

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

Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, August 16, 2023  
3:00 p.m.  
451 Government Way  
Administration Building, 3rd Floor, BOCC Board Room

**Committee Members Present:** Necia Maiani, Larry Simms, Bob Haynes, Laurin Scarcello, Mary Vehr, Michelle Johnson, Suzanne Scheidt, Alyssa Gersdorf

**Committee Members Present Via Phone:** Dominic Parmantier

**Committee Members Excused:** BiJay Adams, Kristy Reed-Johnson

**Committee Members Absent:** None

**Also Present Were:** Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Hydrologist Seth Oliver, Panhandle Health District (PHD) Environmental Health Specialists Jamie Barton and Jason Peppin, Alta Representative Kyle Duckett, Master Plan Facilitator Andy Dunau, Kootenai County Community Development Director David Callahan, Kootenai Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District Representatives Bob Flagor

**A. Call to Order:**

Chair Maiani called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**B. Introductions/Guests Welcomed**

**C. Approval of Minutes: July 12, 2023 (Action)**

Motion to approve minutes from July 12 made by Mr. Simms and seconded by Mr. Haynes. The vote was taken, and the motion passed.

**D. Business (Action)**

**1. Kootenai County Subdivision Ordinance Modifications – David Callahan**

Mr. Callahan provided background on county subdivision ordinances and current reasons and motives for amending the subdivision ordinance. Mr. Callahan stated prior to 2016 minor subdivisions were really rare, and the so called “free-split” provisions were limited to no more than four divisions of land from an original parent parcel. However, recent politics have moved towards making the process

easier for minor subdivision development thus the process is changing and amendments to the ordinance are needed.

In 2021 the number of minor subdivisions increased dramatically and this growth has created complaints by the community. The issues observed stem from the difference in requirements for fire district and highway districts roads. Also, access to lots becomes complicated as there are multiple access points across the minor subdivision.

Mr. Callahan stated they are working on an ordinance amendment and the current ordinance amendment is on version 6. To move the amendment forward, a subcommittee has been formed to get the amendment to a workable ordinance. Mr. Callahan is hopeful that in the next several months the ordinance will be completed and in a form that can be brought forward for consideration.

## **2. Kootenai County Open Space Bond – David Callahan**

As population has grown and surrounding cities are growing together, there has become concern by the residents for preservation of open space.

This concern was concluded from a survey that was sent out to the public a couple years ago. The survey concluded the #1 item residents wanted to see was the preservation of open space. Mr. Callahan said they took this desire to the Commissioners who gave their approval to work on an open space program. Mr. Callahan stated the County has never had a County Parks Master Plan or a process for acquiring open space.

To fund an open space program, the county government can issue a bond. Details of the bond can be found on the county website at <https://kcbondinfo.com>. The website was developed to provide education on the bond facts and describes categories the money can be spent on. The Open Space and Park Development Bond will be voted on Nov 7, 2023. To pass, 2/3rds of qualified voters will have to approve it for the measure to pass.

## **3. Treasurer's Report – Dominic Parmantier**

Mr. Parmantier gave his report on the budget, net income, and expenditures to date. The board expenditures are still below this year's revenue to date.

## **4. SARAs – Kyle Duckett**

For the SARA project, Mr. Duckett has identified three areas to focus on for the Periphery Lakes with Outlet Streams or Creeks. The three areas are Rathdrum Creek, Hayden Lake Outlet, and Spirit Creek.

Additional Streams or Creeks that may be considered are Lost Creek and others east of Hauser, Lewellan Creek and Sage Creek South of Pend Oreille, Chilco Channel including Chilco Lake and Alpine Lake, etc.

Mr. Duckett is starting with the Rathdrum Creek Characterization. The evaluation includes characterization of geology, soils, zoning, private wells, and info included in IDEQ Terradex and Source Water Protection Tools.

Mr. Duckett's tentative timeline is Site Characterization in August – October, Prioritization and Lidar Delineation in October, Geopolitical Boundaries and Partners in November, and Final Report in December. Mr. Duckett asked for any feedback from Board members to ensure we are capturing all relative info needed.

## **5. Funding Applicants – Notification Schedule**

Ms. Maiani said we have not sent out notifications to funding applicants stating they have been approved or not. Mr. Simms volunteered to send out the notifications.

## **6. Master Plan – Andy Dunau**

Mr. Dunau sent out a draft of the Master Plan to all Board members last week. Ms. Maiani stated we are at the point of Board review and any comments or edits need to be provided to Mr. Dunau by Sept 6, 2023.

After comments and revisions are made, the draft will be sent to outside entities for comments on Sept 20, 2023, with comments due back by entities by Oct 4, 2023 to Mr. Dunau.

This round of comments and revisions from outside entities will be integrated into the next draft that will be submitted to the Board for review by Oct 11, 2023. Any final comments or revisions will be addressed, and the final master plan will be presented to Commissioners in November for feedback, approval and finalizing the plan. The end plan will have a final plan rack and stack of implementation and recommendations.

Mr. Simms asked for clarification on the Ground Water Quality Rule reference in the draft plan and discussion occurred regarding connection between DEQ rules and IDWR rules and the interconnection between agencies regarding aquifers, ground water and shallow injection wells. Ms. Vehr stated it is important to ensure proper connections are made so the general audience can understand.

Mr. Scarcello noted that as a Board it will be important to defend our Board revenue and carryover amount if the open space bond is approved. Thought will need to be given to how we administer our carryover. Mr. Dunau said we could address this by being proactive and stating that the Board will have a master plan completed and need to do our SARA's etc.

#### **E. Member Comments**

Mr. Simms said he has not seen any movement or communication on the distribution of the new aquifer atlases. He is tracking atlas distributions and requested updates be made to him as they occur. DEQ and PHD will update Mr. Simms on distributions of the atlases.

Relating to statements made at the recent Spokane River Forum, Mr. Haynes brought up the topic of public perception of the Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. He stated on the Idaho side, it's not a quantity issue but a quality issue and it's important to understand there is a difference. The amount of water in the aquifer is not the concern at this point, it's the protection of the quality of water for our sole source aquifer.

#### **F. Cooperating Agency Comments**

Mr. Oliver (DEQ) stated he participated in another call on the septic density study. For our area, the study and outcomes will impact LSAS's. Mr. Oliver would like to see the development of guidance for this topic for septic density as there currently is not any guidance.

No comments from PHD.

#### **G. Public Comments**

Mr. Duckett made comment that it will be interesting to see if the subdivision ordinance modification will include wells etc. and what engineers are working in the subcommittee.

#### **H. Adjournment (Action)**

Mr. Scarcello made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Simms seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the meeting ended at 5:05 pm.