



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

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CASEY PALLISTER, staff

JACELYN STERLING, secretary

DRAFT agenda (as of July 25)

Environmental Quality Council

July 29, 2025

Room 317

Agenda times are approximate

Tuesday, July 29

9 a.m. Call to order

- Sen. Curdy
 - Roll call
 - Committee member introductions
 - Staff introductions

9:30 a.m. Committee overview

- Jason Mohr, legislative environmental analyst
- Committee questions, discussion

9:45 a.m. Review of Rules, Procedures, and Guidelines for Interim Committees

- Jason Mohr
- Explanation of SB64
 - Angie Carter, financial director (Montana Legislative Branch)
- Public comment
- Committee questions, discussion, and action

10 a.m. Election of EQC presiding officer and vice-presiding officer

10:15 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. Review of 2025 natural resources legislation

- Jason Mohr
- Public comment
- Committee questions, discussion

10:45 a.m. Discussion of 2025-26 interim priorities

- Overview of draft work plan—Jason Mohr
- Administrative rulemaking review—Joe Carroll, council legal staff

- Public comment
- Committee questions, discussion

11:30 a.m. Updates from ETIC, WPIC

- Griffin Burns, research analyst, ETIC lead staffer
- Toni Henneman, deputy research director, WPIC lead staffer
- Public comment
- Committee questions, discussion, and action

11:45 a.m. Lunch

1 p.m. Reconvene

1:05 p.m. HB70 (Study of wildland firefighting)

- Introduction to topic, The Price of Flame (2009)
 - Jason Mohr
- Legislative audit
 - LAD
- Update on consolidated federal fire agency
 - DNRC
- History of Montana wildfires data tool
 - Alice Hecht, LFD
- 2025 wildfire season update
 - DNRC
- Public comment
- Council questions, discussion, action

2 p.m. Report on streamside management zones (SMZs) (77-5-301, MCA)

- DNRC
- Public comment
- Council questions, discussion, action

2:15 p.m. Report on hydrocarbon and geology investigation (90-2-201, MCA)

- Jay Gunderson, geologist/professor (Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology)
- Public comment
- Council questions, discussion, action

2:30 p.m. Report on coal ash market investigation program (90-2-202, MCA)

- Mary Craigle, Research and Information Services Bureau chief (Dept. of Commerce)
- Public comment
- Council questions, discussion, action

2:45 p.m. Directors' reports

- Sonja Nowakowski (DEQ)
- Christy Clark (FWP)
- Amanda Kaster (DNRC)

- Public comment
- Committee questions, discussion, action

3:45 p.m. Public comment on any issue within the jurisdiction of the EQC

4 p.m. Administrative work session

- Discussion of work plan
 - Meeting dates
 - Adoption of draft work plan
- Additional directions to staff

5 p.m. Adjourn

Note:

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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.

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