ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

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FINAL agenda

Environmental Quality Council

March 24-25, 2026
Room 317
Agenda times are approximate

Tuesday, March 24

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

MONTANA LEGISLATIVE SERVICES DIVISION STAFF: JERRY HOWE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR • RACHEL WEISS, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND POLICY ANALYSIS • JASON MOHR, ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYST, LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OFFICE • TODD EVERTS, DIRECTOR, LEGAL SERVICES OFFICE • DALE GOW, CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER, OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION SERVICES • ANGIE CARTER, FINANCIAL MANAGER • KELLY DASILVA, HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

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

- Review of study progress – Jason Mohr
- Funding for weed districts
  - Bryce Christaens, director, Department of Ecology and Extension (Missoula County)
  - Dave Brink, weed coordinator and Mineral County MSU Extension agent
- Recommendations from Montana Weed Control Association
  - Bryce Christaens
- *County attorneys' role in noxious weed enforcement (tentative)*
- Public comment
- Council discussion

3:30 p.m. Director's reports

- Amanda Kaster, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
- Sonja Nowakowski, Department of Environmental Quality
- Public comment
- Council discussion

4:30 p.m. Recess

Wednesday, March 25

8:30 a.m. Reconvene

8:35 a.m. State of Montana's rivers

Panel on health of Montana fisheries

- Mike Duncan, fisheries manager, Region 3 (Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks)
- Guy Alsentzer, executive director, Upper Missouri Waterkeeper
- Nathan Cook, environmental scientist, Natural Resources Damage Program (Montana Dept. of Justice)
- Public comment
- Council questions, discussion

Panel on river recreation

- Steve Luebeck, treasurer, Big Hole Watershed Committee
- Randy Arnold, Department of Lands, Culture, and Recreation director, Missoula County
- Charlie Sperry, fishing outfitter and retired FWP employee
- Mike Bias, executive director, Fishing Outfitters Association of Montana
- Public comment
- Council questions, discussion

Panel on nutrients and algae

- Lindsey Krywaruchka, Water Quality Division administrator, DEQ
- Sara Zuzulock, environmental engineer, Zuzulock Environmental Services
- Sam Carlson, staff scientist, Clark Fork Coalition
- Kelly A. Lynch, executive director, Montana League of Cities and Towns
- Public comment
- Council questions, discussion

11:30 a.m. Director's report

- Christy Clark (FWP)
- Public comment
- Council questions, discussion

Noon Lunch

1 p.m. HB70 (Study of state fire suppression)

- Review of study progress – Jason Mohr
- Update from HB70 working groups update – council members
- Reorganization of federal wildland firefighting agencies/Federal perspective on changes since 2009 legislative report
- Troy Heithecker, regional forester, Rocky Mountain Region (U.S. Forest Service)
- Joe Majewski, chief of staff, U.S. Wildland Fire Service (U.S. Department of the Interior)
- Public comment
- Council questions, discussion

2:30 p.m. HJ62 (Study of wildfire prevention/resilience)

- Review of study progress – Jason Mohr

Panel on insurance costs and wildland fire

- Bob Biskupiak, former deputy insurance commissioner
- Lyn Elliot, vice present of state government relations, American Property Casualty Insurance Association
- Brandon Vick, regional vice president, National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies
- Michael DeLong, research and advocacy association, Consumer Federation of America
- Trevor Graff, director of government relations, Montana State Auditor
- Public comment
- Council questions, discussion

Panel on wildland urban interface (WUI) building codes

- Overview – Jason Mohr
- Wyatt Frampton, deputy forest administrator, Forestry and Trust Lands Division (DNRC)
- Eric Copeland, Building and Commercial Measurements Bureau chief (Department of Labor and Industry)
- Ben Abbey, chief building official, City of Bozeman
- Public comment
- Council questions, discussion

4 p.m. Public comment on any issue within the jurisdiction of the EQC

4:15 p.m. Administrative work session:

- Update on MEPA database, handbook
- Directions to staff
- Leg Days reminder
- May preview

4:30 p.m. Adjourn

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

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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

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