁸Joint Rule 24 (b) (1) (E), of the House and Senate.

Table 1
Activities of the Water Resources Review Committee Since 2004

Year	Number of Meetings	Tour(s)	Recommendation(s)
2008	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.5-day tour in the South Platte River Basin with the Colorado Foundation for Water Education; and • half-day tour of the Republican River Basin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senate Bill 09-015 (Sen. Tochtrop, Rep. Gardner, C.) White River Water Division change — <i>signed into law</i>.
2007	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-day tour in the Gunnison and Uncompahgre River Basins with the Colorado Foundation for Water Education; and • 1-day tour in the Yampa River Basin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senate Bill 08-010 (Sen. Schwartz, Rep. Gardner, C.) Board of Directors of the Water Resources and Power Development Authority — <i>signed into law</i>; • House Bill 08-1030 (Rep. Hodge, Sen. Brophy) Exemption for depletions from pumping that occurred prior to 1974 — <i>lost in the Senate</i> • Letter 1 — urged Colorado's congressional delegation to fund a study concerning options for increasing water storage in Chatfield Reservoir that is located on the South Platte River, southwest of Denver; • Letter 2 — expressed support for funding for the federal Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) in the 2007 Farm Bill; and • Letter 3 — expressed concern to the congressional delegation about H.R. 720, the "Water Quality Financing Act of 2007."
2006	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-day tour in the Upper Colorado River and the Upper Arkansas River Basins with the Colorado Foundation for Water Education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senate Bill 07-008 (Sen. Taylor, Rep. Curry) Expansion of the water efficiency grant program — <i>signed into law</i>; • House Bill 07-1056 (Rep. Butcher, Sen. Isgar) Increase the compensation paid to the directors of certain water districts — <i>signed into law</i>; and • House Joint Resolution 07-1004 (Rep. Gardner, C. Sen. Fitz-Gerald) Request that Congress support the federal "RuralColorado Water Infrastructure Act" — <i>adopted</i>
2005	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-day tour in northwestern Colorado including the Upper Colorado River and the Yampa-White Basins; and • half day tour of the South Platte River Basin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senate Bill 06-034 (Sen. Entz, Rep. Hodge) Appointments to the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority — <i>signed into law</i>; • Senate Bill 06-037 (Sen Isgar, Rep. Curry) Adjudication of recreational in-channel diversions — <i>signed into law</i>.

Year	Number of Meetings	Tour(s)	Recommendation(s)
2004	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-day tour in the South Platte River Basin; and • 4-day tour in Southwestern Colorado including the Lower Gunnison, Dolores, Animas, La Plata, San Juan, and Rio Grande River Basins. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senate Bill 05-045 (Sen. Dyer, Rep. Rose) Authorization for certain water districts to provide park and recreation services in connection with a reservoir — <i>signed into law</i>; and • Senate Bill 05-011 (Sen. Entz, Rep. Hoppe) Water project revolving fund eligibility lists — <i>signed into law</i>.