

W2ASACT MEETING NOTES
 Meeting on April 4, 2023, 10 am to 12 pm
 Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation, 1539 11th Ave, Helena, Montana
 First Floor Montana Conference Room and Zoom

Zoom Meeting participants:

1	Abby Ritz, AE2S	26	Katherine Certalic, DNRC/CARDD/ARPA
2	Anna Connerton, DNRC/CARDD/MISC	27	Kayla
3	Becky Anseth, MT Dept of Commerce	28	Kim Carley
4	Becky Bey, KLJ Eng.	29	Laura Gundlach, Morrison Maierle
5	Christina Eggensperger, WET	30	Lisa Moisey, GWE
6	Colin (with Dayton?)	31	Melissa Downing, DNRC/CARDD/RDB
7	Craig Erickson, GWE	32	mhutton
8	Denise Cook, DNRC/CARDD	33	Michael Kropp, DEQ PWS Kalispell
9	Devin Beal, MAP	34	Michelle McNamee, DNRC/CARDD/ARPA
10	Emilie Henry, DNRC/CARDD/NPS	35	Mike Abrahamson, DEQ/ENG/WRF
11	Erin Wall, DNRC/CARDD/ARPA	36	Richard Harmon, Woodard & Curran
12	Heather Luinstra, RS.	37	Rick Duncan, DNRC/CARDD/Reg Wtr
13	Janet Fulmer	38	Samantha Kemp, DNRC/CARDD/ARPA
14	Jason Crawford	39	Sandie Koenig, DEQ/ENG/DRF
15	John Camden, MRWS	40	Seth Shteir, DNRC/CARDD/ARPA
16	Kasydi Lucas, DNRC/CARDD/CDB	41	Sonja Hoeglund, DNRC/CARDD/RDB

At DNRC:

Denise Cook, DNRC
 Rebecca Shaw-Quinones, Interstate Eng
 Roger Skogen, MRWS

Acronyms:

AIS – American Iron & Steel
 APE – Advanced Pump & Equipment
 ARPA – American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
 ARRA – American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009
 AWWA – American Water Works Association
 BABA – Build America, Buy American
 BIL – Bipartisan Infrastructure Plan
 BOI – Montana Department of Commerce, Board of Investments
 CARDD – Conservation & Resource Development Division, DNRC
 CDBG – Community Development Block Grant Program, MT Department of Commerce

CMRWA – Central Montana Regional Water Authority
 COVID-19 – Corona Virus 2019
 DEQ – Montana Department of Environmental Quality
 DNRC – Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation
 GWE – Great West Engineering
 HDR – HDR Engineering
 HUD – Housing and Urban Development
 IAC – Infrastructure Advisory Commission (ARPA)
 IUP – Intended Use Plan
 KLJ – Kadmas Lee & Jackson Engineering
 LFD – Montana State Legislative Fiscal Division
 MAP – Midwest Assistance Program
 MEPA – Montana Environmental Policy Act
 MISC – Montana Invasive Species Council
 MRWS – Montana Rural Water Systems
 RATES – Rural & Tribal Environmental Solutions
 RDG – Reclamation Development Grant Program, DNRC
 RRGL – Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program, DNRC
 SRF (DNRC) – Wastewater State Revolving Fund Loan Program
 TSEP – Treasure State Endowment Program, MT Department of Commerce – Now MSEP
 USDA - RD – United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development
 WASACT – Water & Solid Waste Action Coordinating Team, Montana
 WRF (DNRC) – Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program

Call to Order, Sign-in Sheet, Agenda Changes

Denise Cook called the scheduled meeting of the Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste Action Coordinating Team (W2ASACT) to order at 10:00 am, on Tuesday, April 4, 2023. Chair Anna Miller is testifying at the 68th Session of the Montana Legislature. The draft minutes from the January 10, 2023, meeting, which were distributed to those present at DNRC and posted to the WASACT website, were approved and adopted by those attending with no revisions. There were no changes made to today's agenda. Those present at DNRC and via Zoom introduced themselves. According to the Zoom report, there were a total of 32 participants on the meeting.

As many of those who would be giving reports were at the Capital, those in attendance updated on their programs/offices if they had anything to update.

Program Updates

Roger Skogan & John Camden, MRWS

The March MRWS conference had 127 booths and 109 vendors and about 1,000 people attending. The WASACT workshop was well attended.

Craig Erickson, GWE

Craig's office is dealing with the mid-year pooling from Rural Development.

Rick Duncan gave a quick update of bills in the Legislature.

Michelle McNamee, DNRC

Michelle said we are in the final ARPA grant cycle as far as grants contracted. The ARPA website has been updated. She suggested checking out the new tools on the site. She is looking to hire one or two new grant managers. The program has over 300 awards. Rebecca Shaw-Quinones asked about progress reports and Michelle suggested to reach out to their assigned grant manager. She added that nationwide, we are ahead of the game. The Legislature acted quickly so Montana is ahead of the curve.

Rick Duncan shared BIL info relating to Regional Water projects.

Sandie Koenig said the drinking water program at DEQ will receive funding for Lead Service Lines – Emerging Contaminants. The Lead Service Line IUP is done for the first year – FY 2022 so we can move forward. In early June, we will get money out to communities. We will send out a survey on Emerging Contaminants. Then develop an IUP which shows the needs are equal to the award amount.

Rick Duncan said regarding the Coal Tax subaccount, there may be a request for funding. RBNC is seeing the high cost of materials. FPDP is 99% done. There may be a need for additional funding for Dry Prairie. They will provide modified numbers and scope to the Bureau of Reclamation.

Sandie Koenig, DEQ

Regarding FY 2024, her office is drafting an IUP for a base grant and BIL funding. Rick noted the BABA and American Iron & Steel requirements relating to AIS. Sandie added the February date is specific to USDA Rural Development. Commerce and HUD are different. May 14 the EPA and OBPP will look at project details. There are 8 sites documents. She suggested checking EPA's website and the WASACT website.

Rick added that there is non-ferrous substance in valves. Sandie added info on waivers, etc.

Mike Abrahamson, DEQ

The Clean Water – SRF program received \$3 million in CAP grants/\$10 million in Supplemental CAP grants. A new bill was signed so we need to insert into the Uniform Ap 000900.

Mike's office is trying to hire another engineer.

Mike Kropp with DEQ reported that HB 859 was tabled.

Devin Beal with MAP wanted to 'shout out' to the Department of Commerce.

Seth Shteir, DNRC

He is working on progress reports for ARPA grants.

Jason Crawford with Triple Tree Engineering asked if the ARPA deadline was the end of 2025 and Michelle confirmed. Michelle added that the FYE process has a deadline of June 30. The grant system will close in July. Claims and reimbursement requests need to be in by June 14.

Craig Erickson with GWE said April 30 is their deadline for projects.

Rick Duncan, DNRC Regional Water System Program Manager

Fort Peck-Dry Prairie – Dry Prairie Rural Water - Construction work continues on northwest quadrant and may be complete by the end of 2025.

Rocky Boy's-North Central – Chippewa Cree Tribe (Core) – Completion is expected by mid to late 2023. They are at 11 million gallons per day – may come in below this for usage. Loma and Big Sandy branches are nearly complete and could be by end of 2023. The first phase of Havre project is under design.

Central Montana RWA – the Judith-Musselshell regional system – Water could reach Harlowton by summer of 2023. Phase A of the project has been bid. Eventually water will reach Roundup. Ryegate now wants to be in the project but will not be a priority. Phase 4 from Roundup to Melstone will be first. HWY 2 west – water from Sidney to existing subdivisions.

End of updates

Next WASACT meeting is scheduled for July 11, 2023. The Montana Conference room at DNRC is reserved. A Zoom meeting will also be scheduled.

Denise thanked all for attending.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:04.

Minutes taken by Denise Cook, reviewed by Anna Miller and Rick Duncan and will be approved/adopted at the next regularly scheduled WASACT meeting on Oct 10, 2023.

DRAFT