

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

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 12, 2023
4:00 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

Committee Members Present Via Phone:

Committee Members Excused: Alyssa Gersdorf

Committee Members Absent: Dominic Parmantier

Also Present Were: Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Hydrologist Seth Oliver, Panhandle Health District (PHD) Environmental Health Specialist Jason Peppin, Alta Representative Kyle Duckett, Master Plan Facilitator Andy Dunau, and Recording Secretary Julie Kamps.

A. Call to Order:

Chair Maiani called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

B. Introductions/Guests Welcomed

C. Approval of Minutes: June 14, 2023 (Action)

Motion to approve two sets of minutes from June 14 made by Mr. Simms and seconded by Mr. Scarcello. The vote was taken, and the motion passed.

D. Business (Action)

1. Master Plan – Andy Dunau

Mr. Dunau began by giving a recap of the previous Master Plan discussion, as explained in the powerpoint presentation. He stated there is a need to record the history of the organization, and confirmed the need of a mission statement. He is currently working on putting the priorities of DEQ and PHD down on paper. He mentioned that the term “Aquifer protection” is very broad.

Discussion points included: grant process, outreach and education (which needs clarification on who can apply), and releasing information on which organizations were funded.

The BOCC Open Space plan was brought up, but we don't have all information

yet on what that Board is thinking about it. Mr. Dunau commented that there are different ways to go about doing an open space program. Mr. Scarcello said that his is like a working lands program. The plans will take more work and money which the APD program doesn't necessarily have. Partnerships will need to be built as capital is always an obstacle.

Web related ideas for the board were discussed as well a training and onboarding process for new APD board members. The APD board is a nuanced organization with more than meets the eye, which is not always clear. The board is doing well as far as how, and how often they do their meetings. There is now a problem with the storage of the APD board history and ideas were brought up on how to fix this, including the possibility of paying the County more for support help and document storage. He also brought up DEQ's alignment with APD's priorities.

Take aways are that the APD board is more complicated than it used to be and that the Master Plan is about building capacity. Future meeting dates were talked about at this point, and August 16th was decided on.

2. Mike Galante Tribute Discussion

This agenda item was discussed before item #1 during the meeting. Ms. Maiani spoke to Mr. Galante's wife who said some kind of memorial is being planned, but no information on it is available at this time. Ms. Maiani will follow up with her in the future.

E. Member Comments

Mr. Haynes said that the Hauser gage is not installed yet, but he will find out more about it at a later time. Per Ms. Reed-Johnson the new aquifer atlases will be in her possession by next Wednesday.

F. Cooperating Agency Comments

Mr. Oliver will contact the high schools about libraries and the new atlases. Several people suggested which groups should get new atlases. Mr. Oliver said that it will take a while to replace Mr. Stevens at DEQ. Mr. Peppin said that PHD has a proposal but will wait to share details when there is more clarity as more information is needed. Per Mr. Duckett said that at the county level there is a draft amendment coming to be aware of that will change how subdivisions are planned.

G. Adjournment (Action)

Mr. Haynes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Simms seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the meeting ended at 5:37 pm.