

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

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday March 22, 2023
4:00 p.m.

451 N. Government Way
Administration Building, First Floor, Meeting Rooms 1A/B

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

Committee Member Present Via Phone:

Committee Members Excused: Kristy Reed-Johnson, BiJay Adams

Committee Members Absent:

Also present were: Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Hydrologist Seth Oliver and Waste & Remediation Manager Gary Stevens, Panhandle Health District (PHD) Environmental Health Specialists Jenny Gray, Jason Peppin and Josie Brown, Alta representative Kyle Duckett, Spokane River Forum ToniLee Hanson, Master Plan Facilitator Andy Dunau, Kootenai County Residents Paul Akiyama and Thomas Shaffer, and Recording Secretary Julie Kamps.

A. Call to Order:

Committee Chair Maiani called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

B. Introductions / Guest Welcome

C. Approval of Minutes: (Action)

D. Business (Action):

1. 4/26 Meeting Cancellation, Addition of 5/3 Meeting and Discussion of Anticipated Agenda

Ms. Maiani proposed that the April 26th meeting be cancelled as it is the day of the Spokane River Forum Conference. A meeting will be scheduled on April 19 to replace this meeting. The proposed future meeting agendas were discussed as well. Funding request presentations need to be finished in a timely manner so the APD budget can be presented to the Board of County Commissioners during their budget season. Mr. Simms made a motion to approve these meeting date changes, Ms. Vehr seconded, the vote was taken and approved.

2. FY24 Budget Direction with Kootenai County BOCC Administrative Supervisor Leighanna Keiser

This agenda item was removed from this meeting agenda and will be heard at a later time.

3. 2023/2024 Funding Request Presentations

a. SCS-Grower's Meeting

Mr. Scarcello addressed this presentation stating that in the past the funds awarded were used to support a Grower's meeting. This year should be a fall grower's meeting focusing on a no-till drill program as well as an open space segment of the meeting. They have not chosen a day yet, but it will be after the growing season so likely mid-October to early November. They are asking for \$2000.

b. IDEQ

Mr. Oliver, a hydrogeologist for DEQ presented their funding request. He began by describing program elements from the 2022/2023 year. The first is the BNSF Refueling Facility in Hauser. He explained the facility design, sampling and testing including results of testing. He also shared a trend analysis for future testing including stable isotope sampling.

As part of their education and outreach program element they offer technical assistance for the APD board as well as school and civic presentations. They will be printing approximately 10,800 copies of the Aquifer Atlas. The funding they are asking for will go toward continuing the previously mentioned program elements.

At this point in the meeting Chair Maiani suggested the board take information at the meeting and have the deliberations at another.

Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer kits and a 3-D groundwater model are also part of what the funding will go to. Previous years' funding amounts were mentioned as well at the \$113,779 requested for FY24.

c. PHD

Ms. Gray, program coordinator, began by introducing Ms. Brown who is a field Inspector. She then outlined their program accomplishments along with their areas of emphasis. They inspect commercial facilities and run the critical materials program where commercial and industrial facilities are tracked. Regarding their community outreach program, things that were on hold because of Covid are now back. They do water quality monitoring and sewage management. Ms. Gray shared the FY22 budget close out report and said that due to new state legislation, they can no longer charge an inspection fee so has lost that revenue stream. For this year's funding request they are asking for \$389,073 which is up a little over last year's request. She went on to share details of what the funding will cover.

d. Spokane River Forum

Ms. Hanson presented the funding request on behalf of the Spokane River Forum. The amount they are asking for is the same as last year, \$6000. Half of these funds would go to the Waste & Recycle Directory. She shared the numbers of directory users and what types they are. They have improved the language accessibility to include Spanish and Ukrainian. The other half of the funds would go for the Spokane River Forum breakfast event which had 226 participants last year.

4. Master Plan - Andy Dunau

Mr. Dunau began by thanking everyone for their time thus far and noted the work that Alta has already done regarding the protection of sensitive re-charge areas. He shared a chart comparing the WA state CARA, the ID recharge work, and the ID comp plans. He proposed using the term SARA instead of CARA to differentiate from the WA program. Regarding education and outreach, he asked about using the KC Community Development department as a third leg of support.

Specific Master Plan points include a draft RFP, budget support, and meeting the BOCC and staff to define the scope. The APD board will need to work closely with attorney Pat Braden and Community Development Director David Callahan when creating the ordinance.

5. Subcommittee Updates

6. IDEQ/PHD Discussion on Monitoring Well Locations

Ms. Maiani said that per Commissioner Duncan, the next steps for the sensitive recharge area need to be well defined. She also emphasized the need to work closely with Mr. Braden and Mr. Callahan. A first step will be to identify and prioritize areas to be protected as well as defining what the board is trying to protect, and why. A map was shown of Kootenai County parcel fee areas, political boundaries, lakes, streams, and wetlands including the Chilco channel.

Questions were asked about what LiDAR technology could provide for the process and if it would be used. Setting aside \$100,000 of the budget for this was suggested. Also, it was brought up that the board might need to consider meeting into the summer months to complete the Master Plan. Regarding starting an RFP, Ms. Scheidt made a motion for issuing an RFP for a sub-consultant to identify sensitive aquifer recharge areas of the Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. Mr. Simms seconded the motion; the vote was taken and passed. Mr. Haynes and Ms. M. Johnson will assist Ms. Scheidt with the RFP.

7. IDEQ/PHD Emergency Responses/Notification Follow-Up

Mr. Stevens from DEQ addressed how they respond to events such as fuel releases. They use a communication system called StateComm located in Meridian. It was explained how that process works. He said that DEQ has specially trained people to respond 24/7, 365 and this process begins when StateComm is called. The Idaho Office of Emergency Management also has special teams for this purpose. He shared a flow chart of the process as well as examples of communication notices that are sent out. He also explained the Hauser mainline fueling facility notification contingency planning program.

Details of the most recent fuel spill over the Aquifer were stated such as gallons leaked, and notification time to DEQ. The affected soil was removed and samples sent to a lab for testing. He explained the soil sampling process. A graph was shown demonstrating that the spill didn't reach the aquifer. Mr. Stevens said he should have more information on the spill by Friday. He also discussed with the board members how critical a release of information is for these situations as well as the pros and cons of info dissemination. He agreed they should have an obligation to contact concerned parties. Social Media is an issue with this type of information going out and he also mentioned the pros and cons of putting out press releases on spills. He finished by saying that he would take the boards concerns back to DEQ and see what can happen.

8. Fairground Well

The question came up as to whether APD funds would pay for the extra footage drilled in the Fair grounds well, above the previously stated depth. After a discussion on the topic, Mr. Haynes made a motion to not hear a request from the Fair board for additional funds. The motion was seconded by Ms. Vehr, a vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Ms. Gray addressed the Dalton Gardens well request and stated that PHD is not interested in having this new well as part of their sampling. DEQ agrees that their well would not be the best choice to add to their sampling either.

E. Member Comments (Discussion)

Mr. Scarcello brought up the subject of the Stone Creek housing development in Hayden and said that he had walked the property himself in mid-February. He recommended to some citizens who are concerned about the effects of building on that property that they come to an APD meeting to share those concerns. They have hit some brick walls in being heard, as some of the land is in the city limits. He encouraged the board to hear a presentation from these citizens before the end of the year.

Mr. Parmantier, along with comments from other board members, re-addressed the topic of the BNSF railway fuel spill from several weeks ago with Mr. Stevens, specifically addressing the notification process for this and other incidents that could happen in the future. He emphasized the importance of water districts, landowners and other entities being notified right away, not as it happened this last time where the notification was almost two days after the incident. The APD board felt this was very inadequate on many levels. Mr. Stevens reiterated the process that was used, and that DEQ felt it was in fact, adequate. Mr. Scarcello added that he has a problem with DEQ's funding request because of the way the fuel spill was handled. He would like to see a full explanation of what happened and how it will be fixed in the future.

F. Cooperating Agency Comments (Discussion)

Per Mr. Oliver with DEQ, there are between 10,000 and 10,800 copies of the new Aquifer Atlas being printed. The previous edition is currently available to access on the Spokane River forum website.

F. Public Comment

Mr. Akiyama, who is the county resident referenced in Mr. Scarcello's member comments, shared his thoughts on attending at this meeting. As well, he would like to make a presentation to the APD board about the Stone Creek development because he feels that it could be motivational to the board. Mr. Shaffer (the other gentleman referenced in Mr. Scarcello's comments) added that Mr. Akiyama is very knowledgeable and has a lot of good information to share.

G. Adjournment (Action)

Mr. Haynes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Simms seconded the motion. The vote was taken, and the meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Julie Kamps
Recording Secretary