

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

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday June 8, 2022
5:00 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, BiJay Adams, Alyssa Gersdorf, Suzanne Scheidt, Michelle Johnson, Dominic Parmantier

Committee Members Present Via Phone:

Committee Members Excused: Larry Simms, Kristy Reed-Johnson

Committee Members Absent:

Also present were: Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Hydrologist Seth Oliver, Panhandle Health District Specialist Jenny Gray, Kootenai Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District Representatives Bob Flagor, and Recording Secretary Julie Kamps. Via phone was Kootenai Environmental Alliance representative Cynthia Rozyla and legal counsel Pat Braden.

A. Call to Order:

Committee Chair Necia Maini called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

B. Introductions / Guest Welcome

C. Approval of Minutes: May 25, 2022 (Action):

Pulled for later approval.

D. Business (Action):

1. Rathdrum Aquifer Run Series Q&A

Kootenai Environmental Alliance Board Director, Cynthia Rozyla, was present via phone to answer questions regarding the Rathdrum Aquifer Run Series, formerly presented by the APD. Their non-profit encourages kids in healthy living. The Fun Run was put on in 2017 but was cancelled in 2018 due to smoke.

They now propose to put on the event themselves since the APD is stepping out. Ms. Rozyla is fully committed to the event and the proceeds would go to the KEA Waterkeeper

program. The plan is to have the event in July. She will accept any help or involvement from the APD board and would like to know if there are any objections to KEA's involvement. Also, she wanted to know if KEA could use or buy the logo created by the APD. Necia will ask legal about the use of the logo. At this point, she doesn't have an answer so Ms. Rozlya thinks it will be easier not to use it.

Ms. Maini stated that the Fun Run would be a good event to support, but does not think there's enough time this year and it could be brought back to the board next January. At this point Mr. Braden was filled in on details of the race discussion and use of the logo.

2. Hauser Critical Aquifer Recharge Area (CARA)

On May 31st Mr. Adams met with Spokane County Environmental Administrator Rob Lindsay regarding their Critical Aquifer Recharge Area programs in order to hear how their process went and to see if Kootenai County could make use of any of their work. Mr. Adams was looking for information on how Spokane County went through the process and the ordinances. A big question was how comfortable Spokane County was with the SHADI (Soil Media Hydraulic Conductivity Annual Recharge Depth to Ground Water Importance of the Vadose Zone) analysis. The response was that they were in fact, very comfortable with it.

After Mr. Adams' meeting with Mr. Lindsay, he and Ms. Maini met with Commissioner Duncan to see if Kootenai County could be interested in this kind of ordinance. The APD doesn't have the capacity to take on this ordinance right now and it was mentioned that the 5-acre rule is more important at the moment. Mr. Adams supports the ordinance idea but believes other models could be used in lieu of the SHADI model, possibly a hybrid approach. It is believed that the Spokane program is working well and was suggested that Mr. Lindsay come speak to the APD board to share more.

It was mentioned that all of the SHADI analysis was done by Spokane County staff members and that the Spokane ordinance is enforced through the permitting process. One example of how a specific hearing came about was through the planning process on a property.

It was confirmed that another meeting would be held on July 13th to hear Mr. Lindsay speak.

3. Kootenai County Aquifer Critical Recharge Area (CARA)

This topic was included and discussed in item #2.

E. Member Comments (Discussion)

Mr. Scarcello is working on an open space plan and continues to add to it.

F. Cooperating Agency Comments (Discussion)

Mr. Oliver has some supplies if needed for the 5k Run. He also suggested finishing the Hauser Creek project before moving forward with what Mr. Adams discussed regarding the Spokane Ordinance.

G. Public Comment (Discussion)

Mr. Flagor said that his personal plan is that he wants to see the APD consider a robust easement program, but that requires significant funding. He submitted a letter for the board to read.

Meeting ended at 6:02 pm and went directly into the Public Budget Hearing.