

Council Legislative & Local Affairs Committee SPECIAL MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, May 29, 2024 - TIME: 4:00 PM
PLACE: City Hall Conference Room - 210 N. 27th Street, Billings, MT

Committee Attendance:

Kendra Shaw – Ward 1; Denise Joy – Ward 3; Mike Boyett – Ward 5

Staff: Chris Kukulski, Louis Engels, Debi Meling, Jessica Fust

Public:

Agenda

PUBLIC COMMENT

(Public comment is limited to three minutes or as set by the presiding officer. Please sign in on the roster provided Comments are to be directed to agenda items and items within the scope of this committee)

TOPIC # 1	Nutrient/Wasterwater Update
Louis Engels	
NOTES / OUTCOME:	<p>Legislative Committee – Immediate action requested. The Legislative Committee met in a special session this week to discuss an urgent issue before the Water Policy Interim Committee (WPIC) at the state legislature. Your action is requested NO LATER than June 10, 2024.</p> <p>The issue: WPIC (Water Policy Interim Committee) recently voted in favor of new DEQ regulations that will require Billings to build a new \$100 million+ drinking water treatment plant at the end of the wastewater treatment plant.</p> <p>Analysis: Based on multi-year studies of river water both upstream and downstream, Billings Water Quality Superintendent Louis Engels has determined this regulation will mean little-to-no water quality improvement for Billings residents (our water quality is already exceptional)—nor to the river as a whole. Of note: environmental groups also oppose these rules moving forward.</p> <p>The ask: Call the Yellowstone County caucus, then call them again. Ask all representatives/senators to contact WPIC members and object to these rules before June 10, 2024. The committee needs to invoke formal rule authority by the interim committee to STOP implementation.</p> <p>Timeline: June 10, 2024. This will not go to the legislature. This is the last chance.</p>

Public Comment	
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Adjourn by 5:00 PM	
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