



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

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GOVERNOR BRIAN SCHWEITZER
DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE
MIKE VOLESKY

HOUSE MEMBERS
DEBBY BARRETT
NORMA BIXBY
SUE DICKENSON
CHRISTOPHER HARRIS
WALTER MCNUTT
JIM PETERSON

SENATE MEMBERS
LANE LARSON
GREG LIND
DANIEL MCGEE
JIM SHOCKLEY
ROBERT STORY
MICHAEL WHEAT

PUBLIC MEMBERS
BRIAN CEBULL
KRIS KOK
BUZZ MATTELIN
DOUGLAS MCRAE

COUNCIL STAFF
KRISTA LEE EVANS, Research Analyst
JOE KOLMAN, Research Analyst
CYNTHIA PETERSON, Secretary
TODD EVERTS, Legislative Environmental Analyst

MINUTES

DATE: May 24, 2005
Part 1

Room 102, State Capitol Building
Helena, Montana

Please Note: These are outlined minutes with an audio recording. These minutes provide abbreviated information about committee discussion, public testimony, action taken, and other activities.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

BRIAN CEBULL
KRIS KOK
BUZZ MATTELIN
DOUGLAS MCRAE

SEN. LANE LARSON
SEN. GREG LIND
SEN. DANIEL MCGEE
SEN. JIM SHOCKLEY
SEN. ROBERT STORY
SEN. MICHAEL WHEAT

REP. DEBBY BARRETT
REP. NORMA BIXBY
REP. SUE DICKENSON
REP. CHRISTOPHER HARRIS
REP. WALTER MCNUTT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED

REP. JIM PETERSON

STAFF PRESENT

KRISTA LEE EVANS, Research Analyst
TODD EVERTS, Legislative Environmental Analyst
JOE KOLMAN, Research Analyst
CYNTHIA PETERSON, Secretary

Visitors

Visitors' list, Attachment 1
Roll Call, Attachment 2

COMMITTEE ACTION

- The EQC adopted the proposed Work Plan
- The EQC adopted an interim EQC Calendar
- The EQC appointed subcommittee members for the HB 790 Subcommittee, the Agency Oversight Subcommittee, and the Study Subcommittee

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

00:00:01 The meeting was called to Order by Rep. Barrett, Co-Chairman of the Environmental Quality Council (EQC).

AGENDA

Continue Review and Discussion of Work Plan (Including Public Comment)

00:00:49 A list of the subcommittees and proposed members was distributed and discussed. (**EXHIBIT 1**).

00:02:44 Public comment--None.

00:03:10 Discussion among EQC members regarding EQC work plan.

00:05:39 Rep. McNutt commented on the proposed time allocation. Rep, McNutt did not believe it was productive for the EQC to argue about .2 of an FTE. Rep. McNutt moved to accept Co-chairs' recommendation on how the work plan should be set up.

00:06:26 Sen. McGee commented on Sen. Wheat's calculations. Rep. Barrett clarified that flexibility exists within the Subcommittees to do whatever the Subcommittee decides.

00:07:48 Sen. Story agreed with the way the Subcommittees were set up and asked about the duties of the full EQC.

00:08:22 Rep. Harris responded to Sen. Story's question and explained that after the review of each Subcommittee report, there would be a substantial

discussion by the full EQC. Rep. Harris believed comprehensive information would be submitted to the EQC for discussion. Sen. Story emphasized the full EQC would need to be fully informed about all Subcommittee activities.

- 00:09:21 Mr. Everts discussed the possibility of panel presentations being made to the full EQC.
- 00:10:03 Rep. McNutt commented on the use of subcommittees and suggested utilization of panel presentations would facilitate involvement of the full EQC.
- 00:11:14 Mr. Mattelin asked about the reason for putting the Superfund Study with the Oversight Subcommittee and suggested it would fit better with the Study Subcommittee, and that water policy should be within the Oversight Subcommittee. Rep. Barrett explained water policy was left with the Study Subcommittee since it would be followup on HB 22. Superfund was put with Agency Oversight since it is a Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issue and may result in a white paper. All of the other study issues are with the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.
- 00:12:18 The motion to adopt the proposed Work Plan carried unanimously by voice vote.
- 00:12:41 Rep. Barrett requested volunteers for Subcommittees. The Agency Oversight Subcommittee will consist of Sen. Shockley, Mr. Kok, and Sen. Larson. The Study Subcommittee will consist of Mr. Mattelin, Sen. Lind, and Sen. Story.
- 00:15:39 Rep. Dickenson asked whether the EQC members would like a copy of the full fire suppression audit or whether they would prefer a copy of the summary of the audit. The members agreed copies of the summary would suffice.

Adoption of Interim EQC Calendar

- 00:16:52 Mr. Everts reviewed the draft calendar with the EQC.
- 00:18:19 Rep. McNutt requested the July 2006 meeting be moved to July 19-20, 2006. Rep. Dickenson suggested the meetings should always be held on the same days of the week, and suggested staying away from Mondays and Tuesday to allow the Subcommittees an opportunity to meet the day before the full EQC meeting. Sen. McGee suggested meetings could be held on Thursdays and Fridays. Mr. Everts adjusted the calendar to reflect Thursday and Friday meeting dates. Mr. Everts noted all interim committees have to conclude their business by September 15; therefore, the September 2006 meeting will be September 11-12. Mr. Cebull had a conflict for the July 2006 meeting, so the July meeting will be on the 17th and 18th.

00:25:16 Sen. McGee moved to adopt the proposed calendar. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Public Comment

00:26:00 Patrick Montalban, a geologist from Cut Bank, commented on the future work of EQC and stated he looked forward to working with the HB 790 Subcommittee. Mr. Montalban stated he also looks forward to taking care of the surface interest concerns, as well as protecting the mineral interest ownership and their right to develop their minerals. Mr. Montalban explained how the oil and gas business had turned around since the 1980s.

Other Business

00:28:10 None.

Instructions to Staff

00:28:25 Chairman Barrett asked the EQC staff if they needed anything else from the EQC.

00:28:40 Rep. McNutt asked who would be staffing the various Subcommittees. Mr. Everts explained Ms. Evans and Mr. Kolman would be splitting their time on HB 790. Mr. Everts will staff the Agency Oversight Subcommittee and different staff members will assist the Study Subcommittee.

00:30:19 The EQC agreed to recess to allow the Subcommittees an opportunity to meet.

(RECESS TAKEN FOR SUBCOMMITTEES TO MEET)

Continued on Part 2