



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

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
- County attorneys' role in noxious weed enforcement
 - John Hart, deputy county attorney, Missoula Co. Attorney's Office
- Recommendations from Montana Weed Control Association
 - Bryce Christaens
- 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

- Introduction - Casey Pallister, research analyst and council staff

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

U.S. Forest Service

- Troy Heithecker, regional forester, Rocky Mountain Region (U.S. Forest Service)

U.S. Wildland Fire Service

- Aaron Thompson, fire chief, N. Rockies Geographic Area (U.S. Wildland Fire Service)
- Bradley Shoemaker, fuels and post-fire specialist, U.S. Wildland Fire Service
- 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 president 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: study recommendations, legislation

4:30 p.m. Adjourn

Note:

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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.

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