

DETAILED TIMELINE OF EQC INTERIM WORK (AS OF JULY 22, 2024)

Tasks and agenda items	
July 26, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elect officers• Review 2023 natural resources legislation• Discuss and adopt draft work plan• Identify committee studies• Identify and prioritize committee member topics• Adopt committee rules• Review budget• Adopt meeting dates• Agency/program overviews—DEQ, DNRC, FWP• Update on drought, water supply, wildfires• Yellowstone River spill update—DEQ• Fire, water update—DNRC• Libby asbestos superfund oversight committee (75-10-1601)• Wolf report (87-1-901)• Draft elk plan—FWP• Grizzly bear management proposal—FWP• BLM coal screen amendment

Tasks and agenda items

Sept. 27-28

- ~~Adoption of final work plan~~
- ~~Finalize list of committee member topics~~
- ~~HJ18: Receive background information~~
- ~~DEQ: Y'stone spill, rare earth (w/MBMG, Commerce), petro tank cleanup~~
- ~~DNRC: Wildfire, CSKT land transfers, Comp. Water Review~~
- ~~FWP: pheasant release, shooting ranges, ALS, Fish Creek~~
- ~~FWP, MSGOT reports on sage grouse (87-1-201, 87-5-918)~~
- ~~Invasive Species Council (80-7-1203)~~
- ~~Member topics and emerging issues~~
- ~~Agency rulemaking update: FWP: grizzly; DEQ: BER~~

Nov. 13

- ~~HJ18: Receive background information: (EPA, DEQ, CAG, DNRC, Msla Co., Msla CD)~~
- ~~Agency rulemaking update: FWP: public use rules, Brinkman Game Preserve, Smith River use, grizzly, wolf, block management, contractual elk hunting; DEQ: sanitation in subd., ambient air quality QAPP, BER, third party cleanup; DNRC: cabin and home site sales, sage grouse HQT~~
- ~~Member topics and emerging issues: MEPA listening sessions, transfer of hard rock mining permits, sewage dumping by street campers~~

Tasks and agenda items

<p>Jan. 18-19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HJ18: Receive additional background information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ folo on TWG (EPA) ○ DNRC: outfalls ○ Identify further issues and options ● DEQ: Climate pollution reduction grants; policy on coal mining reclamation; federal agency/court decisions on coal mining and reclamation; Interstate Mining Compact Commission ● DNRC: State drought plan; Good Neighbor Authority panel; ● FWP: Update on Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW); ESA listing of wolverine; bighorn, bison, mtn. goat, pronghorn, mtn. lion, deer, and elk hunting season setting; wildlife crossings (with MDT); ● DEQ reports on orphan share funds (75-10-743), subdivision sanitation (76-4-116) ● DNRC report on sale of state land cabins/sites (77-2-366) ● Director's reports (including agency annual plans (HB190)) ● Member topics and emerging issues ● Agency rulemaking update — LSD staff
<p>March 13-14</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HJ18: Identify further issues and options <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EQC letter on outfall removal; further discussion of removal options ● DEQ: Policy issues related to hard rock mining ● DNRC ● FWP: upland gamebird and black bear season setting; ● FWP reports on future fisheries (87-1-272) and Tendoy Mountain sheep (87-2-702) ● FWP, DNRC report on AIS activities, expenditures (80-7-1006) ● Backgrounder on MEPA (75-1-201, 208) ● Member topics and emerging issues: Livestock Loss Board, CFAC remediation, REEs/critical minerals in Berkeley Pit, wildlife crossings (MDT) ● Agency rulemaking update — LSD staff ● Director's reports
<p>April</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Letter to Congress to support REE/critical mineral development ● Letter to EPA to urge pause in CFAC remediation plan ● Letter of support of Technical Assistance Grant for Coalition for a Clean CFAC
<p>June 17</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HJ18: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Water data from Clark Fork R. toxins study ○ Water rights at Smurfit Stone ● Letter to Dept. of Interior opposing Old Growth Initiative ● DEQ: Update from MEPA work group ● DNRC ● FWP: folo on Fish Creek recreational planning ● LegDays presentation on wildfire policy, funding ● DNRC reports on road closures/restrictions on state land (77-1-820); land banking (77-2-366) ● FWP report on upland game bird enhancement activities (87-1-250); Wildlife Habitat Improvement Act (87-5-807) ● GHG petition to PSC ● Member topics and emerging issues: ● Agency rulemaking update — LSD staff ● Director's reports

Tasks and agenda items

Aug. 14-16

- Field trip to Libby
 - Pine Flats and Shared Master Stewardship Plan/Good Neighbor Authority
 - Adaptive management for grizzly bear habitat (Troy)
 - Hecla reclamation site (Troy)
 - Status of OU3, Libby Asbestos Site
 - Tour of Libby Dam
 - Tour of proposed Hecla Montanore mine site
- HJ18:
 - Draft recommendations, legislation
 - Discuss draft report(s)
- DEQ: Lake K, Se, HJ37
- DNRC: Fire season update (or USFS)
- FWP: AIS in NW Montana
- Member topics and emerging issues;;
- Agency rulemaking update - LSD staff
- Director's reports

Week of Sept. 16

- HJ18:
 - Fish tissue sampling data from Clark Fork R. toxins study
 - DNRC folo to March 7 response to Feb. 14 EQC letter (re: trespass on state lands)
 - Review public comment on draft report, committee legislation
 - Revise draft report, committee legislation, if necessary
 - Approve final report(s)
- Consider proposed agency legislation - DNRC, DEQ, FWP
- Approve other EQC report(s), if necessary
- DEQ: Black Butte mine decision(s)
- DNRC: GNA litigation, coal seam fires
- FWP: wolverine lawsuit, resident/nonresident fishing/hunting opportunities; development of shooting ranges
- Libby Asbestos Oversight Committee (75-10-1601)
- FWP, MSGOT reports on sage grouse (87-1-201, 87-5-918)
- FWP report on gray wolf management (87-1-901)
- Invasive Species Council (80-7-1203): woody invasives
- DEQ, Ag, and DNRC reports on compliance and enforcement (75-1-314)
- West. Mont. Conservation Commission (DNRC) report (SB83)
- EQC duties under MEPA
- Environmental indicators (cmte staff)
- Review of required reports (cmte staff)
- Member topics and emerging issues: EPA coal rules; OSMRE and HB576; YNP bison mgmnt, W. Yellowstone boat inspections; EPA mercury/air toxics rules
- Agency rulemaking update - LSD staff
- Director's reports
- Consider/propose areas of study for 2025-26 interim

Ongoing reports:

- Natural resources data system advisory cmte (2-15-1514)
- Groundwater Assessment Steering Cmte (LSD serves as ex-officio member) (2-15-1523)
- Submittal of env. review documents (MEPA) (75-1-201, and -208)

Occasional reports:

- Solid waste management and resource recovery plans (75-10-111)
- Streamside Management Zone (77-5-301)

Uncertain status:

- State sand and gravel deposits (82-2-201)

- Hydrocarbon and geology investigation program (90-2-201)
- Coal ash markets investigation program (90-2-202)