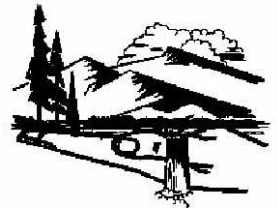




Mark Gordon, Governor

Department of Environmental Quality

To protect, conserve and enhance the quality of Wyoming's environment for the benefit of current and future generations.



Todd Parfitt, Director

January 29, 2021

Re: Participation in a Surface Water Quality Standards Triennial Review Stakeholder Group

Dear Surface Water Quality Stakeholder,

The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality/Water Quality Division (WDEQ/WQD) is inviting your organization to participate in a Surface Water Quality Standards Triennial Review Stakeholder Group (stakeholder group) to provide input, perspectives, and suggestions to WDEQ/WQD regarding potential revisions to the Water Quality Rules, Chapter 1, Wyoming Surface Water Quality Standards (standards). The standards identify designated uses, water quality criteria, and anti-degradation provisions to ensure that Wyoming's streams, lakes, and wetlands support their appropriate uses. The stakeholder process is intended to help WDEQ/WQD fulfill obligations under the federal Clean Water Act that directs states to review their surface water quality standards at least once every three years, known as a triennial review.

WDEQ/WQD conducted an initial scoping period for the triennial review in the fall of 2018. WDEQ/WQD reviewed the feedback received and noted several requests to include stakeholder input during development of potential revisions to the standards. As a result, WDEQ/WQD has contracted with the Ruckelshaus Institute at the University of Wyoming's Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources to facilitate a collaborative stakeholder process. Stakeholder involvement in this process will help ensure that WDEQ/WQD obtains input from a variety of interests within Wyoming. A list of invited organizations is attached.

Although there will be additional opportunities to provide comments during the formal rulemaking process that includes both the Water and Waste Advisory Board and Environmental Quality Council, participation in the stakeholder group is intended to inform WDEQ/WQD early in the process as it considers potential revisions to the standards.

The stakeholder group will meet approximately six times in the coming months, as outlined in the attached schedule and process matrix. The first meeting is planned as a virtual meeting to take place on March 11th from 8 AM to 12 PM. Subsequent meetings will be scheduled at or following the first meeting. WDEQ/WQD has attached a list of expectations and ground rules for members that may help identify an appropriate representative.

WDEQ/WQD recognizes that participation in the stakeholder group represents a considerable commitment and appreciates your organization's consideration regarding this public process. Lindsay Patterson on my staff, Lindsay.Patterson@wyo.gov or 307-777-7079, is available to answer any

questions you may have and will follow-up in the near future regarding your organization's ability to participate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin Frederick".

Kevin Frederick, Administrator
Water Quality Division

cc: Todd Parfitt, Director
Beth Callaway, Governor's Office
David Waterstreet, Watershed Protection Program Manager
Gina Thompson, Policy and Planning Analyst, Water Quality Division

Wyoming Surface Water Quality Standards Triennial Review Stakeholder Group Invitees

No.	Interest	Organization/Interest
1	Federal Agencies	United States Forest Service
2		Bureau of Land Management
3		National Park Service
4		United States Bureau of Reclamation
5		United States Fish and Wildlife Service
6		Natural Resource Conservation Service
7		United States Geological Survey
8	State Agencies	Office of State Lands and Investments
9		Wyoming State Parks
10		Wyoming State Engineers Office
11		Wyoming Game and Fish Department
12		Wyoming Water Development Office
13		Wyoming Department of Agriculture
14		Wyoming Department of Health
15	Nongovernmental Organizations	Wyoming Outdoor Council
16		Trout Unlimited
17		Powder River Basin Resource Council
18		The Nature Conservancy
19	Drinking Water and Wastewater Management	Wyoming Association of Rural Water Systems
20	Local Government	Wyoming Association of Municipalities
21		Wyoming County Commissioners Association
22		Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts
23	Industry	Wyoming Petroleum Association
24		Wyoming Mining Association
25		National Outdoor Leadership School
26		Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association
27		Wyoming Contractor's Association
28		Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation
29		Wyoming Stock Growers Association
30	Wind River Reservation	Northern Arapaho Tribe
31		Eastern Shoshone Tribe

**Surface Water Quality Standards Triennial Review Stakeholder Group
Meeting Schedule and Process Matrix**

Meeting Number	Meeting Purpose	Product
1	Introduce collaborative process. Introduce ground rules. Provide information overview. Put all interests on the table.	All the interests will be listed, compiled, and categorized for use later in the process.
2	Share information. Explore interests and ideas.	Interests and ideas will be listed, compiled, and categorized for use later in the process.
3	Collaborative learning and discussion regarding technical and scientific information.	Compile information to inform options that address interests and ideas about Wyoming's Surface Water Quality Standards.
4	Craft options that the group feels will address the interests and ideas about Wyoming's Surface Water Quality Standards.	Compile and categorize considerations.
5	Craft considerations that the group feels will address potential revisions to Wyoming's Surface Water Quality Standards.	Compile and categorize considerations.
6	Finalize considerations.	Final considerations report for DEQ.

Surface Water Quality Standards Triennial Review Stakeholder Group Purpose, Expectations, and Ground Rules

Purpose

The purpose of the Surface Water Quality Standards Triennial Review Stakeholder Group is to provide input, perspectives, and suggestions to WDEQ/WQD regarding potential revisions to the Water Quality Rules, Chapter 1, Wyoming Surface Water Quality Standards (standards). The stakeholder process is intended to: provide an open and transparent rule revision process; allow DEQ and stakeholders to educate one another on surface water quality rules; improve communication among stakeholders; and identify considerations that reflect the diversity of stakeholder interests to inform potential revisions to the standards.

Expectations

- Members agree to represent an identified organization, agency, or interest and have confirmed with their organization, agency, or interest group that they can provide suitable representation.
- Members agree to participate in scheduled meetings of the stakeholder group or to identify an alternate should they not be able to attend a meeting.
- Members agree to adequately prepare for meetings.
- Reimbursement for travel and other related expenses is not available. Members agree that travel and other related expenses will not prohibit them from participating in the stakeholder process.
- Members have the ability and willingness to work collaboratively with people representing multiple interests and to participate in good faith.
- Members commit to maintaining good lines of communication with others in their organization, agency, or constituent group(s), and to keep them apprised of the activities of the stakeholder group.
- Members commit to having access to email and internet in order to receive and review documents throughout the stakeholder group process.
- Members commit to having access to a web camera and internet to participate in virtual meetings.
- WDEQ may incorporate all, some, or none of the considerations presented by the stakeholder group into proposed revisions of Wyoming's Surface Water Quality Standards to be reviewed by the public and brought before the Water and Waste Advisory Board. WDEQ will provide an explanation for accepting or not accepting the considerations provided.

Ground Rules

- Raise hand to be recognized by the Facilitator.
- Speak one at a time in meetings as recognized by the Facilitator.
- Be concise and stick to the topics on the meeting agenda.
- Honor a two-minute time limit for statements and responses unless the Facilitator allows more time.

- Speak only on one topic per entry (no laundry lists).
- Speak to the whole group when talking.
- Avoid side conversations.
- Avoid off-topic questions.
- Treat each other, the organizations represented, and the stakeholder group with respect at all times.
- Refrain from interrupting.
- Monitor your own participation – everyone should participate, but none should dominate.
- Adhere to the agenda and time schedule with diligence.
- Put cell phones on “vibrate” and leave the meeting when a call is received. Only take necessary calls.
- Recognize that everyone’s interests are important.
- Avoid repetitiveness (i.e., one-track-mind behavior).
- Agree that it is okay to disagree, and disagree without being disagreeable.
- Avoid “cheap shots” and/or sarcasm.
- Refrain from hostility and antagonism.
- Leave personal agendas and “baggage” at the door; put personal differences aside in the interest of a successful stakeholder group.
- Focus on the issue, not the person.
- Minimize distractions through emails, texting, and other computer work.
- Work as team players.
- Share all relevant information.
- Ask, if you do not understand.
- Offer mutually beneficial solutions.
- Encourage candid, frank discussions. Be honest and tactful.
- Openly express any disagreement or concern with all other members.
- Actively strive to see other points of view.
- Follow through on commitments.