

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

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 12, 2023
4:00 p.m.
451 Government Way
Administration Building, 1st Floor, Meeting Rooms 1A/B

Committee Members Present: Necia Maiani, Bob Haynes, Suzanne Scheidt, Laurin Scarcello, Alyssa Gersdorf, Larry Simms, Kristy Reed-Johnson

Committee Members Present Via Zoom: BiJay Adams, Michelle Johnson, Mary Vehr

Committee Members Excused: Dominic Parmantier

Committee Members Absent:

Also Present Were: Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Hydrologist Seth Oliver, Panhandle Health District (PHD) Environmental Health Specialist Jenny Gray, Alta Representative Kyle Duckett, Master Plan Facilitator Andy Dunau, DEQ Lake Management Plan Supervisor Jamie Brunner, CDA Tribe Lake Management Dept/Hazardous Waste Management Program Manager Rebecca Stevens, University of Idaho STEM Outreach Assistant Sharon Bosley, and Recording Secretary Julie Kamps.

Present via Zoom was Civil Engineer/Hydrogeologist for the Bureau of Reclamation (Boise), Jama Hamel and Kootenai County Attorney Pat Braden.

A. Call to Order:

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

B. Introductions/Guests Welcomed

C. Approval of Minutes: March 22, 2023 (Action)

Motion to approve minutes made by Mr. Simms and seconded by Mr. Scarcello. The vote was taken, and the motion passed.

D. Business (Action)

1. 2023/2024 Funding Request Presentations

a. AgriMet Presentation

AgriMet coordinator for the Bureau of Reclamation, Jama Hamel, began the discussion by stating that their organization is part of a cooperative agricultural weather network. One of their tasks is to measure water evaporation. She shared a map of the Kootenai County area with weather stations. One in the Hayden area was installed in 2007 and others in 2014. Their equipment measures temperature,

humidity and wind direction as well as solar radiation and precipitation. There are different types of mechanisms for measuring moisture. Some sites have special sensors that collect data at 15 minute intervals. They also measure how much water a crop uses and prepare a crop water report. Some systems are automated, in addition, some are manual.

Some of their funding comes from entities such as the Army Corps of Engineers, and other federal, local and state agencies. They have sponsorships from public agencies and private enterprises. Funds given by the APD go to local agrimet station maintenance and data collection. Ms. Hamel showed a budget comparison with other states' programs. She finished up by discussing wastewater reuse and shared some specifics of the Silverwood station, mentioning it is a good partnership.

b. Confluence Project Presentation

The three participants of this presentation were Jamie Brunner from DEQ, Rebecca Stevens from the CDA Tribe, and Sharon Bosley from the University of Idaho. Ms. Brunner began by saying they had some new partners this year in the program. She then listed the participating schools and mentioned the teacher resources they have available along with the online curriculum. The student programs include in-class experiences, field trips, workshops (winter and spring) and preparation for the water summit. One particular field trip involved a snail study. Pictures of the students involved in these programs were shared which included 384 students from eight schools.

Ms. Gray from PHD and Mr. Oliver from DEQ led the student aquifer lessons in school classes and on field trips. At the snow science trip involving 8 schools and 354 students, the kids learned how to calculate snow/water equivalents and to determine what that means for the watershed process. This year's Youth Water Summit, which is the culmination of the Confluence Project, will be held at the University of Idaho campus. There will be seven schools participating. Following this the projected budget was explained and they said they have secured some grants and that the U of I will be giving out nine scholarships. As well, they have volunteer in-kind donations given to the program. It was mentioned that the University of Idaho will now be administering the program, as KEA is not able to do that any longer.

There was a pre and post confluence project survey taken with the students to gather input from them, which showed they had a positive experience with the program. They are working on new plans for the 23-24 school year, but one challenge they will be facing is the shortage of school bus drivers for the field trips.

They will need to spend some of the funds received on re-stocking supply kits used by students. One final thought was the hope that Timberlake High School would be involved in the Confluence Project programs in the future.

c. Internal Requests/Projects

The next APD meeting on April 19th will be final deliberations on funding requests, so Chair Maiani asked the board if there were any last thoughts on these projects. Ms. Reed-Johnson said she needs to bump her project budget up and would like to request \$2000 this time. Ms. Vehr proposed that next year the board might consider contracting out a tri-fold brochure where new area residents could read information about protecting the aquifer.

2. Master Plan – Andy Dunau

Mr. Dunau still has some follow-up interviews to do. He shared his timeline going forward – he has the Spokane River Forum coming up on April 26th and 27th and after that will be out of the country in May for 10 days. He will do more interviews after that. He has spoken to both DEQ and PHD recently. When he gets back from his trip he plans on doing draft one of the Master Plan. At this point there are three sections to it including a background of the APD, an administration/operations section (ways to make things better/more efficient) and meeting future challenges. It will be completed throughout the summer. He asked the board when they thought they should talk to the Commissioners about it; Ms. Maiani would like to get through the first draft before speaking with the BOCC and other board members agreed. The June schedule was discussed and how to go forward. Mr. Dunau stated he would have the first draft done by June 14.

3. Subcommittee Updates

In creating the RFP for a SARA sub-consultant, Ms. Scheidt used the Master Plan RFP as a guide. She shared which components were updated, including the scope and stated that others gave input to the process. If a nine-month completion time was proposed, what should the response timeline be? It was stated that the selection would not be based on cost and that there would be a negotiated contract afterwards. The LiDAR rfp would be separate. As the best time for LiDAR to be done would be next April through June, the board will need to be accurate on what they ask for.

Chair Maiani shared a draft timeline she created in which attorney Braden will need to approve the RFP soon. He will be asked to review it right away so the APD board can approve it at the next meeting. It was suggested to begin with a six-month timeline. One month from the first advertisement will be given for response.

Ms. Reed-Johnson said that the Post Falls Business Fair is coming up on April 25th and that she could use a couple more helpers at the event.

E. Member Comments

Chair Maiani stated that Leighanna Keiser (Kootenai County Commissioners' Administrative Supervisor) will attend the next meeting to go over the budget and the board will be doing the final budget deliberations. She stated that Mr. Adams would need to be involved on the work program elements part. She also mentioned that Mr. Shaffer and Mr. Akiyama want to do a presentation for the APD board on the Stonecreek North neighborhood on April 19th, but the schedule is too full so should be in May when they'll have more time. It is a City of Hayden issue so even if the APD board takes the topic to the BOCC, they might not get a response. Ms. Maiani will inform them that April is full but May is available.

Mr. Scarcello brought up the CDA Tribal land rezoning issue that is up for a Commissioners' decision in the near future, and how it could affect open space in the northern Kootenai County area, specifically over the aquifer.

F. Cooperating Agency Comments

Mr. Oliver from DEQ stated that the Nettleton Gulch sampling project is going forward.

Ms. Gray from PHD said they are working with legal teams from the cities of Post Falls and Coeur d'Alene on draft ordinances. They have also been doing sampling, and outreach events. They got favorable comments from the students at Hayden Canyon school 6th graders.

G. Adjournment (Action)

Mr. Simms made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Haynes seconded the motion. The vote was taken, and the meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.