# DEQ MEPA Workgroup: Subgroup on Public Engagement & Education

Agenda (draft, subject to change) March 5, 2024 / 1:00-4:00 pm Zoom Webinar (passcode 057080): https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/87547372126?pwd=UFE5TzhLMmpQakg4NExyVXNkaEJxQT09

**Outcomes:** (1) To <u>finalize</u> a clear and concise problem statement for public engagement and education/outreach in MEPA's implementation. (2) To explore current protocol and format for public meetings. (3) To learn more about the role of the Environmental Quality Council in education and training on MEPA.

## 1:00 Welcome and Introductions, Agenda Review

## 1:15 Finalize problem statements for both public engagement, education, and outreach

- Review the attached draft statements what is missing, what needs edits?
  - Next steps and discussion

## **1:30** Presentation and review of requested materials from DEQ staff (available on website)

#### 1:45 Overview of current public meetings (DEQ staff)

- Goal: to better understand how the agency currently handles public meetings
  Identify what we believe the goal of public meetings should be/is?
- Discuss: what constraints within the current public meeting structure are hindering public engagement? What changes could be made to increase the effectiveness of public meetings? Discuss hearing versus meeting?
- Brainstorm recommendations

#### 2:30 Break

## 2:40 Presentation by Jason Mohr (Legislative Environmental Policy Analyst, EQC)

- What role has EQC historically played in the education and outreach efforts around MEPA and its implementation?
- What challenges is EQC facing today in meeting the needs of the public, agencies, and legislators?
- Visioning what role should EQC play? Who else should take a role in the education and outreach of MEPA?

#### **3:15** Discuss next steps and how we start building potential solutions

- Review framework provided by the agency for report format
- Assign any tasks and research needs

#### 3:30 Public Comment

4:00 Adjourn