

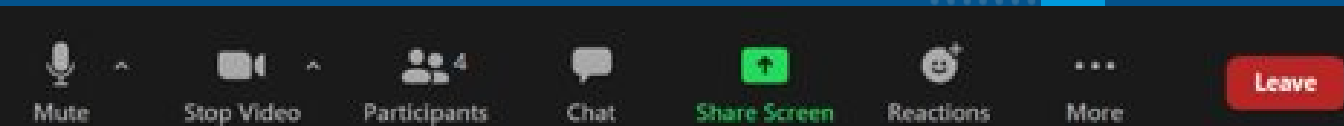
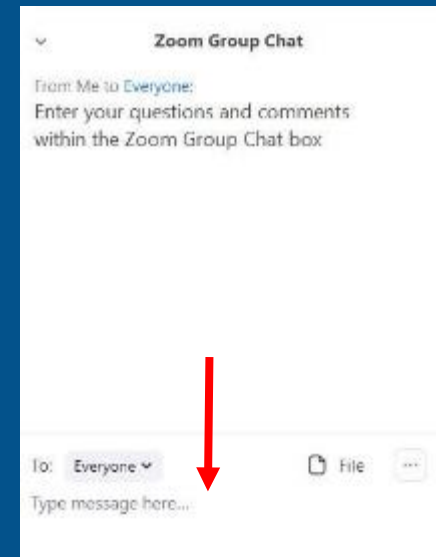
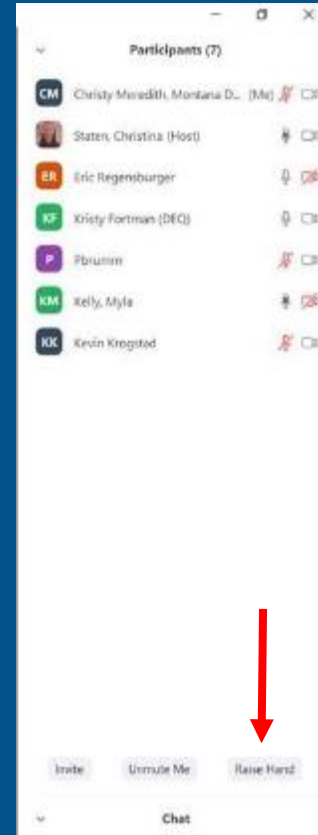
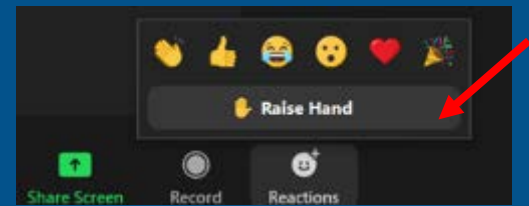


Listening Session

June 9, 2021

Welcome!

- Please keep your microphone muted until called on
- Turning off your video feed provides better bandwidth
- *6 unmutes your phone
- Please sign-in to the chat box with name and affiliation



Introductions

DEQ Staff

- George Mathieus, Deputy Director
- Kurt Moser, Legal Counsel
- Moira Davin, Public Relations
- Amy Steinmetz, Water Quality Division Administrator
- Jon Kenning, Water Protection Bureau Chief
- Rainie DeVaney, Discharge Permitting Section Supervisor
- Galen Steffens, Water Quality Planning Bureau Chief
- Myla Kelly, WQ Standards & Modeling Section Supervisor
- Kristy Fortman, Watershed Protection Section Supervisor
- Darrin Kron, WQ Monitoring & Assessment Section Supervisor
- Michael Suplee, Water Quality Science Specialist
- Christina Staten, Water Quality Specialist

Agenda

Listening Session

Purpose: To hear from the public on the transition to narrative standards

- Overview
- Questions
 - Submitted Prior to Today
 - Open Questions
- Comments
 - 3 Minutes Per Person



Overview

DEQ is transitioning from numeric nutrient standards to narrative nutrient standards

DEQ will utilize the existing science of nutrient impacts to Montana's beneficial uses.

All water quality standards changes will be submitted to EPA for approval under the Clean Water Act.

DEQ will actively engage with the Nutrient Work Group as an advisory body. Monthly meetings are open to the public.

DEQ's developed and vetted nutrient assessment method will remain in place, with minor changes.

The timeline for creating the new narrative implementation rules is faster than most rulemaking at DEQ and requires the rules to be developed by March 2022.

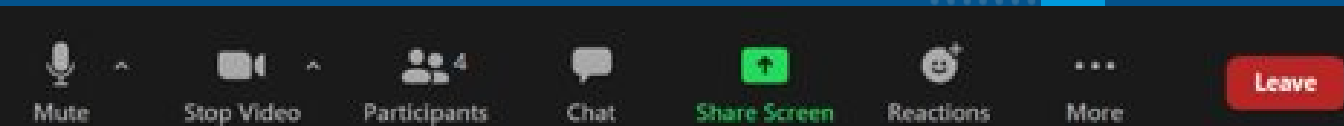
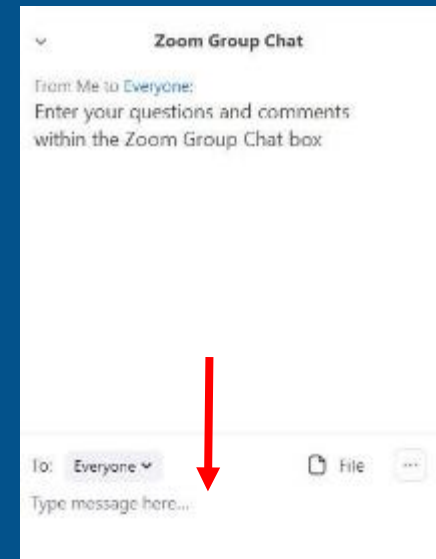
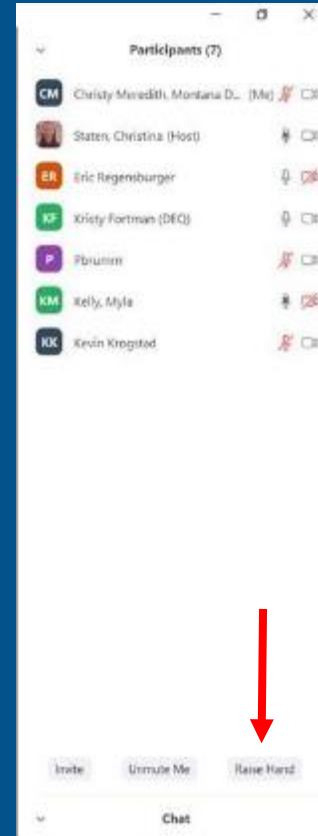
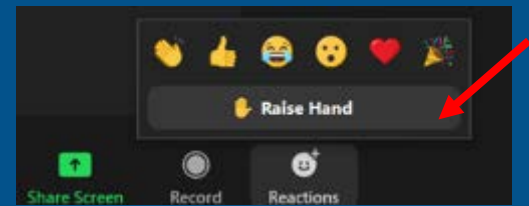


Questions

*Submitted and
Open Questions*

Questions

- Please keep your microphone muted until called on
- Turning off your video feed provides better bandwidth
- If calling by phone, press*6 to unmute
- State your name and affiliation before providing your comment
- Raise hand or type questions into the chat



Question 1

Whose responsibility is it to enforce the phosphorus ban in ARM 17.30 Subchapter 3? Would it be beneficial to explore additional rule-making to enhance these requirements (such as eliminate the exemptions)?

Question 2

Will the Clark Fork River numeric nutrient standards remain in place? If so, do these apply to the mainstem only? Or will tributaries retain their numeric standards? Protection of Lake Pend Oreille in Idaho depends on managing nutrients in the Clark Fork. How is that impacted by changes in nutrient standards on the river or its tributaries? Will streams that are currently listed as impaired by nutrients cease to be listed as impaired unless they are also impaired by excess algae or low oxygen (problems caused by excess nutrients)? If a reach of stream is determined to be impaired by excess algae or low oxygen and the likely cause appears to be excess nutrients, will it be said to be impaired by nutrients, and will that require that all upstream sources of the nutrients will have to cut back as part of a load allocation?



Informal Comments

3 Minutes Each

Informal Comments

- Please keep your microphone muted until called on
- State your name and affiliation before providing your comment
- Three minutes per commenter
- Comments are informal and comment themes will be provided to the Nutrient Work Group for consideration
- Please be kind and respectful to others



Thanks for Joining Us

Contact:

Galen Steffens

Galen.Steffens2@mt.gov



To submit comments or questions

» Submit Comments or Questions

<http://deq.mt.gov/water/resources/nutrientworkgroup>