



# Western Montana Conservation Commission Agenda

September 11 - 12, 2024

## PURPOSE

WMCC serves as a convening body to facilitate close cooperation and coordination between federal, state, provincial, tribal, and local resource managers to monitor the condition of aquatic and natural resources across Western Montana.



## WHY

WMCC was created during the 2023 Montana Legislative Session and effectively combines and replaces the roles and jurisdiction of FBC and UC<sup>3</sup>.

## Wednesday, Sept. 11 - 11:30 AM to 4:00 PM

**LOCATION:** Montana Tech - Student Union Building 204  
1300 W Park St, Butte, MT 59701

For virtual attendees: <https://tinyurl.com/WMCC-Sept11-12>

or scan QR Code



11:30 AM

### Lunch & Recognition of Water Stewards

Please join us for lunch (provided) and a historical perspective on water quality with Vicki Watson and Kathy Hadley.

**11:30 AM** - Lunch served

**11:45 AM** - Recognition of water stewards

12:15 PM

### Call to Order & Roll Call

Overview of agenda

12:25 PM

### Indigenous Lands Welcome

12:35 PM

### Commission Business

Financials

Staff updates

June Meeting Minutes

**Action: Vote on June Meeting Minutes**

1:10 PM

### Legislative Session Outlook

Update from Mark Bostrom on the upcoming legislative session

1:25 PM

### Public Comment

1:40 PM

### Adjourn & Prepare for Field Trip

Join us for the field trip and the following social hour!

2:00 PM

### Field Trip with Ripple

Bell-Diamond Overlook of the Berkeley Pit

*Please wear close-toed shoes. We will be outdoors with no facilities access. Expect 1.5 hour of standing and walking.*

5:00 PM

### Social Hour



# Western Montana Conservation Commission Agenda

September 11 - 12, 2024

Thursday, Sept. 12 - 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM



8:30 AM

## Welcome

Breakfast items provided

8:45 AM

## Call to Order & Roll Call

8:50 AM

## Commission Member Spotlight

Arthur Potts Terrestrial Program Lead, Avista

9:05 AM

## MT Aquatic Invasive Species Updates

Tom Woolf AIS Bureau Chief, MT FWP

Overview of MT AIS program

Discussion on the 2024 MT AIS Plan

9:50 AM

## Clarissa Orton, BSWC Member

Presentation of Clarissa's term and an Industry Outreach program update

10:10 AM

## Break

10:25 AM

## Committee Updates

Committees-in-Development

Onsite Wastewater Treatment

Executive Committee - AIS - Education, Outreach, &

Communication - Monitoring & Coordination

**Action: Vote on Onsite Wastewater Treatment Committee Formation**

11:25 PM

## EPA Toxics Reduction Grant Updates

**Action: Vote on Grant Program Guidelines**

12:25 PM

## Public Comment

12:35 PM

## Wrap up & Adjourn Meeting

Join us for lunch (provided)

## Western Montana Conservation Commission (WMCC) Meeting Minutes

Student Union Building - Montana Technological University, Butte, MT

Virtual option on Zoom

Minutes prepared by Stephanie Murphy

Acronyms			
AIS	Aquatic Invasive Species	FLBS	Flathead Lake Biological Station
BPA	Bonneville Power Administration	FWP	Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
BSWC	Big Sky Watershed Corps	MCDEE	Missoula County Department of Ecology & Extension
CARDD	Conservation & Resource Development Division (DNRC)	MISC	Montana Invasive Species Council
CRC	Clearwater Resource Council	TU	Trout Unlimited
CSKT	Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes	WET	Water & Environmental Technologies
DEQ	Montana Dept. of Environmental Quality	WMCC	Western Montana Conservation Commission
DNRC	Montana Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation	WPCAC	Water Pollution Control Advisory Council

### Day One:

Wednesday September 11, 2024 | 11:30 AM – 4:00 PM

1. Welcome & Introductions	
<b>Recognition of Water Stewards</b> Mike Koopal, Chair	1. Welcome 2. Kathy Hadley & Vicki Watson
<b>Call to Order</b> Mike Koopal, Chair	1. Overview of agenda 2. Overview of meeting structure and rules 3. Welcome new commission members: Caroline McDonald & Cory Sandow
<b>Roll Call Attendance</b>	<p><b>WMCC (voting members underlined):</b>  <u>Mike Koopal, Onno Wieringa, Lech Naumovich, Rich Janssen, Arthur Potts, Duane Braaten, Sandy Beder-Miller, Caroline McDonald, Tracy Campbell, Matt Peterson, Phil Matson</u>, Rep. Neil Duram, Tom Woolf, Jim Elser, Sara Edinberg, Martin Charlo, Peter Brumm, Kate Wilson, Melissa Schaar, Casey Lewis, Emilie Henry, Kelly Hendrix, Stephanie Murphy, Kristen Jordan, Krista Lammers, Clarissa Orton, Mark Bostrom</p> <p><b>Virtual WMCC:</b>  <u>Ron Pifer, Andy Ulven</u> (filling in for Lindsey Krywaruchka), Sen. Mike Cuffe, Sen. Janet Ellis, Cory Sandow, Michelle Cox</p> <p><b>Absent members:</b>  <u>Randy Brodehl, Josh Letcher, Scott Rumsey, Julie Spencer</u>, Rep. Tom France, Jim Ferch, Tom Martin, Galen Steffens, Greg Hoffman</p> <p><b>Partners &amp; guests:</b>            Mark Mariano (MT Wetlands &amp; Waterfowl), Clayton Elliot (TU), Nanette Nelson (FLBS), Coby Gierke (Flathead Lakers), Susan Brurud (WET), Kathy Hadley</p> <p><b>Virtual partners &amp; guests:</b></p>

	<p>Tom Bansak (FLBS), Janelle Groff (FLBS), Dave Torrell (CRC), Austin Jaynes (FWP), Margarite Juarez Thomas (City of Kalispell), Andy Ulven (DEQ, filling in for Lindsey Krywaruchka), Will Meyer (Midwest Assistance Program), Meagan Gilmore (DEQ), Chris Collins, Liz Lodman (MISC), Tiffany Lyden (DEQ), Trey George (City of Spokane), Ken Walsh, Vicki Watson</p> <p><b>Quorum established</b></p>
<p><b>Indigenous Lands Welcome</b> Martin Charlo, CSKT</p>	<p>1. Martin Charlo acknowledged local tribes and remembered those lost on 9/11 and the first responders impacted that day.</p>
<p><b>2. Agenda</b></p>	
<p><b>Presenter</b></p>	<p><b>Topic/Discussion</b></p>
<p><b>Commission Business</b> Mike Koopal, Chair</p> <p>Casey Lewis, Executive Director</p> <p>Stephanie Murphy, Communications Coordinator</p> <p>Emilie Henry, Program Coordinator</p> <p>Kelly Hendrix, Program Coordinator</p>	<p>1. Mike Koopal called for comments on the June Meeting Minutes</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. <b>Motion</b> was made by Onno Wieringa to approve minutes; <b>seconded</b> by Arthur Potts</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. <b>Motion passes</b> unanimously by a vote of 12-0</p> <p>2. Casey Lewis provided an overview of FY25 financials.</p> <p>3. Staff Updates:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. Stephanie Murphy introduced the FY24 Biennial Report, provided updates on the Montana Waters campaign (videos and graphic design), and included a save the date for a Water Quality Rotunda Event at the State Capitol on March 7, 2025.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. Emilie Henry provided updates on on WMCC’s Big Sky Watershed Corps applications and funding, WMCC’s current Bureau of Reclamation grants and next grant application, and the Flathead Rain Garden Initiative. Emilie also overviewed the 2024 Flathead Waters Cleanup Event.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">c. Kelly Hendrix introduced the Vermillion Restoration Grant Support project, and presented an overview of upcoming relevant events.</p> <p>4. Preview of the FY24 Biennial Report</p> <p>5. Mike Koopal recognized Stephanie Murphy and Kelly Hendrix’s 1-year anniversary with WMCC.</p>
<p><b>Legislative Session Outlook</b> Mark Bostrom, DNRC CARDD Division Administrator</p>	<p>1. Mark Bostrom provided an overview of expectation for the upcoming Montana legislative session. This included:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. Information on speaking with legislators as a private citizen or on behalf of WMCC with clearance from the Commission</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. Navigating Bill Explorer (<a href="http://bill.legmt.gov">bill.legmt.gov</a>)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">c. Impacts of redistricting on this session</p> <p>2. Topic was opened for discussion for Commission members and members of the public.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. Clayton Elliot (TU) stressed the importance of educating legislators on natural resource issues and collaborating with agencies to support aquatic invasive species and water quality efforts.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. AIS Rotunda Event in the State Capitol will be hosted by MISC in February.</p>
<p><b>Public Comment</b> Mike Koopal</p>	<p>1. Mike Koopal called for public comment.</p> <p>2. Seeing none, Mike Koopal closed public comment.</p>

<p><b>Adjourn</b> Mike Koopal, WMCC Chair</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mike Koopal provided an overview of tomorrow’s agenda.</li> <li>2. Stephanie Murphy provided information about the Butte field trip.</li> <li>3. Krista Lammers provided information about the social hour.</li> <li>4. <b>Motion</b> to adjourn by Onno Wieringa, <b>seconded</b> by Sandy Beder-Miller             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>Motion passes</b> unanimously by a vote of 12-0; meeting adjourned.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<p><b>Field Trip</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bell-Diamond Overlook of the Berkeley Pit field trip with Ripple (formerly Clark Fork Watershed Education Program).</li> </ol>

**Day Two:**

Thursday September 12, 2024 | 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM

1. Welcome & Introductions	
<p><b>Call to Order</b> Mike Koopal, Chair</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mike Koopal called the meeting to order.</li> <li>2. Mike Koopal presented an overview of the agenda and meeting structure.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Roll Call Attendance</b></p>	<p><b>WMCC (voting members underlined):</b>  <u>Mike Koopal, Onno Wieringa, Lech Naumovich, Rich Janssen, Arthur Potts, Duane Braaten, Sandy Beder-Miller, Caroline McDonald, Tracy Campbell, Matt Peterson, Phil Matson</u>, Rep. Neil Duram, Tom Woolf, Jim Elser, Sara Edinberg, Martin Charlo, Peter Brumm, Kate Wilson, Casey Lewis, Emilie Henry, Kelly Hendrix, Stephanie Murphy, Kristen Jordan, Krista Lammers, Clarissa Orton, Mark Bostrom</p> <p><b>Virtual WMCC:</b>  <u>Ron Pifer</u>, Andy Ulven (filling in for Lindsey Krywaruchka), Sen. Janet Ellis, Cory Sandow, Michelle Cox, Galen Steffens</p> <p><b>Absent members:</b>  <u>Randy Brodehl, Josh Letcher, Scott Rumsey, Julie Spencer</u>, Rep. Tom France, Jim Ferch, Tom Martin, Galen Steffens, Greg Hoffman, Melissa Schaar</p> <p><b>Partners &amp; guests:</b>            Coby Gierke (Flathead Lakers), Nanette Nelson (FLBS), Coby Gierke (Flathead Lakers), Susan Brurud (WET)</p> <p><b>Virtual partners &amp; guests:</b>            Tom Bansak (FLBS), Austin Jaynes (FWP), Liz Lodman (MISC), Tiffany Lyden (DEQ), Russ Hartzell (MISC), Margarite Juarez Thomas (City of Kalispell), Amanda Knuteson (WPCAC), Meagan Gilmore (DEQ), Will Meyer (Midwest Assistance Program), Chris Collins, Janelle Groff (FLBS)</p> <p><b>Quorum established</b></p>
<p><b>Indigenous Lands Welcome</b> Rich Janssen, CSKT</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rich Janssen acknowledged local tribes and the history of movement through this area for bison hunting.</li> </ol>
2. Agenda	
Presenter	Topic/Discussion



<p><b>Commission Member Spotlight</b> Mike Koopal, Chair</p> <p>Arthur Potts, Avista</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mike Koopal invited WMCC Member, Arthur Potts to speak.</li> <li>2. Arthur Potts, Avista Terrestrial Program Manager, provided an overview of his career and the responsibilities of Avista along the Lower Clark Fork.</li> </ol>
<p><b>MT Aquatic Invasive Species Updates</b> Tom Woolf, FWP</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tom Woolf, FWP AIS Bureau Chief, presented background information about AIS in Montana, outlined the efforts addressing AIS in the state, and shared how WMCC fits into these efforts.</li> </ol>
<p><b>BSWC Member Term Presentation</b> Clarissa Orton, BSWC Member</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clarissa Orton, BSWC Member with WMCC &amp; MCDEE, presented an overview of their term including WMCC’s AIS industry outreach program, additional AIS education and outreach efforts, and monitoring work with MCDEE.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Break</b></p>	
<p><b>Committee Updates</b> Nanette Nelson, FLBS</p> <p>Mike Koopal, Chair</p> <p>Lech Naumovich, Greater Than Image</p> <p>Kate Wilson, BPA</p> <p>Kristen Jordan, Grant Program Specialist</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nanette Nelson provided an update on the Onsite Wastewater Committee-in-Development including:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Development progress, committee objectives, participants, and identified projects: white paper series, education &amp; outreach</li> <li>b. <b>Motion</b> made by Phil Matson to formally approve the Onsite Wastewater Treatment Committee; <b>seconded</b> by Onno Wieringa                 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <b>Motion passes</b> unanimously by a vote of 12-0</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Mike Koopal provided an update on the Executive Committee.</li> <li>3. Phil Matson provided an update on the AIS Committee.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Next steps include inviting external partner to discuss gaps, needs, and successes in the Montana AIS realm.</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. Lech Naumovich provided an update on the Monitoring &amp; Coordination Committee.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Discussion from Commission about committee efforts and potential monitoring data sources</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Kate Wilson provided an update on the Education, Outreach, and Communications Committee.</li> <li>6. Mike Koopal proposed holding regular committee chair meetings.</li> <li>7. Kristen Jordan provided an update on the Stormwater Advisory Council.</li> </ol>
<p><b>EPA Toxics Reduction Grant Updates</b> Kristen Jordan, Grant Program Specialist</p> <p>Heidi Fleury, Grant Program Specialist</p> <p>Stephanie Murphy, Communications Coordinator</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kristen Jordan presented an overview of the EPA Toxics Reduction Grant.</li> <li>2. Heidi Fleury outlined the grant direct subawards.</li> <li>3. Stephanie Murphy invited the Commission to attend the Community Based Social Marketing Workshop support by grant funds.</li> <li>4. Heidi Fleury outlined the grant contracted funds.</li> <li>5. Emilie Henry provided an update on the Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPP) required for grant-funded research.</li> <li>6. Heidi Fleury outlined the grant competitive subawards and potential commission involvement in the competitive process.</li> <li>7. Krista Lammers provided an overview of the Grant Program Guidelines and the public review process. She outlined next steps for the competitive grants.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Discussion from the Commission about the application process.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

<p>Emilie Henry, Program Coordinator</p> <p>Krista Lammers, Grant Administrative Specialist</p>	<p>b. <b>Motion</b> by Onno Wieringa to approve the grant program guidelines as presented; <b>seconded</b> by Tracy Campbell</p> <p>i. <b>Motion passes</b> unanimously by a vote of 12-0</p>
<p><b>Public Comment</b></p> <p>Mike Koopal, Chair</p>	<p>1. Mike Koopal called for public comment.</p> <p>2. Seeing none, Mike Koopal closed public comment.</p>
<p><b>Wrap up &amp; Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Mike Koopal, Chair</p>	<p>1. Executive Committee will discuss next meeting dates for 2025.</p>
<p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <p>Mike Koopal, Chair</p>	<p>1. <b>Motion</b> by Onno Wieringa to adjourn meeting; <b>seconded</b> by Caroline McDonald</p> <p>a. <b>Motion passes</b> unanimously by a vote of 12-0; meeting adjourned.</p>