

DRAFT AGENDA

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

State Capitol, Room 102
May 12 and 13, 2004

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

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

1:00 p.m. - 5:10 p.m. Energy Policy Subcommittee meeting -- please see the subcommittee agenda for meeting time and location.

Thursday, May 13, 2004

8:00 a.m. **Call to Order - Roll Call - Adoption of EQC Minutes** - Senator McNutt, Chair

8:05 a.m. **Administrative Matters** - Mr. Everts

1. EQC budget
2. Review of EQC Work Plan timeline

8:15 a.m. **Subcommittee Update**

1. Energy Policy Subcommittee

8:30 a.m. **HJR 40 - Artificial Ponds and Water Rights**

1. Issue statement
John Wilson - Trout Unlimited
Holly Franz - Helena
2. Implementation issues
Curt Martin - DNRC
3. Policy needs
Joseph Urbani - Bozeman
4. Public comment

9:15 a.m. **HB 407 (1999 Session)**

1. Review and discussion of HB 407 (1999 Session)
2. Senate Judiciary Committee letter and minutes

9:30 a.m. **Proposal to Make Chief Water Judge an Elected Position**

1. Review proposed bill draft LCb001
2. Decision from EQC on adoption, amendment, or denial

9:45 a.m. **DNRC Program Prioritization**, Director Clinch

1. How DNRC prioritizes programs
2. Where does the water adjudication program fall in the prioritization?

- 10:00 a.m. **DNRC, Water Court, Compact Commission Panel** -- alternatives or mechanisms to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the adjudication program
1. Panel members: Jack Stults, DNRC; Judge Loble, Montana Water Court; Susan Cottingham, Compact Commission
 2. Direction to staff or follow up needs
- 10:45 a.m. **Discussion of Water Rights Database**
1. DNRC database demonstration
Curt Martin, Water Rights Bureau Chief
David Coey, database manager
 2. Direction to staff or follow up needs
- 11:15 a.m. **Funding Alternatives Proposal**
1. Review tables providing funding alternatives
 2. Decision on direction EQC wants to go with funding alternatives
 3. Direction to staff
- 12:15 p.m. **Public Comment on Montana's Water Adjudication Program**
- 12:30 p.m. **Lunch**
- 1:30 p.m. **Metal Mine Bonding Status Paper - Final Draft Paper**
1. Presentation and discussion
 2. Direction to staff
- 2:00 p.m. **HJR 43 - Zortman and Landusky Water Issues - Preliminary Paper Discussion**
- 2:30 p.m. **Review and Discuss Draft Report**
1. Summary content
 2. Findings and recommendations
 3. Direction to staff
- 3:15 p.m. **Break**
- 3:30 p.m. **Public Comment** on any matter not contained in this agenda and that is within the jurisdiction of the EQC.
- 4:00 p.m. **Other Business**
Draft Sage Grouse Management Plan and EA - staff
- 4:15 p.m. **Instructions to Staff - Future Meetings**
- 4:30 p.m. **Adjourn**

Please Note: Due to reconstruction of the front stairs of the Capitol, visitors must enter through the center doors at the south side of the building. CI0429 4118texa