

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

Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday March 9, 2022  
4:00 p.m.

451 N. Government Way  
Administration Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Boardroom

**Committee Members Present:** Necia Maiani, Laurin Scarcello, Bob Haynes, Mary Vehr, Alyssa Gersdorf, Larry Simms, Michelle Johnson, Kristy Reed Johnson, Dominic Parmantier, Suzanne Scheidt

**Committee Members Present Via Phone:**

**Committee Members Excused:** BiJay Adams

**Committee Members Absent:**

**Also present were:** Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Hydrologist Seth Oliver, Panhandle Health District Specialist Jenny Gray, APD Consultant Rand Wichman, City of Rathdrum Parks & Rec Director Eric Singer, Twin Lake Water Improvement District Representative Debbie Andrews, Twin Lakes Water District Water Master Steve Neff, Kootenai Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District Representatives Bob Flagor and Karla Freeman 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**

**C. Approval of Minutes (Action):**

Kristy Reed Johnson moved to approve the June 24, 2021 meeting minutes. Larry Simms seconded the motion. The vote was taken, the motion passed.

Larry Simms moved to approve the February 23, 2022 meeting minutes. Dominic Parmantier seconded the motion. The vote was taken, the motion passed.

**D. Business (Action):**

**1. City of Rathdrum Parks – Funding Request Presentation**

Mr. Singer stated that the City of Rathdrum has been looking for a way to create Aquifer awareness to the public, and would like to do that through signage. He shared a power point presentation of how a path with signs might look in the city park. They would get help from

the APD board when customizing the text on the signs. He shared construction and size details of the signs also. They feel the signs would be an educational opportunity. Many people use the park and in general, there are reservations each weekend from May to September for events in the park. They have a large pavilion with a kitchen, which is used for field trips where educational opportunities can occur.

The path where the signs would be located would be for foot traffic only and there are different possible building materials to create it. They do have some pricing already but that could change. They are initially requesting \$8000 this fiscal year to build the path and \$5000 the next for the signage. Discussion ensued regarding the requests' timing, and combining them into one fiscal year. The city would do some of the prep work on this project and they would contract out the rest.

## **2. Kootenai Shoshone Soil & Water Conservation District – Funding Request Presentation**

KSSWCD is very interested in water quality (specifically surface water quality) and how they can help protect the aquifer. Per Mr. Flagor they initially had planned on submitting a funding request for a no-till drill program, but they are not yet prepared to go forward with it. Since they had time on the agenda, they wanted to share other ideas. Two of these are purchasing and dedicating farmland, or offering farmland owners a conservation easement. They are working with another county soil & conservation district on a plan to save remaining farmland. They would like to know if they develop a plan to go forward, would the APD board get involved. The idea of conservation easements was discussed and it appeared to the APD board to be worth looking into. It is possible that these topics could be discussed while working the Master Plan. The KSSWCD funding request is being taken off the table at this time but Mr. Flagor would still like to see the no-till project go forward. Their next step will be to come back to the APD board with more information as soon as they can.

## **3. APD Master Plan – Rand Wichman**

Mr. Wichman shared a tentative agenda for the first workshop. He assigned the board with thinking of what projects they have done in the past and what specific projects would fit into the more broad categories. He would also like them to consider what things they are not doing such as monitoring, knowing what all the re-charge areas are, and possible aquifer areas of which they do not have a good understanding. A good goal for the first meeting would be to brainstorm a list of projects that would work well. He could possibly add more items to the list next week.

It was noted that Mr. Wichman's contract will be going to the next BOCC Business Meeting.

#### **4. Review FY23 Funding Requests Received**

APD board looked over a spreadsheet that had been prepared of the funding requests received, to see if anything was missing.

#### **5. Contract Follow Up:**

a. APD Master Plan

Contract will be approved at the BOCC Business Meeting on 3/15/22.

b. DEQ/Alta

It is being sorted out at this time, more information to come later.

#### **6. Special Committees and Assignments**

No reports given.

#### **E. Member Comments (Discussion)**

Ms. Reed-Johnson mentioned a newspaper article about a large dock possibly going in at the city beach. It was agreed that there is a low probability of the project succeeding.

#### **F. Cooperating Agency Comments (Discussion)**

Per Ms. Gray, PHD is still waiting for word from the Governor's office on their rule-set. Erik Ketner is hopeful it will be re-implemented on a temporary status. They are concerned and hope to know more by next week. On a positive note, she and Mr. Oliver recently spoke to 500 high school students in Post Falls as part of their outreach program.

Per Mr. Oliver, DEQ is offering to help with sign requests. More detail

#### **G. Public Comment (Discussion)**

Ms. Andrews from the Twin Lakes Water Improvement District (which began in 1956) shared purpose and projects the organization has done over the past years, including educational outreach with members living around the lake. They are funded by donations as receiving in-kind support. They also have fund-raising efforts. Mr. Neff with the Twin Lakes Water District supports the efforts that Ms. Andrew's organization does.

Mr. Neff manages surface water rights and regulates the gates in the Twin Lake Drainage. He would like to upgrade his organization's equipment to something more modern and find a

way to get water flow data into the system. He shared details of their funding request and how they would use the funds, including what kind of equipment would be purchased. They have almost 400 members in their water district. Ms. Andrews supports Mr. Neff's funding request.

#### **H. Adjournment (Action)**

Mr. Simms moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Parmatier seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 5:27 pm.

Julie Kamps  
Recording Secretary