



**TREASURE STATE**  
**RESOURCES ASSOCIATION**  
OF MONTANA

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TREASURE STATE RESOURCES ASSOCIATION NEWS  
July 2024





## **Peggy Trank is awarded the Jerome Anderson Award – Treasure State Resources Association’s highest honor at Annual Meeting**

Peggy received this award at the Treasure State Resources’ Association Annual Meeting on June 13<sup>th</sup> in Anaconda. Peggy is the sixth recipient of this award.

## DEQ to Conduct Additional Review of Comments, Pauses Rulemaking Process for Narrative Nutrient Water Quality Standards

[Here is the press release announcing the move by DEQ.](#)

[Here are the proposed \(now paused\) rules.](#) Treasure State Resources Association and our many partners have been active in letting DEQ know that these rules are not ready for prime time, and DEQ listened.

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## **Montana Supreme Court will hear oral arguments set for July 10 in *Held v. Montana* case**

The Montana Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in the *Held v. Montana* case on July 10, 2024 at 09:30 AM MT in ~~the Old Supreme Court Chambers (Room 303) in the Montana State Capitol.~~ The oral arguments have been moved back to the Supreme Court's Chambers.

The Plaintiffs will receive 30 minutes for their arguments, and the State, agencies, and others will receive a total of 40 minutes for their arguments. [Click here](#) to read the full article.

TSRA has filed an amicus brief in the Held case.

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## **Governor Gianforte Announces Leadership Changes at Department of Transportation and Environmental Quality**

Governor Greg Gianforte today announced the appointments of Chris Dorrington as director of the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) and of Sonja Nowakowski as director of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

“Chris Dorrington is a changemaker,” Gov. Gianforte said. “Bringing his previous experience at the agency and exceptional ability to lead, I have total confidence in him as he takes the reins at MDT. I appreciate his willingness to serve in this new capacity after his successful tenure at DEQ.”

Dorrington currently serves as the director of DEQ and as chair of the governor's Housing Task Force.

“I am grateful to Governor Gianforte for this new opportunity,” Dorrington said. “While I have enjoyed my time at DEQ, right now I can make the biggest difference at MDT, where I first started my career. I look forward to continuing to serve Montana in this new role.”

Prior to his service as DEQ director, Dorrington led DEQ's Air, Energy, and Mining Division for four-and-a-half years. Prior to that, from 2006 to 2016, he led the MDT Planning Division. Dorrington holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Gonzaga University, and

a master's degree in Transportation Policy, Operations and Logistics from George Mason University.

Gov. Gianforte has named Sonja Nowakowski as the new director of DEQ. A leader in the energy and environmental policy space for 20 years, Nowakowski currently serves as DEQ's Division Administrator of Air, Energy, and Mining since 2021.

"Sonja is the right person to lead DEQ," Gov. Gianforte said. "With her vast experience at the agency and with the legislature, she will be ready for the job on day one. I'm grateful to Sonja for stepping up to serve as the head of this important agency."

Nowakowski added, "I am honored to step into this role to serve Montanans. My life experience is reinforced by the laws that govern natural resources, protect Montana's environment, and our way of life. I look forward to working with our staff to deliver the high-quality customer service Montanans expect."

Prior to DEQ, she spent 15 years with the Legislative Services Division, including five years as a research director where she focused on natural resources and energy policy, writing legislation and advising legislators.

A native Montanan, Nowakowski grew up in north central Montana. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in journalism from the University of Montana.

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### **TSRA Contact Information:**

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### **Upcoming Legislative Meetings:**

### **Local Government Interim Committee**

**Next Meeting is Scheduled for July 17, 2024**

**Where: State Capitol & Zoom**

For more information go to: [committee website](#)

## **Revenue Interim Committee**

**Next Meeting is Scheduled for August 16, 2024**

**Where: State Capitol Room & Zoom**

For more information go to: [committee's website](#).

Contact committee staff, [Megan Moore](#), with any questions.

## **Water Policy Interim Committee**

**Next Meeting is Scheduled for July TBD, 2024**

**Where: State Capitol & Zoom**

An agenda and materials will be available at <http://leg.mt.gov/water> For more information, contact Jason Mohr, committee staff, at 406-4444-1640 or <http://jason.mohr@legmt.gov>.

## **Environmental Quality Council**

**Next Meeting is Scheduled for August 14-16, 2024**

**Where: Libby, MT**

Please use this link to check in for more information:

<https://leg.mt.gov/committees/interim/eqc/>

## **Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee**

**Next Meeting is Scheduled for July 17-18, 2024**

**Where: State Capitol & Zoom**

For more information go to:

<https://leg.mt.gov/committees/interim/etic/meeting-info/>

### **Upcoming Events/Dates:**

July 22-24

Montana Coal Council Annual Convention  
Northern Hotel, Billings, MT

January 7, 2025

TSRA Legislative Showcase and Reception  
Delta Colonial Hotel

*If you don't want to receive the TSRA Newsletter, please let me know. If you want to share with others in your company or organization, please do so. The mission of the Treasure State Resources Association is to promote and enhance the Montana Way of Life through responsible resource development.*