

DRAFT AGENDA

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

State Capitol, Room 102
March 9 and 10, 2004

NOTE: AGENDA ITEM TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE -- SOME ITEMS MAY TAKE MORE OR LESS TIME THAN IS ALLOTTED.

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Subcommittee Meetings -- please see the subcommittee agendas for meeting times and locations.

4:00 p.m. I. **Call to Order - Roll Call - Adoption of EQC Minutes** - Senator McNutt, Chair

4:05 p.m. II. **Administrative Matters**

4:15 p.m. III. **Public Comment** on any matter not contained in this agenda and that is within the jurisdiction of the EQC.

4:30 p.m. IV. **Subcommittee Updates (30 min.)**
1. Agency Oversight Subcommittee (15 min.)
2. Energy Subcommittee (15 min.)

5:00 p.m. **Recess**

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

8:00 a.m. V. **Water Banking** - Krista Lee Evans, staff
1. Current Montana law
2. Other state's processes
3. Direction to staff on further information needs

8:30 a.m. VI. **TMDL Progress Report**, Art Compton, DEQ

8:45 a.m. VII. **Surface Water - Ground Water Connectivity**, Krista Lee Evans
1. The science, John LaFave, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology
2. Implementation of current law, Jack Stults, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
3. Litigation overview
4. Direction to staff on further action

10:00 a.m. **Break**

- 10:15 a.m. VIII. **HJR 40 - Artificial Ponds Project Update** - Larry Mitchell
- 10:30 a.m. IX. **Preliminary Report on Mine Bonding Status** - Larry Mitchell
- 11:00 a.m. X. **Comparison of Other State's Water Laws** - Krista Lee Evans
- 11:30 a.m. XI. **Discussion on Contents of Draft EQC Report, Staff**
- 12:00 p.m. **Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. XII. **Funding Alternatives for Water Adjudication** - Krista Lee Evans
1. Current funding levels for the DNRC, Water Court, Compact Commission
 2. Proposal developed for the Water Adjudication Advisory Committee
 3. User fees
 - a. schedule
 - b. collection mechanism
 - c. ramifications if fee isn't paid
 4. Hydro tax
 5. Other alternatives for funding
 6. Direction to staff on further action
- 3:30 p.m. **Break**
- 3:45 p.m. XIII. **Accuracy of Montana's Water Adjudication**
1. Follow up on January meeting discussion -- further action
- 4:00 p.m. XIV. **Public Comment on Montana's Water Adjudication**
- 4:30 p.m. XV. **Other Business**
- 4:40 p.m. XVI. **Instructions to Staff - Future Meetings**
- 4:45 p.m. **Adjourn**