

FWP COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: July 8, 2010

Agenda Item: Approval of Agency Budget and Legislative Proposals

Division: Management and Finance

Action Needed:

Approval of Tentative Rule Approval of Final Rule/Action
 Endorse Course of Action None - information only

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 15 minutes

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Background (Brief description of the issue, decision to be made, history, etc.):

Montana statutes delegate authority to the FWP Commission to review and approve the agency's budget prior to submission to the Governor. Statutes also give the Commission authority to establish policy direction for the agency, which includes direction regarding legislative proposals. FWP addresses these obligations by reviewing broad fiscal and legislative priorities with the Commission early in the executive planning process (January Commission meeting) and presenting detailed requests for new work and for legislative proposals in July for final approval.

Public Involvement Process & Results (Brief description of the type of public involvement and summary of what we heard from the public):

No formal public process is undertaken directly related to the budget detail or the legislative proposals. However, the broad priorities that give direction to the budget detail and the proposed legislation are based on FWP's strategic plans, which were developed with extensive public participation, as well as our ongoing dialogue with constituents and regional citizen advisory councils. The public is also afforded the opportunity to comment on budget and legislative proposals through the Commission meeting process.

Alternatives and Analysis (Brief description of alternative solutions with analysis of the pros and cons of each):

The Commission can approve or suggest modifications to the agency's budget and legislative proposals. The budget proposals reflect a careful balancing of revenue projections with the need to address the agency priorities identified in January. This budget reflects FWP's plan to balance expenditures with revenues while sustaining positive fund balances through FY15. Adding proposals to the budget request could reduce the fund balances faster than planned; eliminating any of the proposals could extend the current fund balances further into the future.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale (Brief description of our recommendation to the Commission and the reasons for it):

The Department recommends the Commission approve the budget request and the legislative proposals as presented.

Proposed Motion (Draft language the Commission could use to adopt the agency recommendation):

I move the Commission approve the department's budget request and the legislative proposals.