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**Water Pollution Control Advisory Council (WPCAC)**

Monday, June 29, 2026, 1:00 P.M.

Zoom Webinar

**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES**

*Council Members*

Amanda Knuteson (chair)

Ron Pifer

Shannon Holmes

Jeffrey Mark

Adam Pummill

Dennis Teske

*Montana DEQ*

Rachel Clark

Lindsey Krywaruchka

Tiffany Lyden

Katie Makarowski

Hannah Riedl

Eric Sivers

Andy Ulven

*Members of the Public/Other*

L Anderson

Ed Coleman

Jack Heneghan (AE2S)

Lt. Governor Kristen Juras

Casey Lewis

Heather Luinstra

Amanda McInnis

Sonny

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Knuteson called the meeting to order and a round-table attendance was taken.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Jeff Mark moved to approve the agenda as written. Adam Pummill seconded, all approved.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Dennis Teske moved to approve the April 6, 2026 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Adam Pummill, all approved.

**DISCUSSION**

Lt. Governor Juras requested to reverse the order of the first two briefing items on the agenda.

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## **LT. GOVERNOR UPDATES**

Lt. Governor Juras discussed the Governor's review of commissions, boards and councils under the red tape relief initiative. She reviewed WPCAC's history, background and purpose, current public participation opportunities within the rulemaking process, streamlining processes, and requested support for elimination of WPCAC. Lindsey Krywaruchka discussed DEQ's rulemaking process, timeline, and opportunities for public and stakeholder participation.

WPCAC members asked questions and provided input and thoughts on continuation. Chair Knuteson opposed the elimination, expressed concerns over public input, and suggested changes to WPCAC's composition or to its timing within rulemaking. Lt. Governor Juras responded about WPCAC's statutory role in the rulemaking process, opportunities for stakeholder and public involvement, and asked how it has shown effectiveness in the rulemaking process. WPCAC members discussed the role of the council and potential refinements.

The floor was opened for public comment. Ed Coleman (City of Helena) said WPCAC holds value for municipalities and other citizens. Heather Luinstra (Richland County sanitarian) commented it kept her informed.

Lt. Governor clarified today's agenda item was for initial discussion and to get input, and shared appreciation for council members' service. Chair Knuteson requested additional discussion at the October 5<sup>th</sup> WPCAC meeting.

## **SUBDIVISION PROGRAM FOLLOW UP – RULE APPLICABILITY FREQUENCY**

Rachel Clark, DEQ Engineering Bureau Chief, explained the proposed rulemaking developed to implement HB 923 was provided during the previous WPCAC meeting. At that meeting, a request was made for a map showing locations where the rule applies. Rachel shared a map prepared by DEQ to show where wells are absent or the groundwater depth is greater than 300 feet. Adam Pummill requested the map be shared out, DEQ will email to council members and post on WPCAC page of DEQ website. Rachel added that the public hearing on the HB 923 rulemaking will be July 7<sup>th</sup>.

## **DEQ UPDATES**

Lindsey provided an update on three rulemaking items. HB 685 – public hearing held April 21, adoption expected August 7. DEQ Circular 7 – public hearing held in June, adoption expected September 25. Triennial Review – public hearing held on June 10<sup>th</sup>, working though comments received.

## **WPCAC MEMBER UPDATES**

Ron Pifer provided an update on Western Montana Conservation Commission (WMCC). WMCC has been coordinating with counties on septic records/data needs and working with realtors on septic education. WMCC's EPA grant is funding multiple on-the-ground projects to address nonpoint source pollution and water quality, including septic leachate and stormwater. WMCC also working on aquatic invasive species prevention efforts. Ron discussed challenges with and need for a receiving facility for septic pumpage.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Chair Knuteson suggested that the October meeting include WPCAC's continuation and updates for upcoming legislative session. Lindsey shared that DEQ will present agency proposals to the Water Policy Interim Committee (WPIC) on July 21<sup>st</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup>. Chair Knuteson commented she would like to see WPCAC rehauled instead of eliminated and that council members can provide additional feedback. Lindsey

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welcomed phone calls between now and the October meeting. Next meeting will be October 5<sup>th</sup> at 10am.

**ADJOURN**

Chair Knuteson closed the meeting.

DRAFT