

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

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

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

Committee Members Present Via Phone:

Committee Members Excused: Michelle Johnson

Committee Members Absent:

Also Present Were: Panhandle Health District (PHD) Environmental Health Specialists Jenny Gray, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Hydrologist (DEQ) Seth Oliver, Alta Science Engineering Hydrologist Mitchell Bergquest, Rob Harding, Community Development Deputy Director of Operations Craig Davidson 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 21, 2026, minutes made by Mr. Scarcello and seconded by Mr. Holom. The vote was taken, and the minutes approved.

D. Business

2. Staff Report (Discussion)

Ms. Goltz reported that the *CDA Press* ran the advertisement for the 2027 APD funding requests on January 25th.

3. Dexter Peak Project (Discussion)

Chair Simms reported that there were no updates on the Dexter Peak Project at this time. He noted that Taryn Post, President of Dexter Peak, is expected to present information to the APD Board at the next meeting.

4. SARAs Update (Discussion)

Ms. Maiani informed the Board that Panhandle Health District (PHD) submitted the SARAs (Sensitive Aquifer Recharge Areas) project to the State of Idaho and that it was selected for funding. The Idaho Water Resources Research Institute (IWRRI) will be taking on the project. Ms. Maiani and Ms. Gray recently met with IWRRI staff, who are reviewing work completed by Alta Science and Engineering and exploring ways to refine it for practical use by counties and cities.

5. Comp Plan Update (Discussion)

There is no update at this time.

6. Board Positions (Discussion)

Chair Simms announced that Board member Bijay Adams has resigned, creating a vacancy for a Citizen Representative position. Ms. Scheidt offered to reach out to Kristy Reed Johnson to inform her of the open position and determine her interest.

7. Education/Outreach (Discussion)

Ms. Scheidt reported that she has been in contact with Kristy Reed Johnson and has been gathering information on the education and outreach programs Kristy has conducted. These include delivering Aquifer Atlases to school districts in Coeur d'Alene, Hayden, Post Falls, and Rathdrum, as well as conducting Edible Aquifer activities at summer camps and business fairs.

Chair Simms requested documentation outlining the timelines and outreach projects Kristy has completed in the past. Ms. Gersdorf suggested that APD consider hosting one large education and outreach event rather than multiple smaller events. Chair Simms expressed interest in exploring ideas for what such an event could entail.

Ms. Gersdorf also asked whether PHD (Panhandle Health District) and DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) could take on a greater role in developing and coordinating education and outreach materials with the Board. Ms. Gray indicated that this would not be an issue.

8. Budget Subcommittee (Discussion)

There was no additional discussion on this item.

E. Cooperating Agency Comments (Discussion)

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

- USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) requested that Mr. Oliver review a conservation easement located over the Prairie. USDA's easement assessment branch assists landowners in preserving open space. The easement under review involves a 19-acre parcel within a Sensitive Aquifer Recharge Area (SARA).
- Mr. Oliver is working on finalizing information related to the well-sampling project.

Jenny Gray – Panhandle Health District (PHD)

- Ms. Gray and Mr. Oliver coordinated with three additional schools for participation in the Confluence Project.
- Ms. Gray connected with a homeschool group and conducted Aquifer model activities, providing Junior Aquifer Atlases.
- Ms. Gray reported that PHD is making progress on the CMR Ordinance with Dalton Gardens and will attend the February City Council meeting for approval. PHD will also be meeting with the City of Athol next week to begin work on the ordinance there.

F. Public Comment (Discussion)

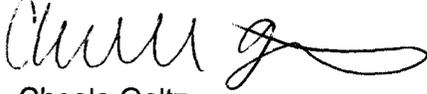
Chair Simms informed the Board that Kootenai County Fire & Rescue will no longer serve as a Region 1 hazardous materials (hazmat) response team due to funding constraints. While support from other regions will still be available, response times may be significantly longer due to distance.

Mr. Scarcello informed the Board about an agriculture show currently taking place in Spokane and distributed program materials.

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 4:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Choele Goltz", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Choele Goltz
Recording Secretary