



WESTERN MONTANA
**Conservation
Commission**

Water Policy Interim Committee

January 16, 2024

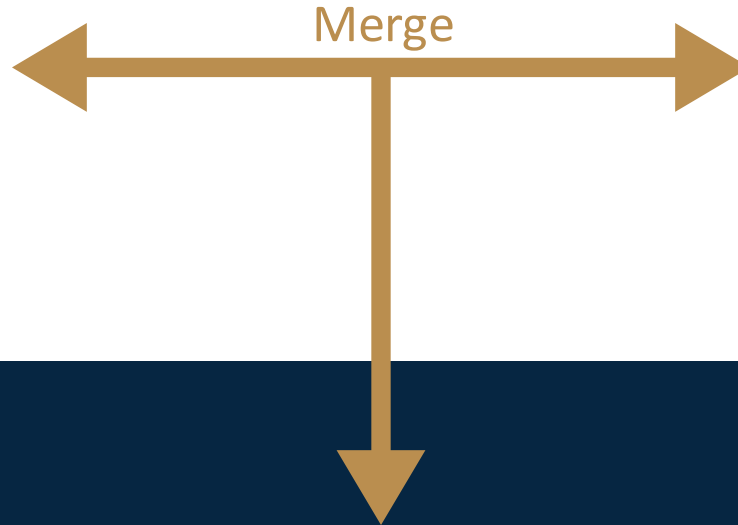
Casey Lewis

Executive Director

Casey.Lewis@mt.gov

406-241-7475

Senate Bill 83 – Create Western Montana Conservation Commission



UPPER COLUMBIA CONSERVATION COMMISSION



Mission: Combined = Protect natural resources/aquatic environment; focus includes aquatic invasive species and water quality (nonpoint source pollution, stormwater, septic leachate, etc.)

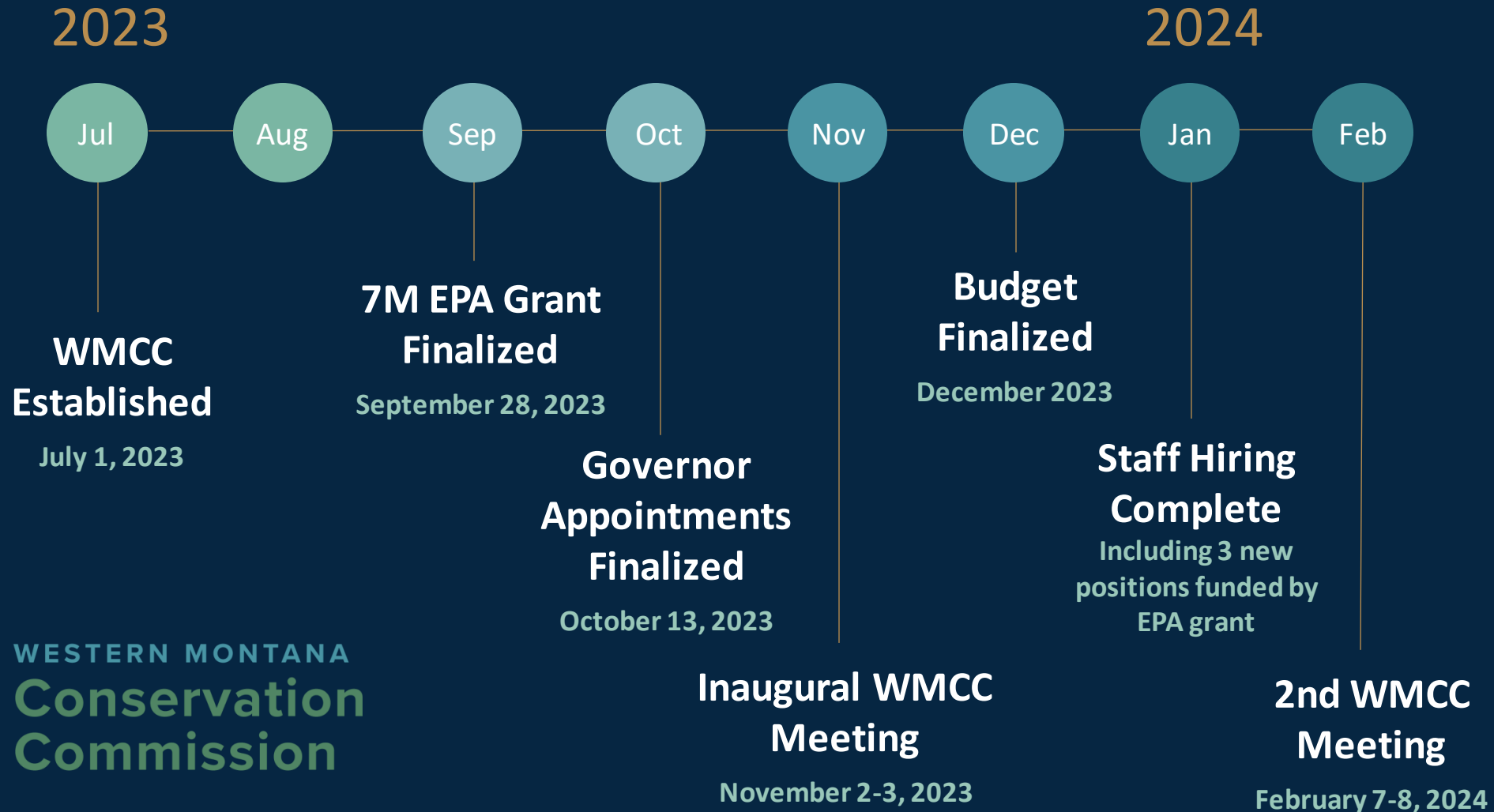


WESTERN MONTANA
**Conservation
Commission**

ESTABLISHED
July 1, 2023



Western Montana Conservation Commission Timeline



WESTERN MONTANA
**Conservation
Commission**



WMCC Establishment Commission Members

Total = 34

Voting = 16

Nonvoting/Advisory = 18

Voting Commission Members

Total = 34

Voting = 16

Governor-Appointed (9)

Arthur Potts Hydropower utility

Duane Braaten Electric cooperative

Matthew Peterson Private landowner

Phil Matson Private citizen at large

Sandy Beder-Miller Private industry

Natural resource, conservation, or recreation organization

Onno Wieringa Clark Fork River Basin upstream from Missoula, including Blackfoot River Basin

Vacant Clark Fork Basin downstream from Missoula, including the Bitterroot River Basin

Lech Naumovich Kootenai River Basin

Mike Koopal Flathead River Basin

Voting Commission Members

Total = 34

Voting = 16

Other Voting (7)

2 county commissioners

Appointed by MT Association of Counties

Randy Brodehl

1 from > 100,000 population

Josh Letcher

1 from < 100,000 population

Scott Rumsey

2 conservation district representatives

Rae Lynn Hays

Appointed by MT Association of Conservation Districts

2 representatives of wastewater or stormwater utilities

Tracy Campbell

1 from > 20,000 population appointed by MT league of cities and towns

Julie Spencer

1 from < 20,000 population appointed by MT rural water

Richard Janssen

CSKT natural resource department

Appointed by Tribal Council

Advisory Commission Members

Total = 34

Nonvoting/Advisory = 18

Nonvoting State (12) & Federal (6)



Bonneville
POWER ADMINISTRATION



Advisory Commission Members

Total = 34

Nonvoting/Advisory = 18

Nonvoting State (12)

Senator Mike Cuffe

Senator Janet Ellis

Representative Neil Duram

Representative Tom France

Lindsey Krywaruchka, DEQ

Jim Ferch, DNRC

Tom Woolf, FWP

Tom Martin, MDT

Galen Steffens, DOC

Jim Elser, U of M

Sara Edinberg, MBMG

Martin Charlo, CSKT Tribal Council

Nonvoting Federal (6)

Peter Brumm, EPA

Chris Savage, USFS

Heidi McMaster, BOR

Melissa Schaar, USGS

Greg Hoffman, USACE

Kate Wilson, BPA

WMCC Staff



Casey Lewis
Executive Director



Emilie Henry
Program
Coordinator



Kelly Hendrix
Program
Coordinator



**Stephanie
Murphy**
Communications
Coordinator



WMCC Staff



Heidi Fleury

**Grant Program
Specialist**



Kristen Jordan

**Grant Program
Specialist**

**Start Date
January
29**

Krista Lammers

**Grant Admin
Specialist**



Clarissa Orton

**Big Sky Watershed
Corps Member**





**WMCC Establishment
Commission Foundation**

Building the Foundation

A New Commission

- New logo
- New landing page
- Full Website development
- Building social media presence
- Helping facilitate commission member appointments
- Working with the Governor's office
- Meeting planning

Foundational Work

- Strategic vision
- By-laws
- Committee framework
- Project request process
- Meeting structure survey

Continuing Work of FBC & UC3

- Projects in stormwater, septic leachate, and AIS
- Community outreach and events
- Meeting with new partners

Inaugural WMCC Meeting

November 2-3, 2023
Missoula, Montana


Main Topics

- Commission Orientation
 - Staff introductions
 - History & legislative background
 - Past & Current Work
 - Commission Member Introductions
- Financials
- By-laws
- Committee Structure
- Workshop on Continued & Future Work

2nd WMCC Meeting

Main Topics

- Commission Business
- Administrative Attachments 101
- Strategic Visioning
- Commission Logistics
 - By-laws
 - Project Request Process
 - Meeting Structure
- Committee Conversation
- Commission Member Spotlight and On-site Wastewater Treatment Panel



February 7-8, 2024
Polson, Montana



WESTERN MONTANA
**Conservation
Commission**

A scenic photograph of a river with two people in a boat. One person is standing and using a long-handled net to fish, while the other is seated and rowing. The background features a dense forest of evergreen trees and distant mountains under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The water is clear and reflects the surrounding landscape.

**EPA Columbia River Basin
Toxics Reduction Lead Grant**



Columbia River Basin Toxics Reduction Lead Grant

2023



RFA Due

March 13, 2023

- To improve water quality in the CRB, through specific actions to reduce toxics, and/or increase public education and outreach
- 10 awards from \$3,000,000 to \$7,000,000

Notified of Selection

May 19, 2023

Workplan Negotiation Period

Officially Awarded

September 28, 2023

- 6-year grant period
- \$6,998,075 awarded
- \$2,334,972 Cost Share
- \$9,333,047 Total



WESTERN MONTANA
Conservation
Commission

Montana Waters: Clearly Connected

Reducing Stormwater & Septic Leachate Toxic Pollution in the Headwaters of the Columbia River Basin

Workplan overview



Awarded: **\$6,998,075** over 6 years

Community Research



Septic Leachate



Stormwater Pollution



Education & Outreach



Preliminary

- Toxic pollution from nonpoint sources
- Determine target audiences
- Culturally specific messaging

Effectiveness

- Compare to baseline and determine impact

Residential Septic System Maintenance

- Incentivize residential best practices

Septic Replacements/Connect to Sewer

- Incentivize proper wastewater stewardship

Septage Treatment & Biosolids Composting

- Proper disposal and treatment

GSI Programmatic Development

- Develop robust GSI program in MT for the future

GSI Subaward

- 2 large, showcase, pilot GSI projects

Residential GSI Subaward

- Rain garden, or other, programs for residents

Content Creation

- Develop a series of PSAs

Content Distribution

- Extend reach

Community-Based Social Marketing Workshop

- For 120 outreach specialists – behavior change focus
- Region-wide campaigns tailored to local community



WESTERN MONTANA
**Conservation
Commission**

Questions?

Western Montana Conservation Commission	Who Appoints?	Voting	Commissioner	Term End Date	Title
Natural Resource, Conservation or Recreation - Upper CF & Blackfoot	Governor	Y	Onno Wieringa	July 1, 2026	
Natural Resource, Conservation or Recreation - Lower CF & Bitterroot	Governor	Y	Not filled yet	July 1, 2025	
Natural Resource, Conservation or Recreation - Kootenai river basin	Governor	Y	Lech Naumovich	July 1, 2024	
Natural Resource, Conservation or Recreation - Flathead river basin	Governor	Y	Mike Koopal	July 1, 2027	Executive Director, Whitefish Lake Institute
Hydropower utility industry	Governor	Y	Arthur Potts	July 1, 2025	Terrestrial Program Manager, Avista
Electric Cooperative	Governor	Y	Duane Braaten	July 1, 2024	Flathead Electric CO-OP Trustee
Private Industry	Governor	Y	Sandy Beder-Miller	July 1, 2025	
Private Landowner (Irrigation District or water users' association)	Governor	Y	Matt Peterson	July 1, 2027	Civil Engineer, NewFields
Private Citizen - at Large	Governor	Y	Phil Matson	July 1, 2025	Research Specialist - GIS/AIS, Flathead Lake Biological Station
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Nat. Resources Dept.	Tribal Council	Y	Rich Janssen	July 1, 2027	Department Head of Natural Resources, CSKT
County Commissioner, Pop. > 100,000	MT Association of Counties	Y	Flathead: Randy Brodehl	July 1, 2024	Flathead County Commissioner
County Commissioner, Pop. < 100,000	MT Association of Counties	Y	Lincoln: Josh Letcher	July 1, 2026	Lincoln County Commissioner
Conservation District 1	MT Association of CDs	Y	Scott Rumsey	July 1, 2024	Flathead Conservation District Supervisor
Conservation District 2	MT Association of CDs	Y	Rae Lynn Hays	July 1, 2026	Lincoln Conservation District
Municipality Water/Wastewater/Stormwater Pop. > 20,000	MT League of Cities and Towns	Y	Tracy Campbell	July 1, 2027	Superintendent, Stormwater Department of Public Works & Mobility City of Missoula
Local Water & Sewer District	MT Rural Water Association	Y	Julie Spencer	July 1, 2026	District Manger, Bigfork Water & Sewer District
<i>State members that <u>may</u> be appointed</i>					
Senator - Republican	Senate President	N	Senator Cuffe		Senator Mike Cuffe
Senator - Democrat	Senate President	N	Senator Ellis		Senator Janet Ellis
Representative - Republican	Speaker of House	N	Representative Duram		REPRESENTATIVE NEIL DURAM
Representative - Democrat	Speaker of House	N	Representative France		REPRESENTATIVE TOM FRANCE
Department of Environmental Quality	DEQ Director	N	Lindsey Krywaruchka		Water Quality Division Administrator, DEQ
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation	DNRC Director	N	Jim Ferch		Regional Manager, Water Resources
Fish, Wildlife, and Parks	FWP Director	N	Tom Woolf		Bureau Chief, AIS, FWP
					Bureau Chief, Environmental Services Bureau, MDT
Department of Transportation	DOT Director	N	Tom Martin		
Department of Commerce	DOC Director	N	Galen Steffens		Community MT Division Administrator, DOC
University of Montana	U of M President	N	Dr. Jim Elser		Director, Flathead Lake Biological Station
Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology	MBMG Director	N	Sara Edinberg		Assistant Research Hydrogeologist Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes	CSKT Council	N	Martin Charlo		CSKT Tribal Council
<i>Federal members that <u>may</u> be appointed</i>					
USDOI Bureau of Reclamation	Regional Administrator	N - Advisory	Heidi McMaster		Regional Hazmat & IPM Coordinator, Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region 9, US Bureau of Reclamation
USDA National Forest Service	R1 Regional Forester	N - Advisory	Michelle Cox *Chris Savage		R1 Invasive Species Program Manager *Renewable Resource Mngt Director, Northern Region, Forest Service
US Environmental Protection Agency R8	Region 8 Director	N - Advisory	Peter Brumm		U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 8, Montana Office
USDOD Army Corps of Engineers	NW Division	N - Advisory	Greg Hoffman		Senior Fishery Biologist, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USDOE Bonneville Power Administration	BPA Administrator	N - Advisory	Kate Wilson		Montana Liaison, Intergovernmental Affairs, Bonneville Power Administration
USDOI US Geological Survey	USGS Director	N - Advisory	Melissa Schaar		Groundwater & Water Quality Studies Chief, USGS, Wyoming-Montana Water Science Center