



Quarterly meeting of the Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste Action Coordinating Team

Date: Meeting on April 14, 2026, 10 am to 12 pm

Location: Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation, 1539 11th Ave, Helena, Montana
First Floor Montana Conference Room and Zoom

Call to Order: W2ASACT Chair Anna Miller called the meeting to order AT 10:08.

Roll Call: Anna asked those present to introduce themselves.

In the room:

Anna Miller, DNRC	Denise Cook, DNRC	Chris Graves, DNRC
Scott Patteron, DEQ	Josh Rickman, DNRC	Katya Koepsel, DEQ
Julie Hofbauer, M-M	Mike Abrahamson, DEQ	
LaNette Diaz, Interstate Eng		

Via Zoom:

1	Abby Weimer, DNRC	19	Lindsey Glastetter, DNRC-CPRG
2	Autumn Bahr, DNRC	20	Lindsey Harada, Commerce
3	Becky Anseth, Commerce	21	Madison Room – Anna Miller, DNRC
4	Bobbie DuBose, DNRC	22	Melissa Downing, DNRC
5	Cody Marez - MRWS	23	Mia Belting, DRNC
6	Coleen O'Rourke, DNRC-ARPA	24	Michelle McNamee, DNRC
7	Craig Erickson, Interstate Eng.	25	Nikki Rogers, MRWS
8	Denise Cook, DNRC	26	Olivia Galluzzo, DNRC-WMCC
9	Devin Beal, MAP	27	Rachel Gemar, DNRC-ARPA
10	Galen Steffens, Commerce	28	Rosie Goldich, Commerce
11	Heather Reeves, DNRC-ARPA	29	Sandie Koenig, DEQ
12	Heidi Fleury, DNRC-WMCC	30	Shawna Swanz, DNRC-ARPA/RW
13	Jason Crawford, Triple Tree Eng.	31	Steve Troendle, USDA-RD
14	Jeanette Blize, Commerce	32	Tanya Shadrack, MRWS
15	Josh Rickman, DNRC	33	Tara Green, Commerce
16	Katherine Certalic, DNRC	34	Traci Conduit, Stahly Eng.
17	Ki-Ai McBride, Great West Eng.	35	Zen Parry, City of Ronan
18	Krista Lammers, DNRC-WMCC		

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the January 13, 2026, meeting, which were previously posted on the website and distributed to those in the room, were adopted with no revisions.

Guest Speaker: Scott Patterson with DEQ Water Quality Division:

Scott Patterson, the PWS (Public Water Supply) Rules Coordinator at DEQ, discussed nitrates in water supplies and the dangers to humans, especially babies. Artificial fertilizer, sewage and animal waste are the highest sources of nitrates. Scott covered nitrate regulations relating to public water systems. Monitoring and sampling takes place and an MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level) is reported to DEQ.

Scott began talking about Yellowstone County, as more nitrate MCL exceedances have been found in Yellowstone County than any other county in Montana. This fact was illustrated in a graph that Scott presented. 200 years ago, there was no aquifer in the Yellowstone River valley. Flood irrigation allows a low amount of nitrates. Pivot irrigation allows some. Septic systems and more development have also allowed more nitrates into the ground. Septic systems filter microbes, but do not filter nitrates and alike.

Once an MCL violation is reported, there are options to resolve it.

- New source – drill new well; connect to PWS; install cistern and haul water.
- Treatment – Ion exchange, reverse osmosis centralized treatments.
- Nitrate source abatement – not feasible in Yellowstone County.

Scott discussed the issues with corrective actions. MBMG (Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology) has a Legislative funded program that may help. Scott answered questions from the group. His contact information is in his presentation, along with that for Katya Koepsel, who is the Nitrate and CCR Rule Manager with DEQ Water Sciences.

Katherine Certalic with the Resource Development Bureau talked about planning grants and how they may help with nitrate sampling, monitoring and mitigation. Jeanette Blize spoke on planning grants with Dept. of Commerce. Melissa Downing and Autumn Bahr added links to applications in the meeting chat.

Program Updates:

Resource Development Bureau, DNRC

Melissa Downing noted the RRGL grant cycle closes May 15, 2026. Reach out with questions. The materials are on the W2ASACT and the DNRC websites. She posted a link in the chat to the RRGL program. She added that once NPS grant applications close the end of the week. They will be reviewed. Contact Katherine Certalic about planning grants. We also have Technical Assistance grants – see the link in the chat.

And there are Emergency Grants, which are open. Autumn Bahr added that RDG applications are open. Samantha Treu can help with applications.

Montana Rural Water Systems

Tanya Shadrick said the Montana Rural Water Conference, which was in Billings, was successful. The next Montana Rural Water Conference is scheduled for March 23, 24 and 25. 2027 in Billings.

State Revolving Fund Program

Sandie Koenig and Mike Abrahamson attended this year's CIFA conference in DC. Mike said the earmarks are here to stay. They have not yet reauthorized our programs. He mentioned applying for CAP grants for FY 2027. They will publish the IUP in June and need the project surveys by May first. Sandie added that we accept surveys all year long. Autumn Bahr added a link to the joint conference in the meeting chat.

ARPA

Shawna Swanz said there are under 12 projects that had the December, 2025 deadline. There were 375 grants closed. 35 projects were extended to June, 2026 to spend ARPA funds.

Regional Water Program, DNRC

Shawna Swanz plans to visit three of the regional water systems for their quarterly meetings: Poplar, Circle and Great Falls will host the meetings.

Montana Department of Commerce

Galen Steffens said the next planning grant cycle opens May 26 and closes July 10, 2026. She added the Coal Board meeting, which is June 4, 2026. Anna Miller noted Commerce has a weekly roundup and Rosie Goldich added a link to the newsletter in the chat.

W2ASACT Workshops

Autumn Bahr said the W2ASACT presentation from the Rural Water meeting are posted. She can send out the recording. Autumn said the infrastructure clinics were well attended. Some people wished that we had them more often.

Standard Documents

Mike Abrahamson said the 0900 section of the Uniform Application has been updated on the website. There were some content changes needed by RD and EPA. Mike suggested that consultants reach out to funders so you know which requirements apply to your project.

Anna added a "kudos" to Mike Abrahamson and Sandie Koenig and others for their efforts to update the Uniform Application. Anna also thanked Josh Rickman at DNRC

for his work to update the Rate Comparison Study. And Anna thanked Shawna Swanz for updating the funders booklet.

Congressional Update

Anna said we will have two new Senators and a new Representative with Steve Daines and Ryan Zinke retiring by the next January W2ASACT meeting. Craig Erickson received requests from Senator Tim Sheehy's office for CDS grant funds. Water projects are a priority of Senator Sheehy's.

End of Updates

Next Meeting is scheduled for July 14, 2026, here in the Montana Room at DNRC.

Anna thanked all for attending.

Adjournment at 11:38.

April 14, 2026 Meeting link: https://mt-gov.zoom.us/rec/share/YRrn305x49Mb4CPLfu7mk7pHrmraAfVgnNx8Q_EOVkK99YH0CKIz9eX9So-wbpP0.W2T3cpQ8FyulDneD?startTime=1776181616000

Passcode: W6FKY!GZ

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 Law
 BOI – Montana Department of Commerce, Board of Investments
 CARDD – Conservation & Resource Development Division, DNRC
 CDBG – Community Development Block Grant Program, MT Department of Commerce
 CIFA – Council on Infrastructure Financing Authorities
 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
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MEPA – Montana Environmental Policy Act
MISC – Montana Invasive Species Council
M-M – Morrison - Maierle
MRWS – Montana Rural Water Systems
MCEP – See TSEP Montana Coal Endowment Program (formerly Treasure State Endowment Pgm.)
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
SWEFC – Southwest Environmental Finance Center at the University of New Mexico
TSEP – Treasure State Endowment Program, MT Department of Commerce – Now MCEP
USDA - RD – United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development
WASACT – Water & Solid Waste Action Coordinating Team, Montana
WMCC – Western Montana Conservation Commission
WRF (DNRC) – Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program