



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

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MEMORANDUM

To: Water Commissioner EQC Panel Members
From: Krista Lee Evans, Research Analyst
RE: Points to consider for panel discussion
Date: June 23, 2006

Thank you for agreeing to serve on the EQC panel discussion regarding water commissioner compensation. In an effort to help provide some sideboards for you, I have provided bullets below for your consideration. You are not required to only speak to these points, but I thought it might help focus the discussion. Not all of the questions will be relative to everyone on the panel. I will be providing a copy of the bullets to the committee so that they know what I've asked you to focus on.

Each of you will have approximately 15 minutes to speak and then there will be 15 minutes available for questions from the committee. I don't know if the committee will ask questions as you go or all at the end, but if each of you could aim for 15 minutes (without questions) that would be great and should keep the committee on schedule. Again, thank you for agreeing to serve on the panel so that the committee members can better understand the issues associated with water commissioner payment. If you have questions or comments, please contact me at 444-1640 or kevans@mt.gov. I will be checking my voice mail and email remotely.

- Provide brief background of your enforcement area and what it entails -- for example: all decreed water, decreed and contract water, does the commissioner deliver both or one or the other, etc.
- How long has your area been working with an enforced water court decree? Was there an older district court decree in place prior to the water court decree and was it enforced?
- How are commissioners currently paid on your stream or enforced area?
- What role does the water court play in assisting with enforcements? When are they involved and to what extent?

- What do you see as working the best with regard to commissioners and payment of commissioners? What do you see as the worst?
- How can the process of paying commissioners be made better? Do you believe it would require statutory changes to achieve this?
- Do you think it is important to retain jurisdiction in the district court? Why or why not?
- How difficult is it to find a water commissioner?

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