

**Kootenai County
Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer Protection District
Policy and Budget Committee**

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 21, 2026
4:00 p.m.
451 Government Way, 1st Floor, Meeting Room 1A/B

Committee Members Present: Larry Simms, Dave Levine, Todd Hoffman, Laurin Scarcello, Necia Maiani, Suzanne Scheidt, Robert Chandler, Michelle Johnson, and Alyssa Gersdorf

Committee Members Present Via Phone:

Committee Members Excused: Derek Holom

Committee Members Absent: Bijay Adams

Also Present Were: Panhandle Health District (PHD) Environmental Health Specialists Jenny Gray and Jason Peppin, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Hydrologist (DEQ) Seth Oliver, Alta Science Engineering Hydrologist Mitchell Bergquest, Rob Harding, and BOCC Recording Secretary Choele Goltz.

A. Call to Order:

Chair Simms called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

B. Introductions/Guests Welcomed

C. Approval of Minutes: January 7, 2026

1. Motion to approve January 7, 2026, minutes made by Mr. Hoffman and seconded by Ms. Maiani. The vote was taken, and the minutes approved.

D. Business

2. Rathdrum Creek/SARA Presentation (Discussion)

Jason Lucas of Sylte Ranch provided a presentation using the same slideshow previously presented to the Idaho Transportation Board. Mr. Lucas discussed proposed transportation projects to connect Highway 53 and Highway 41 in the Rathdrum area. Several proposed alignments were reviewed, including routes that would pass directly through Sylte Ranch and designated Sensitive Aquifer Recharge Areas (SARAs).

3. Staff Update (Discussion)

Ms. Goltz reported that the APD County website has been updated to include the new Fiscal Year 2027 funding request form. She also noted that she has been working to organize the APD Google Drive, consolidating agendas and meeting minutes from prior years.

4. Dexter Peak Update (Discussion)

Chair Simms reported that he has been in communication with Ms. Post and has been providing educational materials in support of the development of a new Educational Outreach presentation.

5. Treasurer's Report (Discussion)

Mr. Levine stated that the Treasurer's Report is current and in good standing. He further reported that an overpayment was identified on one ALTA invoice and that the check will be returned.

6. Subcommittees (Discussion)

Chair Simms proposed eliminating the "Works Elements" Subcommittee. He also expressed his desire for Mr. Levine to remain on the Budget Subcommittee, to which Mr. Levine agreed. Chair Simms informed the Board that the Cooperating Agencies meetings occur on the second meeting day of each month at 2:30 p.m. prior to the APD meeting. He encouraged Ms. Scheidt and Ms. Maiani to continue attending and invited other Board members to attend as their schedules allow. They have made the decision to move the meeting to 3pm instead of 2:30pm.

7. Education/Outreach (Discussion)

Chair Simms requested volunteers to serve on the Education Subcommittee. Ms. Maiani and Mr. Chandler agreed to participate. Ms. Scheidt expressed concerns regarding the Board's ability to meet the standard previously set by Kristy Reed Johnson, citing her extensive experience and education in this area. Mr. Levine stated he would contact Michelle George (BOCC Supervisor) to explore the possibility of utilizing consulting funds to support Kristy Reed Johnson's involvement. Chair Simms agreed this would be beneficial and noted that, moving forward, Education and Outreach efforts would be a responsibility of the full Board.

8. Funding Requests (Discussion)

Chair Simms announced that the new funding request form is available on the APD website, with a submission deadline of March 2, 2026. He requested that Recording Secretary Ms. Goltz publish notice of the funding request in the *Coeur d'Alene Press*.

9. County Comp Plan Update (Discussion)

Chair Simms provided an update on the County Comprehensive Plan process, noting that it is expected to take approximately two years to complete. He stated that the Board has submitted its recommendations regarding Sensitive Aquifer Recharge Areas (SARAs) and Open Pit Mining. Ms. Scheidt reported that the County will be moving forward with the recommendations related to Open Pit Mining regulations.

E. Cooperating Agency Comments (Discussion)

Seth Oliver – Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ):

- Mr. Oliver discussed the PFAs results of the 32 sample sites (8-10 more to go in March) for the Idaho Water Resource Research Institute (IWRRRI) Age Dating Project for the northern Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer (RPA). 5 wells had PFAs detections, but at quite low levels, that is, less than or around 1 part per trillion. All the other wells were not detected. Mr. Oliver went further into detail explaining the lab reporting procedures with low-level results.
- Mr. Oliver did a comprehensive review alongside the engineering review of Harrison Wastewater Facility. The facility is aimed at a 400 equivalent dwelling unit capacity. They will be adding recycled water to their process and moving away from National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) discharges.
- Kootenai County Landfill submitted their annual ground monitoring report that is currently in review.

- Mr. Oliver is working on making a KML and SHP file for the contributory basins of the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer (RPA) in the same way that the United States Geological Survey (USGS) 2005 report had using stream stats. This will mimic figure 10 out of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) report.

Jenny Gray – Panhandle Health District (PHD) Environmental Health Specialist

- The Confluence Project groundwater lessons have begun with Kootenai County High Schools. Mr. Oliver and Ms. Gray were at Lake City Highschool last week and presented in three classes there. They were working on scheduling class visits with the remaining teachers for visits over the next couple of months.
- They have started the deep dive into revising Critical Material's Best Management Practices Manual. This is a huge task, but they are starting by working through two sections at a time. All Common Metadata Repository (CMR) staff are providing their edits. Comments, additions, etc. They will be compiling those changes into a draft that will be sent out later to industry professionals for their review and input.
- Dalton Gardens Common Metadata Repository (CMR) Ordinance: Ms. Gray said they are close to getting this through at the City Council level. The only hang-out for the city is who will be the Hearing Officer. The city does not have the manpower or expertise to assign that role to one of their staff, therefore Panhandle Health District (PHD) are exploring options for that. State statute allows for someone at PHD to be the Hearing Officer, but Panhandle Health District (PHD) would prefer to have a third party fill this role to prevent any conflict-of-interest concerns. Panhandle Health District (PHD) are tentatively on the agenda for the next City Council meeting on January 28th.
- Ms. Gray introduces Jason Peppin, PHD's Environmental Health Section Manager, to new Board members Mr. Chandler and Mr. Hoffman.

F. Public Comment (Discussion)

G. Adjournment (Action)

Ms. Maiani made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Scheidt seconded the motion. The vote was taken, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Choele Goltz
Recording Secretary