

AGENDA
MONTANA WETLAND COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday May 8, 2003
9:30 am – 4:00 pm
Montana State Capital
Old Supreme Court Chambers

9:30 Welcome, Introductions & Announcements.

Lynda Saul, Department of Environmental Quality Wetland Coordinator.

9:45 2003 Wetland Stewardship Award Ceremony.

Governor Martz will award the 2003 Wetland Stewardship Awards to a public servant and private citizen who have demonstrated an extraordinary level of commitment to protect, conserve, and enhance Montana wetland resources for present and future generations.

10:30 Break

10:45 Stewardship Award winner Gordon Stockstad, MT Dept of Transportation.

Will describe his work to develop and improve MDT's wetland and stream mitigation program.

11:15 Stewardship Award winner Larry Weeks, Private Citizen.

Will describe his wetland restoration project working with Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation along the Clark Fork River.

Noon Catered Lunch. Capitol Rotunda.

Please be the guest of the Wetland Council and congratulate the Wetland Stewardship Award Winners. Please call 444-5562 to reserve your space.

12:45 Wetland Grant Program Funding Discussion.

The annual EPA Wetland Protection Grant program has four main funding priorities: monitoring, compensatory mitigation, protection of isolated wetlands, and implementation of a comprehensive wetlands protection program (including funding for local governments and non-profits). EPA will make an additional \$5 million available to states for implementation in 2004. Council discussion will include topics such as:

What types of projects are needed for better wetland protection?

Is there a need for professional development opportunities?

How to encourage qualified entities to submit proposals, especially in categories not currently funded.

1:45 Wetland Education for Stewardship. Wendy Ridenour, MT Natural History

Center. Will discuss wetland education activities in schools and implications for lifelong wetland stewardship.

2:00 West Nile Virus Implications. Lynda Saul, MDEQ Wetland Coordinator.

Will discuss information and presentations available wetland managers and the public.

2:10 Artificial Pond Update. Council Discussion.

Status of pond manual progress and create working group on pond manual including construction, engineering and ecology. Pond study requested by HJ Resolution 40.

2:30 Break

2:45 Wetland Updates and Coordination Reports.

This is an opportunity for everyone to share wetland and riparian related activities ongoing in their agency or organization with their colleagues. Please bring a printed copy of your report.

State Agencies: DEQ, DFWP, DNRC, NRIS, MNHP, MDT, Dept of Ag, Military Affairs.

Federal Agencies: EPA, USFWS, NRCS, BLM, USFS, COE, BOR, USGS, FHWA.

Tribal Governments, MT Wetlands Legacy, MT Watercourse, Watershed Coordination Council, Flathead Basin Commission, Non-profits, Consultants, Industry, Universities, Individuals, Others.

3:50 Potential Agenda Items for Next Wetland Council Meeting.

4:00 Adjourn

Please note that the Wetland Council meeting and Award Ceremony will be held in the Old Supreme Court Chambers, room 303 of the Montana State Capitol. After reaching the third floor, the Old Supreme Court Chambers is just east of the main stairs, across from the Montana Statehood Centennial Bell.

Montana wetland information can be found at the NRIS Wetland Clearinghouse web site <http://nr.is.state.mt.us/wis/wetlands>

The Montana Wetland Council meets three times a year in Helena; everyone is welcome to attend. For additional information please contact Lynda Saul, Montana DEQ, 444-6652 or lsaul@state.mt.us.