

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

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday April 27, 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, Alyssa Gersdorf, Suzanne Scheidt, Kristy Reed-Johnson

Committee Members Present Via Phone: Dominic Parmantier

Committee Members Excused: Michelle Johnson

Committee Members Absent:

Also present were: Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Hydrologist Seth Oliver, Panhandle Health District Specialist Jenny Gray (via phone), Alta representatives Robin Nimmer and Kyle Duckett, BOCC Administrative Supervisor Leighanna Keiser, Attorney Pat Braden 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: April 13, 2022 (Action):

Larry Simms moved to approve the April 13, 2022 meeting minutes. Bob Haynes seconded the motion. The vote was taken, the motion passed. (note here: a revision was mentioned, from Ms. Reed-Johnson asking which Ms. Johnson was referred to, then amended minutes brought up - ultimately the vote was taken on the original minutes.)

Public Comment occurred at this point in the meeting.

Ms. Nimmer discussed the Alta contract in which a drone and ground survey will be done. 23-25 people will be involved with the ground survey and approximately 65 properties will be involved with the drone, which will expand the scope of the project. Permission is needed from the owners, and consideration needs to be made as to what it will look like to contact all property owners. If necessary drones can be steered around to avoid specific properties. Alta reps will come back in two weeks or before with more information on how to proceed.

Mr. Simms would like to have verbiage of what to say to property owners about the survey prepared in advance – before he begins contacting people. Mr. Duckett said that Alta will take the first attempt at creating this. It is possible that Alta could give property owners an aerial photo of their property as a perk to encourage participation. Types of property ownership & out of area owners were discussed along with the possible ramifications of distant owners as well as how best to contact them. It is possible that it could take a lot of time to establish contact with some owners. Alta's spring timeline could be pushed back to fall because of this issue. A mailing to notify owners of the project could be helpful.

In the end, some owners won't agree with the survey, and if so, a decision will have to be made as to if it will still work with not enough cooperating.

Ms. Nimmer stated that they would need a cost estimate for infiltration work. It is more than just digging in the soil – there would be fieldwork involved. The process was explained to the APD board as it is fairly complicated and they need to be aware of the costs and scope. The bottom line is that it will be more multi-faceted than anyone is aware. The question of a core sample getting an accurate analysis would need to be looked into further. Alta will plan on attending the next meeting for further discussion.

D. Business (Action):

1. Funding Request Recommendations

a. Board Recommendations

Funding requests that had not been decided on yet were listed. It was confirmed that the City of Rathdrum project included the pathways, and not just signs. It was mentioned that the paths were needed to access the signs.

Ms. Maini said that it should be pointed out before any more funding requests are approved that the fund balance could go very quickly assuming the current fee amount is used. There is a healthy reserve for projects now, the board just needs to decide on which ones. It was also stated that the APD board needs to be judicious with their current funds and where and how much to fund projects. The lack of education about the aquifer is a problem. The APD fee amount was discussed.

City of Rathdrum:

A decision was made to fund only the sign portion of the City of Rathdrum request. Mr. Scarcello pointed out reasons why he supports funding this request. Mr. Adams wanted it on the record that the board should stipulate specific information be placed on the signs.

Initial motion to partially fund this project made by Ms. Vehr, seconded by Ms. Scheidt. Discussion ensued, then Mr. Scarcello made an amended motion to fund \$6000 which was seconded by Ms. Scheidt. More discussion at this point, then Ms. Maiani called for the vote. The vote was taken, motion passed. All board members voted aye except for Ms. Reed-Johnson as she prefers to fund the entire request.

Twin Lakes Dam Flow Control & Measurement:

Mr. Scarcello began the discussion about the Twin Lakes Dam Flow Control & Measurement Project by voicing his support for it. Mr. Duckett, Alta, confirmed that the water flow data from equipment obtained by this funding request would be real-time data and would be useful. It was pointed out that this request is for equipment only, not ongoing work. The particulars of the equipment was discussed.

Mr. Haynes made a motion to approve this funding request. Mr. Scarcello seconded the motion. It was then suggested that a stipulation be added to make sure the data is available in a usable way, and available in a format to DEQ. It was noted that IDWR would have the data.

Mr. Simms moved to amend the request with the aforementioned stipulation to provide the data. Ms. Scheidt seconded the motion. The vote was taken. All voted aye except for Mr. Parmantier who voted nay as he felt like the request doesn't align with the APD's mission.

Twin Lakes Channel Sediment Removal Project:

This project will not negatively impact the water quality of the aquifer and has the potential to help water quality. Mr. Adams made a motion to deny this funding request. Ms. Vehr seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed to deny.

Kootenai County Parks & Waterways:

Details of this request were discussed. It was suggested that \$3000 of the request be approved for signage and the kiosk. Ms. Vehr made a Motion to fund the education signs/kiosk, not to exceed \$6000. Ms. Gersdorf seconded the motion. Stipulation stated for the APD board to have a say in what goes on the signs, as was the situation for the City of Rathdrum funding request. The vote was taken and passed.

b. Budget

Before going on to discuss any more funding Ms. Keiser summarized where the budget was. Updates were made to specific line items, some moved to next years budget. It was noted that the PHD budget is up 100,000 over last year. It was also pointed out that board approval on this budget was required to move on.

Bob Haynes made a motion to approve the budget as outlined. Ms. Reed-Johnson seconded the motion. The vote was taken and passed unanimously.

3. Special Committees and Assignments Reports

a. Request for Qualifications – DRAFT

i. Master Plan (This item discussed first on Business items.)

Mr. Braden confirmed that the County would not require a specific format for the RFQ, it just needs to have the essential information. It can be submitted electronically. He will look at the RFQ and give recommendations and revisions. It will need to clarify the deliverables. He also said it would require scoring criteria. It was pointed out that the BOCC would make the ultimate decision, as the APD board isn't authorized and can only make recommendations.

Mr. Braden left the meeting at 4:42 pm

b. Fund Balance

E. Member Comments (Discussion)

Ms. Vehr did not get any response from Cody Hudson regarding his father's memorial, so Ron Wilson will accept on his behalf. She will provide background information about Jim Hudson with the BOCC.

Mr. Simms asked for an update on the Ruleset. It is looking positive but nothing is firm yet.

F. Cooperating Agency Comments (Discussion)

Mr. Oliver shared micro-plastic testing information and said other sampling was considered also.

Ms. Gray addressed the increase in the PHD funding request by saying that higher wages for staff was one reason.

G. Public Comment (Discussion)

See notes before Business, Item D.

Adjournment (Action)

Mr. Haynes moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Reed-Johnson seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:02 pm.

Julie Kamps

Recording Secretary