



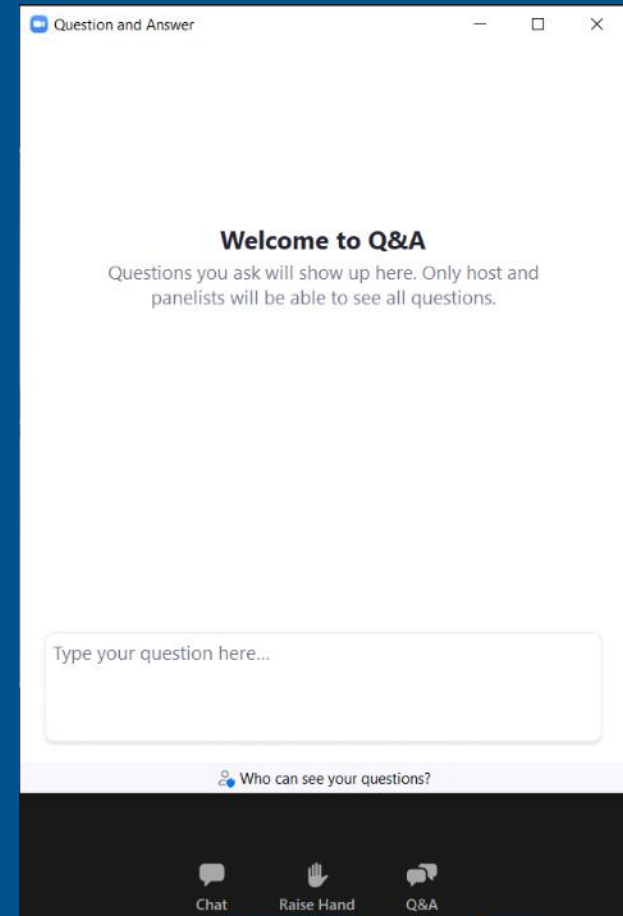
# Nutrient Work Group

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January 9, 2023

# Welcome!

- This meeting is a webinar
- NWG members will be panelists
- Members of the public can raise their hand or use the Q&A feature to ask questions during the public comment portion of the meeting
- \*9 raises your hand if you're on the phone
- State your name and affiliation before providing your comment



Unmute

Chat

Raise Hand

Q&A

Leave

# Agenda

Meeting Goal: Discuss key topics and provide clarity for NWG members

## **Preliminaries**

- Nutrient Work Group Roll Call

## **DEQ Updates**

- Water Protection Bureau Chief

## **Key Topics**

- Phosphorus Prioritization
- Entry into Adaptive Management Planning
- Ecoregional Ranges
- Economics
- Narrative Standard

## **Public Comment & Close of Meeting**

- Public Comment
- Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

# Roll Call

## Nutrient Work Group Members

Interest Group	Representative	Substitute
Point Source Discharger: Large Municipal Systems (>1 MGD)	Louis Engels	
Point Source Discharger: Middle-Sized Mechanical Systems (<1 MGD)	Shannon Holmes	
Point Source Discharger: Small Municipal Systems with Lagoons	Rika Lashley	
Point Source Discharger: Non-POTW	Alan Olson	
Municipalities	Kelly Lynch	
Mining	Tammy Johnson	
Farming-Oriented Agriculture	Rachel Cone	
Livestock-Oriented Agriculture	Raylee Honeycutt	
Conservation Organization - Local	Kristin Gardner	
Conservation Organization – Regional	Sarah Zuzulock	
Conservation Organization – Statewide	David Brooks	
Environmental Advocacy Organization	Guy Alsentzer	
Water or Fishing-Based Recreation	Pete Cardinal	
Federal Land Management Agencies	Andy Efta	
Federal Regulatory Agencies	Tina Laidlaw	
State Land Management Agencies	Jeff Schmalenberg	
Water Quality Districts / County Planning Departments	Nick Banish	
Soil & Water Conservation Districts – West of the Continental Divide	Samantha Tappenbeck	
Soil & Water Conservation Districts – East of the Continental Divide	Dan Rostad	
Wastewater Engineering Firms	Scott Buecker	
Timber Industry	Julia Altemus	



# DEQ Updates

# DEQ Updates

- Staff Updates



# Key Topics

# Phosphorus Prioritization

Have we captured these accurately?



# DEQ's Proposal

- Bill states “...prioritizes the minimization of phosphorus, taking into account site-specific conditions.”
  - Protective of beneficial uses
  - Verification through response variable monitoring
- Phosphorus prioritization
  - Implementation
  - Monitoring
- Reductions
  - Facility optimization
  - Upgrades
  - Adaptive management planning

# Entry into Adaptive Management Planning

Have we captured these accurately?

# DEQ's Proposal

- Adaptive management planning
  - Implementation
  - Monitoring
- Efforts to reduce phosphorus
  - Optimization
  - Facility Upgrades
- Planning actions
- Combined criterion

# Ecoregional Ranges

Have we captured these accurately?

# DEQ's Proposal

- Ecoregional ranges are a starting point
  - Reasonable potential when there are no response variables available
- Combined criteria approach
  - Translator
- Geographic variability
  - Uniform aquatic ecological environment
- Values outside of ecoregional ranges
  - Allowed—but need to be protective of beneficial uses
- Greater focus on response variables
- Compliance with the Clean Water Act

# Economics

Have we captured these accurately?

# DEQ's Proposal

- Economics have always been considered
- Variety of options
  - Partnerships
  - Nutrient trading
  - Variances
- Phosphorous prioritization
  - More economically feasible
- Higher costs – Watershed-scale AMP strategy

# Narrative Standard

Have we captured these accurately?



# DEQ's Proposal

- Narrative standard translation
  - Incorporation into MPDES permits
  - Incorporation into other department programs
- New Rule I
  - Beneficial uses protected
  - Narrative nutrient standards achieved
- **Combined criterion approach**
  - Causal and response variables expression
- EPA Combined Criteria Memo

# Topics to Discuss in 2023

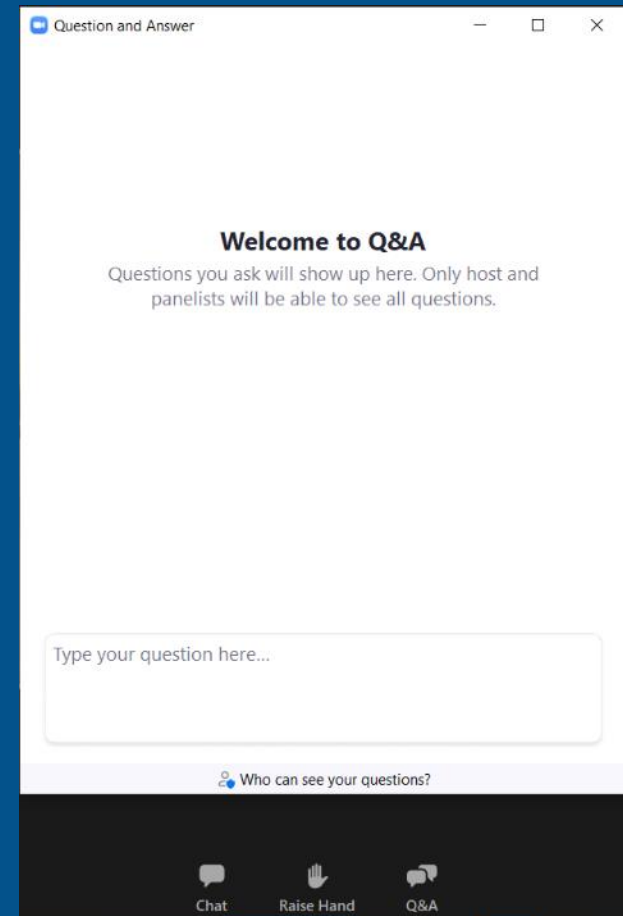
- February 13, 2023
  - Rule package review – **Finish reviewing, submit or come with questions**
  - Funding, resources, and costs
- March 13, 2023
  - MEANSS Model and Nutrient Trading
  - How to select approvable nonpoint source projects / BMPs
- April 10, 2023
  - DEQ resources and costs



# PUBLIC COMMENT

# Questions/ Comments

- Raise hand (\*9 if on the phone) or type questions into the Q&A
- DEQ will unmute you if you wish to provide your comment orally
- If calling by phone, press \*6 to unmute
- State your name and affiliation before providing your comment



Unmute

Chat

Raise Hand

Q&A

Leave



# Upcoming Meetings

# Upcoming Meeting Schedule

- Monday, February 13, 2023, 9 – 11 a.m.
- Monday, March 13, 2023, 9 – 11 a.m.
- Monday, April 10, 2023, 9 – 11 a.m.

# Meeting Summary

## ❖ Phosphorus prioritization

- Implementation
- Monitoring
- Adaptive Management planning

## ❖ Entry into AMP

- Implementation and Monitoring: Planning
- Phosphorus reductions at point source
- Adaptive management planning actions

## ❖ Economics

- Have always considered economics
- Tools: partnerships, nutrient trading, and variances
- P prioritization is economically more feasible

## ❖ DEQ narrative standard

- Combined criteria approach
- Protective of beneficial uses of state waters
- EPA Combined Criteria Memo

## ❖ Ecoregional ranges

- Used if there is RP, but no RV data
- Geographic variability
- Combined criteria approach

# Thanks for Joining Us

Contact:

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To submit comments or questions



<https://deq.mt.gov/water/Councils>





