



Western Montana Conservation Commission Agenda

November 2nd - 3rd

PURPOSE

WMCC serves as a convening body to facilitate close cooperation and coordination between federal, state, provincial, tribal, and local resource managers to monitor the condition of aquatic and natural resources across western Montana.



WHY

WMCC was created during the 2023 Montana Legislative Session and effectively combines and replaces the roles and jurisdiction of FBC and UC3.

Thursday, November 2 - 11:30 AM to 4:30 PM

LOCATION: 1075 South Ave W, Missoula, MT 59801

(New Missoula Department of Ecology and Extension Building - on the Missoula Fairgrounds)

For virtual attendees: <https://mt.gov.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUvcuqhqTwsH9OjR0By3HGrlbHqhVzLOiT>

11:30 AM

Lunch

Please join us for lunch (provided), socializing, and a tour of the new building

12:30 PM

Call to Order

Welcome from Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras

12:45 PM

Introductions and Roll Call

1:00 PM

Commission Orientation

Staff introductions, history, and background
Legislation Overview

1:45 PM

Roles and Responsibilities

Overview of expectations for staff and commissioners

2:15 PM

Break

2:25 PM

Commissioner Introductions

2-minute presentation from each Commissioner

3:45 PM

Past and Current Work

Overview of past work of the Flathead Basin Commission and Upper Columbia Conservation Commission

- *Parting thoughts and wisdom from FBC and UC3*

What we have been up to since July

4:15 PM

Public Comment

4:30 PM

Adjourn Meeting

Join us for social hour!



Western Montana Conservation Commission Agenda

November 2nd - 3rd

Friday, November 3 - 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM



8:30 AM

Call to Order and Roll Call

Light breakfast items provided

8:45 AM

Financials

Overview of financials

Action: Vote on FY24 budget

9:30 AM

By-laws

Review draft by-laws and make modifications

Action: Vote on by-laws

10:15 AM

Break

10:30 AM

WMCC Committee Structure

Overview of past committee structure

Action: Vote on executive committee membership

Discussion on additional committees

Action: If consensus is reached, vote on committee creation

11:40 AM

Workshop on Continued & Future Work

Project requests

- DEQ: Clark Fork Monitoring
- USGS: Vermillion Project

Discussion on past work presentations from 11/2 and other directions

Action: Vote on project requests and work

12:45 PM

Wrap up and Next Meeting

12:50 PM

Public Comment

1:00 PM

Adjourn Meeting

Join us for lunch (provided)

Thank you to all our new commissioners! We are excited for what the future has in store.

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting/ Project Name:	Western Montana Conservation Commission (WMCC)		
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, November 2, 2023	Time:	11:30 AM-4:30 PM
Minutes Prepared By:	Stephanie Murphy	Location:	Hybrid: Missoula County Department of Ecology & Extension or Zoom/Call In

List of Acronyms

AIS	Aquatic invasive species	FBC	Flathead Basin Commission
BOR	US Bureau of Reclamation	FLBS	Flathead Lake Biological Station
BPA	Bonneville Power Administration	FWP	Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
BSWC	Big Sky Watershed Corps (AmeriCorps)	GNP	Glacier National Park
CEMIST	Central Eastern MT Invasive Species Team	MACD	MT Association of Conservation Districts
CFC	Clark Fork Coalition	MCDEE	Missoula County Department of Ecology & Extension
CRB	Columbia River Basin	NPS	Nonpoint Source Pollution
CRC	Clearwater Resource Council	NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
CSKT	Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes	UC3	Upper Columbia Conservation Commission
DEQ	Department of Environmental Quality	UCLN	Upper Columbia Lakes Network
DOI	Department of the Interior	USACE	US Army Corps of Engineers
DOT	Department of Transportation	USDA	US Department of Agriculture
DNRC	Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation	USFS	US Forest Service
eDNA	Environmental DNA	USFWS	US Fish & Wildlife Service
E & O	Education & Outreach	WLI	Whitefish Lake Institute
EPA	US Environmental Protection Agency	WRDA	Water Resources Development Act
EQC	Environmental Quality Council (Interim)	WRP	Western Regional Panel

1. Welcome & Introductions

<p>Call to Order</p> <p>Casey Lewis, WMCC Executive Director</p> <p>Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Casey Lewis, Executive Director of WMCC, called the meeting to order. Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor, joined the meeting virtually to welcome commission members. WMCC recognizes that we live and work on the ancestral lands of the Séliš, Qíispé, & Ksanka people. We honor the path they have shown us in caring for these landscapes for generations to come. Casey Lewis presented the agenda overview: commission orientation, roles & responsibilities of the commission, commissioner introductions, past and current work, and public comment
<p>Roll Call Attendance</p>	<p>WMCC (voting members underlined): Casey Lewis, Emilie Henry, Kelly Hendrix, Stephanie Murphy, Katie Lynch-Dombroski, Mark Bostrom, <u>Onno Wieringa</u>, <u>Lech Naumovich</u>, <u>Mike Koopal</u>, <u>Rich Janssen</u> (virtual), <u>Arthur Potts</u>, <u>Duane Braaten</u>, <u>Sandy Beder-Miller</u>, <u>Randy Brodehl</u>, <u>Josh Letcher</u> (virtual), <u>Scott Rumsey</u>, <u>Rae Lynn Hays</u>, <u>Tracy Campbell</u>, <u>Julie Spencer</u>, <u>Matt Peterson</u>, <u>Phil Matson</u>, Mike Cuffe, Neil Duram, Lindsey Krywaruchka, Tom Woolf, Tom Martin, Galen Steffens (virtual), Jim Elser (virtual), Sara Edinberg, Martin Charlo, Heidi McMaster, Michelle Cox, Peter Brumm (virtual), Greg Hoffman (virtual), Kate Wilson, Melissa Schaar, Chris Savage</p> <p>Absent members: Janet Ellis, Tom France, Jim Ferch</p> <p>Partners & Guests: In-person: Russ Hartzell, Randy Arnold, Rayelynn Brandl, Tayler Templin, Bill Dykes, Julie Merritt, Rebecca Donaldson, Constanza von der Pahlen, Keely Larson, Terri Nichols; Virtual: Hailey Graff, Vicki Watson, Jeff Schmalenberg, Marcus Strange, Anna</p>

Connerton, Jason Mohr, Sheena Pate, Gabby Metzner, Hannah Riedl, Stephanie Criswell, Tiffany Lyden, Bryan Vogt, Rebecca Boslough-King, Emily Baker, Jennifer Riddle, Catey Bauer, Deb Tirmenstein, Amber Nichols, Leon Basdekas, Liz Lodman, Tom Bansak, Rachel Malison, Madelyn Eagle, Maureen Connor, Danie Frevola
Quorum established

2. Agenda

Presenter	Topic/Discussion
<p>Commission Orientation</p> <p>Casey Lewis, WMCC Executive Director Emilie Henry, WMCC Programs Coordinator</p> <p>Stephanie Murphy, WMCC Communications Coordinator</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brief staff introductions from Casey Lewis, Emilie Henry, Kelly Hendrix, Stephanie Murphy, Katie Lynch-Dombroski 2. Emilie Henry presented a short history of FBC & UC3 because these two commissions were consolidated into WMCC. This overview included the diversity of notable historic work from each commission in an effort to protect the natural resources of the Flathead Basin and support the prevention of AIS in the Upper Columbia River Basin. 3. Casey Lewis provided an overview of each section of Senate Bill 83, the enabling legislation of WMCC as part of Governor Gianforte’s Red Tape Initiative. This bill aimed to consolidate FBC & UC3 that have overlapping goals for protecting water quality, expand impact of FBC’s success across western MT, and streamline staff, budget, and other logistical aspects. The termination date is June 30, 2029. 4. Casey Lewis provided an overview of the W9 and travel reimbursement forms for commission members. 5. Stephanie Murphy presented the parting thoughts from FBC & UC3 provided during each commission’s last meeting. This reflection includes both strengths of each commission and goals for WMCC as recommended by FBC & UC3 staff and commission members.
<p>Roles & Responsibilities</p> <p>Casey Lewis, WMCC Executive Director</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Casey Lewis presented a brief overview of the roles & responsibilities of staff and commission members
<p>BREAK 1:45 – 2:00</p>	
<p>Commissioner Introductions</p> <p>Kelly Hendrix, WMCC Program Coordinator</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kelly Hendrix invited each commission member to introduce themselves.
<p>Past & Current Work</p> <p>Kelly Hendrix, WMCC Program Coordinator</p> <p>Emilie Henry, WMCC Program Coordinator</p> <p>Stephanie Murphy, WMCC Communications</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kelly Hendrix introduced the topic of Past & Current Work that outlines projects accomplished by FBC, UC3, & now WMCC. 2. Kelly Hendrix presented an overview of <u>stormwater pollution</u> projects including the Flathead Basin Stormwater Inventory and Outfall Prioritization projects, and the Flathead Rain Garden Initiative and Adopt-a-Drain projects developed with BSWC and City of Kalispell. 3. Emilie Henry presented an overview of <u>septic leachate</u> projects including the Flathead Septic Risk Assessment & Online Tool, the Synthetic DNA Study, and the Septic Maintenance Reimbursement Program. 4. Kelly Hendrix presented an overview of <u>aquatic invasive species</u> projects including AIS monitoring, outreach events, the BSWC Industry Outreach project in partnership with Missoula County Department of Ecology & Extension, the augmentation of FWP’s outreach

<p>Coordinator</p> <p>Casey Lewis, WMCC Executive Director</p>	<p>efforts, and the AIS Video Production contract.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Stephanie Murphy presented an overview of <u>education & outreach</u> projects including the Montana Waters: Clearly Connected campaign, partner collaborations, the Video Production contract for both AIS & Montan Waters, and a list of community outreach and WMCC staff events since July 2023. 6. Casey Lewis presented an overview of the <u>Columbia River Basin Toxic Reductions Lead Grant</u> that WMCC was awarded by the EPA. The workplan focuses on community research, septic leachate, stormwater pollution, and education & outreach. Additional staff to implement the grant will be hired: two Grant Program Specialists and a Grant Administrative Specialist. 7. Casey Lewis concluded with the current work being done to build up a new commission including meetings, commission appointments, staff expansion, and more.
<p>Public Comment</p> <p>Kelly Hendrix, WMCC Program Coordinator</p> <p>Constanza von der Pahlen, Flathead Lakers</p> <p>Rayelynn Brandl, Clark Fork Watershed Education Program Director</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kelly Hendrix called for public comment. 2. Constanza von der Pahlen of the Flathead Lakers requested funding to finish the Living in Flathead website and to launch the website with outreach. The request for funding was \$10,000, if possible, but would be interested in a higher budget to include additional efforts. 3. Rayelynn Brandl, Director of the Clark Fork Watershed Education Program, shared the perspective of students of western MT that climate resiliency should be a focus of the commission and is a major concern for Montana’s youth.
<p>Wrap up & Next Steps</p> <p>Casey Lewis, WMCC Executive Director</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Casey Lewis provided a brief overview of agenda for the next part of this introductory meeting Friday November 3: financials, by-laws, WMCC committee structure, and a workshop on continued & future work.
<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Casey Lewis, WMCC Executive Director</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meeting was adjourned by Casey Lewis. 2. Next part of this meeting is Friday, November 3 from 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM.

Meeting/ Project Name:	Western Montana Conservation Commission (WMCC)		
Date of Meeting:	Friday, November 3, 2023	Time:	8:30 AM-1:00 PM
Minutes Prepared By:	Stephanie Murphy	Location:	Hybrid: Missoula County Department of Ecology & Extension or Zoom/Call In
1. Welcome & Introductions			
Call to Order Casey Lewis, WMCC Executive Director	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Casey Lewis, Executive Director of WMCC, called the meeting to order. 2. WMCC recognizes that we live and work on the ancestral lands of the Séliš, Qíispé, & Ksanka people. We honor the path they have shown us in caring for these landscapes for generations to come. 3. Casey Lewis presented the agenda overview: financials, by-laws, WMCC committee structure, workshop on continued & future work. 		
Roll Call Attendance	<p><u>WMCC (voting members underlined):</u> Casey Lewis, Emilie Henry, Kelly Hendrix, Stephanie Murphy, Katie Lynch-Dombroski, Mark Bostrom, <u>Onno Wieringa</u>, <u>Lech Naumovich</u>, <u>Mike Koopal</u>, <u>Rich Janssen</u> (virtual), <u>Arthur Potts</u>, <u>Duane Braaten</u>, <u>Sandy Beder-Miller</u>, <u>Randy Brodehl</u>, <u>Josh Letcher</u> (virtual), <u>Scott Rumsey</u>, <u>Rae Lynn Hays</u>, <u>Tracy Campbell</u>, <u>Julie Spencer</u>, <u>Matt Peterson</u>, <u>Phil Matson</u>, Mike Cuffe, Neil Duram, Lindsey Krywaruchka, Tom Woolf, Tom Martin, Galen Steffens (virtual), Jim Elser, Sara Edinberg, Martin Charlo, Heidi McMaster, Michelle Cox, Peter Brumm (virtual), Greg Hoffman (virtual), Kate Wilson, Melissa Schaar, Chris Savage</p> <p><u>Absent members:</u> Janet Ellis, Tom France, Jim Ferch</p> <p><u>Partners & Guests:</u> In-person: Bill Dyke, Amy Seaman, Tayler Templin, Russ Hartzell, Peter Cooper, Joel Fenolio, Julie Merritt, Constanza von der Pahlen; Virtual: Gabrielle Metzner, Rodney Caldwell, Marcus Strange, Kasydi Lucas, Jason Mohr, Anna Connerton, Hailey Graf, Liz Lodman, Stephanie Criswell, Tiffany Lyden, Catey Bauer, Rachel Malison, Bill Hendrix, Vicki Watson, Tom Bansak, Rebecca Boslough-King, Paul Kusnierz, Leon Basdekas, Sheree Watson, Sara Eldridge, Susan Drumheller</p> <p><u>Quorum established</u></p>		
2. Agenda			
Presenter	Topic/Discussion		
Financials Casey Lewis, WMCC Executive Director	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Casey Lewis presented a detailed overview of WMCC financials. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant funding from BOR with two AIS grants one from 2021-2024 and one from 2023-2025, NRCS Montana Association of Conservation Districts grant, MWCC BSWC Professional Development Grant, and EPA Columbia River Basin Toxic Reductions Lead grant. • Contracts with Windfall and Conservation Media 2. Casey Lewis provided a proposed budget for FY24 and called for comment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion was made by Onno Wieringa to approve the budget as presented; seconded by Matt Peterson • Discussion on the motion: as the new commission began July 1, 2023, before a commission meeting could be set to approve the budget, the motion should be amended to include expenditure in FY24 prior to this commission meeting. • Onno Wieringa withdrew original motion; seconded by Matt Peterson • Motion was made by Onno Wieringa to approve the budget including previous expenditures; seconded by Matt Peterson • Motion passes 		

<p>By-laws</p> <p>Casey Lewis, WMCC Executive Director</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Casey Lewis called for review of the proposed commission by-laws. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motion made by Onno Wieringa to take input and edits of the by-laws and have staff provide an updated version with these recommendations; seconded by Randy Brodehl Motion passes
<p>WMCC Committee Structure</p> <p>Kelly Hendrix, WMCC Program Coordinator</p> <p>Casey Lewis, WMCC Executive Director</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Kelly Hendrix presented an overview of past committee structure of FBC & UC3 and their parting thoughts provided by commission members and staff at the last FBC & UC3 commission meetings. Casey Lewis provided an overview of the requirements for an Executive Committee as dictated by state law: the executive committee, at a minimum, consists of the Chair, Vice Chair, and one or more voting members for a 2-year term. Non-voting commission members may serve in an advisory capacity. Casey Lewis called for those interested in serving on the Executive Committee. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voting members, Sandy Beder-Miller, Phil Matson, Arthur Potts, Lech Naumovich, Tracy Campbell, and Rich Janssen, and non-voting members, Mark Bostrom and Kate Wilson, proposed to serve on the committee. Mike Koopal and Onno Wieringa proposed to serve as Chair or Vice Chair. Motion was made by Randy Brodehl for Mike Koopal to serve as Chair and Onno Wieringa to serve as Vice Chair and to include the rest of the interested members to serve on the executive committee; seconded by Duane Braaten. Mike Koopal and Onno Wieringa abstained from the vote. Motion passes. Kelly Hendrix provided a handout with reflection questions addressing potential committee structure and allowed time for commission members to begin filling this out. Casey Lewis called for commission members to share thoughts on interests and positions for committees. With more discussion needed, a lack of approved by-laws, and a needed strategic plan, Mike Koopal, as Executive Committee Chair, called for a motion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motion was made by Phil Matson to postpone vote on committee creation and evaluation; seconded by Lech Naumovich Motion passes
<p>Workshop on Continued & Future Work</p> <p>Emilie Henry, WMCC Program Coordinator</p> <p>Gabby Metzner, DEQ</p> <p>Rod Caldwell, USGS</p> <p>Constanza von der Pahlen, Flathead Lakers</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Emilie Henry called for project requests for WMCC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gabby Metzner, of DEQ, provided an overview of the Clark Fork Monitoring Program and expressed interest in a new partner to carry out this monitoring project. Rod Caldwell, of USGS, provided an overview of the Vermillion River Restoration Effectiveness Monitoring project in Sanders, County and expressed interest in a partner organization that can support this project. Jim Elser, Director of Flathead Lake Biological Station, proposed that WMCC could be the convener of a series of meetings to bring in partners and discuss the science and logistics of the Flathead Lake levels to help contribute to understanding. Constanza von der Pahlen, of the Flathead Lakers, was present to answer questions about her request during public comment in the November 2, 2023, meeting the day prior. With more discussion needed, a lack of approved by-laws, and a needed strategic plan, Mike Koopal, as Executive Committee Chair, called for a motion. Motion was made by Randy Brodehl to remove the Flathead Lake levels meeting

	<p>project proposal, that staff solicit written input from other projects and then provide recommendations moving forward; seconded by Onno Wieringa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion passes • Motion was made by Lech Naumovich to pay the agreed upon remaining amount previously approved by FBC to the Flathead Lakers; seconded by Phil Matson • Motion passes <p>2. Emilie Henry wrapped up this agenda item due to restricted time and WMCC staff will send out questions for the commissioners to review on continued work projects.</p>
<p>Wrap up & Next Meeting</p> <p>Casey Lewis, WMCC Executive Director</p>	<p>1. Casey Lewis proposed future meeting dates and due to lack of consensus will be reassessed and additional dates will be proposed.</p>
<p>Public Comment</p> <p>Mike Koopal, WMCC Executive Committee Chair</p>	<p>1. Mike Koopal called for public comment. There being none, closed public comment.</p>
<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Mike Koopal, WMCC Executive Committee Chair</p>	<p>1. Mike Koopal requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion made by Onno Wieringa to adjourn meeting; seconded by Rae Lynn Hays • Motion passes: meeting is adjourned.