

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

Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday April 13, 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, BiJay Adams, Dominic Parmantier, Alyssa Gersdorf, Michelle Johnson,

**Committee Members Present Via Phone:**

**Committee Members Excused:** Kristy Reed Johnson, Suzanne Scheidt

**Committee Members Absent:**

**Also present were:** Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Hydrologist Seth Oliver, Panhandle Health District Specialist Jenny Gray, Alta representatives Robin Nimmer and Kyle Duckett, Spokane River Forum representative Andy Dunau, Confluence Project Outreach Specialist Marie Schmidt, DEQ CDA Lake Management Supervisor Jamie Brunner, and Recording Secretary Julie Kamps. Attorney Pat Braden attended by phone.

**A. Call to Order:**

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

**B. Introductions / Guest Welcome**

**C. Approval of Minutes: March 23, 2022 (Action):**

Larry Simms moved to approve the March 23, 2022 meeting minutes. Laurin Scarcello seconded the motion. The vote was taken, the motion passed.

**D. Business (Action):**

**1. Spokane River Forum – Funding Request**

Mr. Dunau began his presentation by stating that APD's past support has been instrumental and critical to their organization. Projects they use the funds for are *The Waste & Recycle Directory* and the *SRF Conference*. A list was shared of Kootenai County vendors and which facilities they are using for their waste/recycling. He explained the 2021 Toxic Media campaign along with how people are pushed towards the directory through social media. A storm water media campaign is next for this coming year. This is an effort to teach how to keep toxins out of our water. The H<sub>2</sub>O Breakfast is an in-person event coming up. For their

funding request they are asking for \$3000 for the directory, and \$3000 to use later in the year for the SRF Conference, if they can get it put back together.

## **2. The Confluence Project – Funding Request**

Ms. Brunner began the presentation by sharing how this past year The Confluence Project had seven participating schools, four of which are within the Aquifer boundaries. Teacher resources are available on their Google drive, which they are willing to share with whomever would like to use them. They also hold workshops for teachers. Eight schools (349 students) participated in water quality field trips and aquifer lessons were shared with five schools (291 students) plus 525 Post Falls High School freshman. Mr. Oliver spoke as to how he and Ms. Gray participate in the class presentations. 236 students participated in seven snow science trips to Lookout Pass.

The 2022 Youth Water Summit is set for May 25 where seven schools will participate. They expect around 300 students there. They are looking for more judges at this event.

Ms. Schmidt gave their projected 2022-2023 budget figures and breakdown – they are asking for \$15,000 in their funding request. Part of their plans for the coming year involves developing a storm water curriculum. Ideally, they would like to work with ten schools.

*\*At this point in the meeting Mr. Braden took questions from the board. Ms. Vehr asked about project building materials and how that relates to the funding requests.*

## **3. Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Parmantier went over the FY21 budget revenue and expenses. There is \$420,000 left to spend this year but not all these funds come in at once. Bottom line is that there is a large sum of money to be spent. A lowering of fees was discussed. Ms. Maini said that the topic should be covered in the next few meetings. Numbers have been run on what the APD could do with the funds. Keeping a reserve amount was mentioned as well as the fact that the funds will go quickly if used on land acquisitions. Mr. Parmantier suggested doing some homework before deciding on how to use the funds. If fees are reduced they might need to be raised again in the near future.

The difference between the APD budget and a regular business budget was brought up. Also, timing, and how to present the budget to the Board of County Commissioners was discussed.

## 4. Funding Request Recommendations

- a. Requests Received and Not Presented to Board: DOI-Agrimet Stations and IDWR Stream Gage at Hauser

APD has not heard yet from either of these organizations. When asked if anyone on the board would like to hear from them, there was not much response. Ms. Johnson heard from someone who wants to request funds for a monitoring well. It was suggested that he submit next year.

- b. Board Recommendations

**DEQ Funding Request:** Necia Maiani moved to approve the DEQ Funding Request. Larry Simms seconded the motion. The vote was taken, the motion passed.

**PHD Funding Request:** Bob Haynes moved to approve the PHD Funding Request. BiJay Adams seconded the motion. The vote was taken, the motion passed.

**Spokane River Forum Funding Request:** Mary Vehr moved to approve the Spokane River Forum Funding Request. Alyssa Gersdorf seconded the motion. Bob Haynes recused himself from the vote. The vote was taken, the motion passed.

**Hauser Creek Stream Gage Funding Request:** Larry Simms moved to approve the Hauser Creek Stream Gage Funding Request. Dominic Parmantier seconded the motion. The vote was taken, the motion passed.

**AgriMet Program Funding Request:** Laurin Scarcello moved to approve the AgriMet Program Funding Request. Mary Vehr seconded the motion. The vote was taken, the motion passed.

**The Confluence Project:** Mary Vehr moved to approve The Confluence Project Funding Request. Alyssa Gersdorf seconded the motion. The vote was taken, the motion passed.

The Kootenai Shoshone Soil & Water Conservation District No-Till Drill Program Funding Request was removed. Other funding requests were not voted on in this meeting. They will wait for a future meeting.

## 3. Special Committees and Assignments Reports

- a. Request for Qualifications – DRAFT

- i. Master Plan

Ms. Scheidt and Ms. Vehr put together an RFQ but still have some Questions and would like the board's perspective. The board can go over it at the next meeting. Mr. Adams suggested that it would be helpful if the next facilitator had technical expertise. It could be difficult to find someone like that, and the possibility of a conflict of interest was brought up if a company was used that had an employee on the APD board. It will be challenging to find someone with diverse skills. Overall it will be important to work on shaping the RFQ so it reflects the board's purpose and intentions. Rand Wichman will still be available for some consultations on certain points.

- ii. Protection of Surface Water Recharge Zones

Ms. Nimmer from Alta gave an update. The next step is to communicate with landowners regarding access to properties. Alta would like guidance from the board on this. Points to consider are what the message is to the

property owners, and who will be delivering them. The look of the properties and what the needs are will be considered.

b. Fund Balance – DRAFT

**E. Member Comments (Discussion)**

Ms. Vehr reached out to Jim Hudson's son Cody about the presentation for his father, and is waiting for a response from him. If Cody doesn't want to participate then Ron Wilson can step in.

Mr. Simms is stepping down from the Hauser Lake Water Association but has received the okay from them to continue to remain on the APD Board as their representative. Also, he will be excused from the May 25 APD Board meeting.

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

Mr. Oliver wonders what the board thinks of future projects now focusing on micro plastic sampling. Ms. Gray said PHD has property owners who could help Ms. Nimmer in efforts to have access to properties involved in the Alta project.

**G. Public Comment (Discussion)**

None.

**Adjournment (Action)**

Mr. Haynes moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 5:29 pm.

Julie Kamps  
Recording Secretary