

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

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

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

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

Committee Members Present Via Phone: Alyssa Gersdorf

Committee Members Excused: Michelle Johnson, Dominic Parmantier

Committee Members Absent:

Also present were: Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Hydrologist Seth Oliver and Waste & Remediation Manager Gary Stevens, Panhandle Health District Specialist Jenny Gray and Environmental Health Section Manager Erik Ketner, and Recording Secretary Julie Kamps.

A. Call to Order:

Committee Chair Necia Maiani called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

B. Introductions / Guest Welcome

C. Approval of Minutes (Action):

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

D. Business (Action):

(As Mr. Oliver had not arrived yet, Business item #3, Funding Requests Received, was discussed here.

(Business item #2, Panhandle Health District Funding Request, was presented at this point in the meeting.)

1. Idaho Department of Environmental Quality – Funding Request

Seth Oliver began the presentation by sharing the main elements of the program, projects and proposed works. He gave a rundown of who the staff members are and what they do. Details of the BNSF facility (a busy freight corridor) inspections were explained, including

the number of monitoring wells around the facility, what they measure, design of the platform, standpipe activity, and the annual tests.

They had an education and outreach program, which he and Jenny Gray have done, giving presentations at area high schools. Also part of the program is spent giving technical assistance on various topics, on request. He also shared details of their isotope sampling.

DEQ's funding request would cover the BNSF refueling facility inspections, provide technical assistance on personnel and operational costs as well as the education costs. He gave a breakdown of the budget that includes 2023 capital expenditures and salaries. Mr. Oliver also gave details of the Atlas project which they hope to finish by September and the Confluence Project. A breakdown of the expenditures of the budget was shared.

2. Panhandle Health District – Funding Request

Jenny Gray, program coordinator for Panhandle Health District gave a budget funding request presentation. She shared staff information including inspectors, program accomplishments, a closeout report as well as the budget request. There were some limitations in their community outreach program because of covid but were able to get more events done later in 2021. Other projects listed: Confluence Project, Hayden Canyon Charter School, CDA Chamber Natural Resource Committee, Atlas Water Quality Monitoring, and other well sampling and monitoring sewer management including working with cities on sewer connections.

At 4:18 pm, Erik Ketner joined the presentation to give an update on the 5-acre rule. He stated that progress had been made via two approaches. Kootenai County passed an Emergency Septic Ordinance to help on a temporary basis but it is only effective in unincorporated areas, not local municipalities. A permanent ordinance is a goal. The Governor's office agrees that the 5-acre rule is a benefit but can only support it in theory.

Ms. Gray concluded with a Budget Closeout Report. One goal of theirs is to get a third field inspector. She also noted that they can't charge inspection fees anymore which is reflected in the higher budget request for FY 2023.

3. Funding Requests Received

a. Supplemental Information – City of Rathdrum

The City of Rathdrum modified their request to 13,000. Information on this is included in the board's packets at this meeting. This will be scheduled for review along the other requests so an initial recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners can be made on what to fund.

b. County Legal Questions

None

c. Schedule for Review and Recommendation of Requests

In the next couple of weeks, discussions will need to take place on these funding requests. The APD board was asked for input on dates to do this.

4. Special Committee and Assignments Reports

a. Master Plan Workshop 2 Agenda (Assign subcommittee)

Rand will be unable to participate in the future. The board will look for a proper facilitator so that the entire board can participate in the process. Legal will be asked as to who can be used, but a local person is preferable. The possibility of putting out an RFQ was discussed. It would be helpful if they were educated about the Aquifer and knew the process of doing a master plan. When Ms. Maini asked for board member who could work on finding a facilitator, Ms. Scheidt, Ms. Vehr, and Mr. Adams stepped forward.

b. Fund Balance Next Steps (Assign Subcommittee)

It was suggested to start a list that will help quantify what APD has planned for the fund balance. This could be a kind of short term, condensed version of where the fund balance is going. Ms. Maini will start a draft of this, and Ms. Vehr and Ms. Scheidt will help as well.

E. Member Comments (Discussion)

Mr. Scarcello was contacted by Hannah Neff at the CDA Press and an article about him will be published in the near future.

Ms. Vehr reached out to Jim Hudson's son Cody about the presentation for his father, and is waiting for a response from him.

F. Cooperating Agency Comments (Discussion)

None. Mr. Oliver was asked about the Alta status and he will speak with Robin Nimmer about it.

G. Public Comment (Discussion)

None.

Adjournment (Action)

Mr. Haynes moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Simms seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.

Julie Kamps
Recording Secretary