

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

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 14, 2023
4:30 p.m.
451 Government Way
Administration Building, 1st Floor, Meeting Rooms 1A/B

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

Committee Members Present Via Phone: Dominic Parmantier

Committee Members Excused:

Committee Members Absent:

Also Present Were: Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Hydrologist Seth Oliver and Lake Management Plan Supervisor Jamie Brunner, Panhandle Health District (PHD) Environmental Health Specialists Jenny Gray and Jason Peppin, Alta Representative Kyle Duckett, Master Plan Facilitator Andy Dunau, Spokane Aquifer Joint Board President Jeremy Jenkins and Recording Secretary Julie Kamps.

A. Call to Order:

Chair Maiani called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

B. Introductions/Guests Welcomed

C. Approval of Minutes: May 24, 2023 (Action)

Motion to approve minutes made by Ms. Reed-Johnson and seconded by Mr. Simms. The vote was taken, and the motion passed.

D. Business (Action)

1. Jeremy Jenkins – Spokane Aquifer Joint Board Presentation

Ms. Maiani welcomed guest speaker Jeremy Jenkins who is the president of the Spokane Aquifer Joint Board, and works for Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District. One big issue their board deals with are the open pits in the county. The four largest problem areas were outlined. All of them are quarries but some property owners are calling them lakes which adds to the problem. When the City of Spokane Valley (where these quarries are located) was created, they did not accept the Spokane County CARA rules. Mr. Jenkins showed maps of well- head capture zones that are under active pits. As well, he showed a depth to ground water map and talked about which pits are permitted to penetrate the aquifer. There are others that will potentially do the same thing. He then shared where their funding comes from and discussed

an analysis including next steps. He will return to present to the APD board again and share updates.

2. Review of Alta's Contract for Identification of SARAs for the Recommendation of Approval by the Board of County Commissioners

Ms. Scheidt said that Mr. Braden prepared the contract and Alta approved it. If the APD board wants to move forward with the contract, it will need to go to the BOCC for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Simms to move the contract along, seconded by Mr. Haynes. The vote was taken and it passed so will be presented to the BOCC at their next business meeting.

3. Master Plan – Andy Dunau

Mr. Oliver began by saying that DEQ would soon take possession of eight pallets of the new aquifer atlases. The graphic design was very well done in the books and he encourage all to share the atlases.

Mr. Dunau shared what he has done so far regarding the Master Plan. He has combined the interview notes he has done so far and put them all together in one block of information. He highlighted the following parts of the Master plan including assumptions and drivers. He said there is a need to create a Mission Statement and write up supporting goals as part of the Plan. He will also establish a baseline for monitoring and protecting services. There is a need to prioritized as well. The SARA project will be a minimum of 2-4 years. The grant application will be enhanced and the outreach and education programs outlined. Open space will be defined and the easement acquisition option specified. Mr. Dunau suggested that Ms. Maiani discuss the open space plan with Commissioner Mattare. He closed by stating he would attend the July 12th meeting with more information.

The meeting was suspended at 5:57 pm until after the Budget meeting so further discussion could take place. (Motion to suspend made by Mr. Simms and seconded by Ms. Vehr. Vote taken and passed.)

At 6:04 pm when the Budget meeting had concluded, the meeting was re-opened by a motion made by Ms. Vehr and seconded by Ms. Reed-Johnson. The vote passed and meeting resumed.

E. Member Comments

Ms. Scheidt said that Mike Galante, former president of the Idaho Washington Aquifer Collaborative had passed away on June 1. A certificate to be presented to his family was discussed.

Ms. Reed-Johnson will not be attending the next APD meeting so will be excused.

Mr. Scarcello gave an area weather recap including fire season details and the difficulty of this weather cycle. He mentioned the challenges of being “ag” people in his area of the county. He stated that the open space concept is not a complete answer to local land challenges, but a piece of the puzzle.

F. Cooperating Agency Comments

Mr. Oliver said that Mr. Stevens at DEQ will be retiring on July 7th. Also, Mr. Hagen in the state office will be moving on. The atlas is now finished. He participated in a science booth at Silverwood as an outreach event.

Mr. Peppin from PHD gave an update on the City of CDA adopting a critical materials ordinance. Per Ms. Brunner, Ms. Gray has met with the cities of Post Falls, Hayden, and Rathdrum to create open dialogue on ordinances for their cities.

G. Adjournment (Action)

Mr. Haynes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Adams seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the meeting ended at 6:38 pm.