# MEETING MINUTES

These abbreviated summary minutes will become the official adopted minutes at the next Montana Invasive Species Council meeting when they will be approved. Until then, they are considered a draft.

## Meeting Name: Montana Invasive Species Council

| Date of Meeting: | Minutes Prepared By: | Time: | Location: |
|---|---|---|---|
| June 29, 2026 | Liz Lodman | 8:15 am | Virtual - Zoom |

## Attendees:

MISC: *Steve Wanderaas, Karen Laitala, Jason Allen, Sara Ricklefs, Jake Caldwell, Andy Welch, Tom Woolf, Taylor Tidwell, Dylan Brown, Jared Beaver, Pam Schwend, Paul Rossignol*

*Absent: Jasmine Chaffee, Martin Charlo, Mike Bias, Sean Fritzler, Tracy Tyner*

*Federal Partners: Monica Pokorny, Lori Witham, Michelle Cox*

MISC Staff: *Liz Lodman, Russ Hartzell*

Other: *Mark Bostrom, Megan Hoyer*

*MISC voting members are underlined

## Agenda & Notes, Decisions, Issues

| Topic | Discussion |
|---|---|
| Welcome<br>Roll Call | Steve Wanderaas (Chair) opened the meeting at 8:16am. Liz Lodman confirmed the quorum by reviewing the zoom screen. |
| Proposed Law Changes for MISC | The attendees viewed and discussed the changes to the following statues. The changes will be provided to DNRC for inclusion in a clean-up bill for the 2027 Legislative Session.<br>• 2-15-3309 Invasive Species Council.<br>• 80-7-1203 Duties – Reporting – Definition<br><br>**Motion:** approve proposed changes to 2-15-3309 and 80-7-1203<br>**1st:** Dylan Brown<br>**2nd:** Pam Schwend<br>**Discussion:** |

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| | • Question: Will the Livestock representative be someone from the Department of Livestock or a livestock producer? Answer: the representative will be the "director" of the Department of Livestock or his designee, likely one of the state veterinaries.<br>**Motion passed** |
| Support for Montana BioControl Program | The attendees viewed and discussed the email from Melissa Maggio, Project Coordinator for the MT Biocontrol Program, explaining how sponsorship funds would be used to cover travel expenses. They are soft funded and have lost federal funding sources.<br><br>**Motion:** approve funding the Montana Biological Control Program for $4,800.<br>**1st:** Karen Laitala<br>**2nd:** Jason Allen<br>**Discussion:**<br>• Question: Did MISC provide sponsorships last fiscal year? Answer: yes for $1,000<br>• The MT Biocontrol Program receives grants from the MT Noxious Weed Trust Fund Grants Program ($74,000) and from the MT AIS Grant Program ($25,300 for flowering rush biocontrol).<br>• Concern about MISC becoming a source for "grant" funding.<br>**Motion passed** |
| Adjourn Meeting | Steve asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.<br>**Motion:** adjourn the meeting<br>**1st:** Pam Schwend<br>**2nd:** Karen Laitala<br><br>**No further discussion.**<br><br>Meeting adjourned at 8:35am |
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