

Conservation Colorado Legislator Briefing #1

Thursday, December 14 @ 3 pm

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88670870002?pwd=WTdY3IGN3FMNGIBUDYvOFR0MGZTQT09>

Elected Attendees:

Representatives: Kipp, Weissman, Snyder, Velasco

Senators: Hansen, Winter

Conservation Colorado: John Magnino, Josh Kuhn, Brien Webster, Luke Schafer, Paul Sherman

Others: Melissa Ordelheide, Becky Long, Casiah Smith, Drew Nesmith, Junie Joseph's Aide Vincent, Lily Padula, Nick (Rep Lindstedt), Peyton Coder, Tony Bogolub, Jackie Anderson, Jena Renae

Meeting Minutes:

3:02 pm - John Magnino, welcome & team introductions

3:04 pm - Legislative Session Briefing

- Water - Josh Kuhn
 - Waters of the US (WOTUS)
 - Supreme Court removed protections for up to 50% of Colorado streams and wetlands
 - Gov set a down payment in budget to set up a state program to fill the gap - more funding needed long term
 - Rulemaking after legislation is passed
 - Fees for permits will sustain program
 - Sen. Hansen: Would this be at CDPHE or DNR
 - Josh: CDPHE is the best fit
 - Sen. Hasen: Concern because CDPHE is way behind on the air quality side - any concerns there?
 - Josh: Funding is essential so dept has appropriate level of staffing
 - Rep. Kipp: Do we know legislators on this bill?
 - Josh: We don't know that yet
 - Drought/Colorado River
 - Changes to Environmental Instream Flow Program
 - Expansion of Agricultural Water Protection Water Rights
 - Continue Funding Measurement tools
 - Continue the technical assistance grants for Colorado Water projects
 - Increase funding for removal invasive phreatophyte & species
 - Increase funding for turf removal

3:19 pm:

- Public Lands - Brien Webster

- Renewable Energy Siting
 - Meeting our climate goals will require a significant increase in renewable energy generation and infrastructure. We must ensure that increased development doesn't have adverse impacts on communities and the environment.
 - Sen Winter: Have you met with Conservation Easement folks? Is this different from the Xcel/labor bill?
 - Luke: The Nature Conservancy is one of the convening partners of the coalition of conservation groups and this is a separate process that the Xcel/labor bill.
 - Sen Hansen: Update on three separate bills - easement, siting & distribution.
 - Becky: Quick update on alignment of the bills.

3:25 pm

- Communities & Justice - Becky Long
 - Ozone & Air Quality Legislation
 - Permitting & enforcement
 - Extreme Heat
 - [Roadmap on Climate Preparedness](#)
 - Concern on human impact from extreme heat
 - How can we expand protections and education when it comes to heat related impacts on humans?
 - Environmental Justice + funding being advanced by CDPHE + Rep Rutinel
 - Environmental Equity & Cumulative Impact Analyses + funding
 - Hiring refinery expertise
 - Municipalities role in air permits

3:34 pm

- Climate & Transportation - John Magnino
 - Land Use & Housing
 - Explanation of the package of bills
 - Transit
 - Most behind in meeting climate goals when it comes to transportation
 - Explanation of needing more transit funding and accountability

3:42 pm

- Admin bills we're watching closely
 - Clean Energy Plans by 2040 - Paul Sherman
 - Distribution System Planning - John Magnino
 - Carbon Sequestration and Direct Air Capture Regulations - Paul Sherman

3:48 pm

- Rulemakings happening soon
 - ECMC Cumulative Impacts of Oil & Gas Industry
 - Initiated by HB23-1294

- Must be completed by end of April 2024
- ECMC Carbon Sequestration Rulemaking
 - Post session 2024

3:51 pm

- Questions:
 - Sen Winter: Questions on GEMM2
 - John Magnino: Overview of GEMM2 rulemaking
 - Rep. Weissman: Update on where this is and a legislative fix

3:57 pm Adjourned