



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

PO BOX 201704
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1704
(406) 444-3742

GOVERNOR

GREG GIANFORTE

DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE

CHRISTIAN BRAY

HOUSE MEMBERS

PAUL FIELDER, pres. off.

TOM FRANCE

STEVE GIST

JEDEDIAH HINKLE

SHANNON MANESS

JOSHUA SECKINGER

SENATE MEMBERS

WILLIS CURDY, vice-pres.off.

JOHN ESP

PAT FLOWERS

WYLIE GALT

FORREST MANDEVILLE

TONY TEZAK

PUBLIC MEMBERS

JIM KEANE

MIKE MERSHON

JON METROPOULOS

BRIAN YABLONSKI

COUNCIL STAFF

GRIFFIN BURNS, staff

JOE CARROLL, legal staff

JASON MOHR, lead staff

CASEY PALLISTER, staff

JACELYN STERLING, secretary

FINAL agenda

Environmental Quality Council

January 13-14, 2026

Room 317

Agenda times are approximate

Tuesday, Jan. 13

1 p.m.

Call to order

- Roll call
- Preview of January meeting—Jason Mohr, council staff

1:15 p.m.

Administrative rule review

- Joe Carroll, council legal staff
- Public comment
- Council questions, discussion

1:30 p.m.

Update from Energy and Technology Interim Committee

- Griffin Burns, ETIC staffer
- Public comment
- Council questions, discussion

1:45 p.m.

Update from Water Policy Interim Committee

- Toni Henneman, deputy research director and WPIC staff
- Public comment
- Council questions, discussion

2 p.m. SJ42 (Study of noxious weed control)

Panel on updating noxious weeds laws

Statewide perspectives

- Dave Burch, former state noxious weed coordinator (Dept. of Ag.)
- Jasmine Chaffee, state noxious weed coordinator (Dept. of Agriculture)
- Christy Clark, director of Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Park (also representing Fish and Wildlife Commission, Parks and Recreation Board)
- Tanner Hoversland, Moore Farmers Oil and Montana Agricultural Business Association
- Parker Osterloh, Land Management Section supervisor (Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation)
- Pam Schwend, private landowners' representative on Montana Invasive Species Council
- Steve Wanderaas, chairman of Montana Invasive Species Council (also representing conservation districts)
- Council questions

Local and tribal perspectives

- Amy Adler, weed dept. coordinator (Rosebud Co.)
- David Brink, weed coordinator (Mineral Co.) and MSU Extension agent
- Amber Burch, weed coordinator (Beaverhead Co.)
- Pam Converse, weed coordinator (Pondera Co.)
- Jayme Lamebull, land director (Ft. Belknap Indian Community)
- Dan Lucas, Western Region Dept. head (MSU Extension)
- Council questions

- Public comment
- Council discussion

5 p.m. Recess

Wednesday, Jan. 14

8 a.m. HJ62 (Study of wildfire prevention/resilience): Wildfire impacts and costs for communities

- Ryan Maye Handy, wildfire and land use planning specialist (Headwaters Economics)
- Chief Brad White, Grand Co. Fire District (Colo.)
- Public comment
- Council questions, discussion

9 a.m. HB70 (Study of state fire suppression)

Panel discussion: What has changed since 2009 report

Agency and law enforcement perspectives

- Commissioner Jeff Burrows (Ravalli Co.)
- Rich Cowger, Columbus Rural Fire District chief
- Wyatt Frampton, deputy forest administrator (DNRC)
- Sheriff Steve Holton (Ravalli Co.)
- Jason Jarrett, mutual aid coordinator (Gallatin Co. Sheriff's Office)
- Peter Kolb, MSU Extension forestry specialist
- Patrick Lonergan, chief of emergency management and fire (Gallatin Co.)
- Ray Ragsdale, Broadus Volunteer Fire Dept. and Power River Co. fire warden
- Council questions

Private sector perspectives

- Julia Altemus, Montana Wood Products Association executive director
- Kevin Erickson, Call When Needed Resources LLC
- Jason Todhunter, Montana Logging Association regional representative
- Meranda Warren, private wildland firefighting contractor
- Council questions

- Public comment
- Council discussion

Lunch

1 p.m. Directors' reports

- Christy Clark (FWP)
- Amanda Kaster (DNRC)
- Sonja Nowakowski (Dept. of Environmental Quality)
- Public comment
- Council questions, discussion

2:30 p.m. Guidance for greenhouse gas impact assessments under MEPA

- Sonja Nowakowski, director (DEQ)
- Public comment
- Council questions, discussion

3 p.m. Hunting, fishing and trapping licensing agents

- FWP
- Public comment
- Council questions, discussion

- 3:30 p.m. Elk, deer management
- Bevin McCormick, wildlife biologist (FWP)
 - Public comment
 - Council questions, discussion
- 4 p.m. Upland game bird report (87-1-250)
- Ken Plourde, Habitat Bureau chief (FWP)
 - Public comment
 - Council questions, discussion
- 4:15 p.m. Future fisheries report (87-1-272)
- Adam Strainer, Fisheries Division administrator (FWP)
 - Public comment
 - Council questions, discussion
- 4:30 p.m. Public comment on any issue within the jurisdiction of the EQC
- 4:45 p.m. Administrative work session:
- Directions to staff
 - March preview–Jason Mohr
- 5 p.m. Adjourn

Note:

All meeting materials are available on the EQC website at <http://leg.mt.gov/eqc>.

Public Participation

The public may attend the meeting and offer public comment in the Capitol or provide public comment either using remote meeting technology or in writing.

To offer public comment via remote meeting technology, please submit the online form at <https://participate.legmt.gov> for remote participation at least 2 hours before the scheduled start of the meeting.

Written public comment may be submitted either through the online form at <https://participate.legmt.gov> or by mailing the comments to the Environmental Quality Council, P.O. Box 201706, Helena, MT 59620.

**Public comment provided in person or remotely at a legislative meeting is a public record that is videotaped, archived, and available on the internet. Public comment submitted in writing at a meeting is a public record that will be posted to the legislative website as part of the minutes log for the meeting.*

Accessibility

The Montana Legislative Services Division makes reasonable accommodations for persons who wish to participate in this public meeting. For questions about accessibility or to request accommodations, please contact the ADA coordinator, Leah Hibbs, at 406-444-3073 or leah.hibbs@legmt.gov as soon as possible before the meeting date.