

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

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday February 23, 2022
4:00 p.m.

451 N. Government Way
Administration Building, 3rd Floor Boardroom

Committee Members Present: Necia Maiani, Laurin Scarcello, Bob Haynes, Mary Vehr, BiJay Adams, Alyssa Gersdorf, Larry Simms, Michelle Johnson, Kristy Reed Johnson

Committee Members Present Via Phone: Dominic Parmantier

Committee Members Excused: Jessie Camburn

Committee Members Absent:

Also present were: Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Hydrologist Seth Oliver, Panhandle Health District Specialist Jenny Gray, North Kootenai Water and Sewer District Representative Suzanne Scheidt, Kootenai County Parks & Waterways Director Nick Snyder, and Recording Secretary Julie Kamps.

A. Call to Order:

Committee Chair Necia Maiani called the meeting to order at 4 pm.

B. Introductions / Guest Welcome

Committee members and others introduced themselves. Ms. Scheidt shared her background and APD board members voiced their support for her to join the board as a replacement for Jessie Camburn. There was a consensus to push that recommendation through to the Board of County Commissioners and can be added to the next BOCC Business Meeting for final approval.

C. Approval of Minutes (Action):

Larry Simms moved to approve the Feb 9, 2022 meeting minutes. Michelle Johnson seconded the motion. The vote was taken, the motion passed.

D. Business (Action):

1. Request for Funding for Public Drinking Fountain at Stateline Park/Parks & Waterways – Nick Snyder, Director, Kootenai County Parks and Waterways

Mr. Snyder shared maps and photos of the approximate 11-acre County Park near the state line of Idaho and Washington and described the area which is the subject of his request for

funding. One of the main concerns is the pump that fails frequently and often needs repair. In addition, it does not meet ADA standards. They would like to install lights at both ends of the bridge located at the west end of the park. Other new elements included would be a drinking fountain, a shelter, and signage highlighting land formations and the aquifer. This would be in the form of a three-sided kiosk. It was noted that Avista already is planning on bringing power to the area. Other financial contributions will come from the City of Post Fall, City of CDA, Kootenai County, and the Centennial Trail Foundations.

Mr. Snyder went over the budget and breakdown for the project that he will leave with the APD board for their information. As part of the question/answer session, he shared information about the freeway water run-off and what kind of vegetation is planned for the ground cover. Ms. Maiani asked what his timeline was and if he could be ready to go on October 1, 2022 after the budget is approved. APD's participation in the educational aspect of the park was discussed. Mr. Snyder confirmed that as well as the park being a test site for DEQ and IDWR.

If the APD does not fund the entire project, Parks & Waterways will look for grants or ask for the funds again. Mr. Snyder confirmed that has applied for other grants and shared details of a few of the grants they had requested in the past. Parks and Waterways has asked for ARPA funds but has not received an answer yet. It was noted that a permit by IDWR would be required for this project as well as future growth in the specific area of the park.

2. Funding Requests Received

Three funding requests were received so far from: DOI-USBR - AgriMet Program, Kootenai Shoshone SWCD - No-Till Drill Program Development, and City of Rathdrum - Aquifer Education Program.

Mr. Scarcello shared details of the projects making these requests.

AgriMet station - The AgriMet station has proven useful to the hay growers since it went in.

The KSSWCD – They are pursuing a grant to purchase a “no till drill” that operates somewhat differently than the traditional methods, and would among things, help reduce run-off. Other areas use this program so KSSWCD could benefit from their experience.

Eric Singer (Parks and Recreation Director) at the City of Rathdrum is requesting funds for park signage. They have approximately six parks, which are either over, or contribute to, the aquifer. They are open to ideas and input from the APD board on what would be on the signs.

The Twin Lakes Improvement Association mentioned asking for funds for work on Fish Creek, but that request has not come in yet. Mr. Scarcello supports all three of the requests he spoke about.

Ms. Reed Johnson shared information on what the AgriMet can do. Ms. Maini suggested scheduling the requests to present to the APD board. It was brought up that AgriMet has attended the APD meetings fairly regularly and we might not need to hear from them again. It was also pointed out that there could be board members who don't know as much about AgriMet. It was agreed upon that they would not need to make a presentation. On March 9, the Rathdrum Parks Department and the KSSWCD will present and on March 23 DEQ and PHD will present but will be encouraged to keep their presentations to 10 – 15 minutes each. The Confluence Project and the Spokane River Forum can present on April 13 if requests from them come in. Ms. Vehr suggested that the legal department review the funding requests about a couple of points before presentations are made - one of those points being the funds used for salaries.

It was noted that IDWR would be submitting a funding request for a measuring station on Hauser Creek; possibly as well the Twin Lakes/Rathdrum Water Creek Drainage could submit one for a measuring device at the outlet of the lake.

It was confirmed that the budget draft needs to be to the BOCC by April 1.

3. Contract Follow Up

A. APD Master Plan –Rand Wichman

Ms. Maini stated that clean-up is being done on Rand Wichman's contract to include the master plan and that an extension and the Master Plan will be on it.

B. DEQ/Alta

Alta has been sending invoices to DEQ. APD would like to have copies also and track them. Mr. Oliver confirmed that he would send APD the invoices. He also described his involvement in the process with Alta and DEQ.

4. Special Committees and Assignments

Atlas Project - Per Mr. Oliver, a lot of the content is completed and a graphic designer was hired to put it all together. The project is moving along well and printing can happen in September or October.

Jim Hudson presentation - Ms. Vehr spoke with Ron Wilson at the East Greenacres Water District about details for Jim Hudson's presentation. Mr. Wilson proposed that the presentation happen at an APD meeting. Ms. Vehr will arrange that.

Critical Recharge project – Mr. Adams shared information on the Hayden Boat Launch project. There are many diverse opinions on the project.

Budget – Mr. Parmantier will have information at the next meeting about the APD budget

Master Plan – Dates and times for the Master Plan workshops were discussed with the first and third Wednesdays of the month suggested. March 16 and April 6 at 4 pm were proposed as the first two workshops.

E. Member Comments (Discussion)

Ms. Reed Johnson supports Mr. Snyder's project as a use for APD funds and there was discussion on funding this project. Ms. Gersdorf asked if there was anything to act upon yet regarding the PHD Ruleset. Ms. Gray shared that Erik Ketner spoke to the Governor's office and he is working on a re-authorization form that might result in the Governor's office approving a temporary 1-year status. Mr. Ketner is hoping to give an update by the next APD meeting.

F. Cooperating Agency Comments (Discussion)

It was pointed out by Mr. Oliver that Alta's project was slow going because of the continuing snow. He also showed some Aquifer Protection District bumper stickers he brought with him and Ms. Reed Johnson will take them to the Business Fair. Mr. Oliver also stated that he and Dan Sturgis had discussed an Aquifer admin boundary change. If so, it would need to go to the DEQ board.

Mr. Adams left the meeting at 5:17 pm.

G. Public Comment (Discussion)

Ms. Scheidt has had conversations with her organization's attorney regarding the passing a resolution on a 5-acre rule as it pertains to new developments. Ms. Gray mentioned that the county is working on a 5-acre rule also. Ms. Scheidt clarified that PHD has the authority to deny approval of septic tank even if a city has already approved it. Ms. Gray confirmed that. Ms. Scheidt suggested an MOU for cooperating agencies.

H. Adjournment (Action)

Bob Haynes moved to adjourn the meeting. Larry Sims seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 5:32 pm.

Julie Kamps
Recording Secretary