

**Kootenai County**  
**Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer Protection District**  
**Policy and Budget Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 22, 2020  
4:00 p.m.

451 N. Government Way  
Administration Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Boardroom

**Committee Members Present:** Necia Maiani, BiJay Adams, Mary Vehr, Chris de Groot, Michelle Johnson, Larry Simms and Laurin Scarcello. Jim Hudson attended via telephone.

**Committee Members Excused:** Bob Haynes and Kristy Johnson were excused.

**Also present were:** Panhandle Health (PHD) Environmental Health Section Manager Erik Ketner and Environmental Health Specialist Jenny Gray, Idaho Department Environmental Quality (DEQ) Hydrologist Seth Oliver, and BOCC Communications Manager Nancy Jones.

**A. Call Meeting to Order:**

At 4:01 p.m., Committee Chair Necia called the meeting to order.

**B. Approval of Minutes:**

Larry Simms moved to approve minutes from January 8, 2020. Laurin Scarcello seconded the motion. The vote was taken. The motion carried.

**D. Chairman's Comments and Introductions:**

No comments or introductions were made.

**E. Business:**

Update on Recharge Areas

Necia Maiani shared that she received an email from Mike Galante, indicating that the recharge zone project was moving slowly at this time, partially due to property owners being out of the area for the winter. The Richards were trying to decide if they wanted to create an easement over their entire property or just the flood-prone area; he had not recently spoken to the Tevis'. He mentioned that survey work was on hold until the winter snow melted and the water receded. Mike also shared that he would not be able to continue work on the project as he would be moving to Florida in the near future. The group discussed options and ultimately decided to contact Chris DeForest and Dave Schaub of the Inland Northwest Land Conservancy to see if they would be interested and able to take on the project. BiJay Adams agreed to reach out to see if one of them could come to a future APD meeting after he reviewed the scope of work that had been established in Mike's contract. In response to Necia's inquiry, Nancy Jones confirmed that no disbursements had been made so far for the

project in the current fiscal year. Necia said that she would contact Mike again to get more detail on the current status of his efforts, to ask if he would be available to meet with whoever takes over the project, to determine the steps remaining and whether he had developed a timeline for completion.

#### Report on Year-To-Date Reimbursements

Nancy provided the committee members with a detailed accounting of the total fiscal year 2019 budget and a report on the year-to-date expenditures for fiscal year 2020. The report for fiscal year 2019 indicated that 73% of the budget allocation was used. She noted that the first quarter invoice from PHD (in the amount of \$51,191.42) for aquifer activities had just been received. Jim Hudson moved to approve the invoice for payment. Larry seconded the motion. The vote was taken. The motion carried. Necia noted that \$1,552.00 of the approved \$15,000 budget was spent on the easement project in fiscal year 2019. The group briefly reviewed and discussed the budget reports.

Laurin Scarcello inquired if the Soil Conservation District would need to submit a funding request for fiscal year 2021, since funding for the Grower's Meeting had been an established and approved APD expense for a number of years. After brief discussion, the group agreed that all requests for funding from any source should be submitted on the annual request form for continuity. Laurin said he would forward the form to the Conservation District so they can submit their annual request.

#### **F. APD Member Comments / Subcommittee Comments:**

Necia asked if anyone had additional input about how to move forward with the recharge zone project. Larry recommended prioritizing the easements so whoever takes over clearly understands the priorities of the committee. Chris de Groot asked if a formal request for proposal (RFP) process was done last year or if it would be required now to move forward. It was confirmed that a formal process was not necessary last time because the contract amount was under the legal threshold. The status of each property easement was briefly discussed and Laurin said he believed that the easement on the Tevis property would most likely be the first to completion and that the Greenfield property easement might require a little more time and negotiation.

Laurin referenced the recent articles and notices regarding water concerns in the Pleasant View area. He explained that the residents had requested a subdivision moratorium because they are concerned about a potential water shortage and wanted time to do some testing. Laurin expressed concern that this topic could come up more often as our communities continue to experience rapid growth. The group briefly discussed the topic and agreed that any requests to the APD would have to be handled on a case-by-case basis, especially in order to be sure that any involvement was within their purview.

BiJay shared that he had spoken with AgriMet Program Coordinator Jama Hamel and confirmed that she will be sending in a funding request.

**G. Cooperating Agency Comments:**

Erik Ketner introduced Jenny Gray to the group, explaining that she was heading aquifer outreach for PHD including serving as the liaison for the update to the Aquifer Atlas. He noted that she would likely be attending future meetings of the APD.

Necia asked if Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) staff was still being invited to the APD meetings. Nancy stated that she would verify that they were still on the contact list. She also verified that the Hayden Elementary well had not been completed in fiscal year 2019 and that she was not sure of the status of the project. Laurin said he would reach out to IDWR representative Dan Sturgis for information.

**H. Adjournment**

Larry moved to adjourn the meeting. Chris de Groot seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Nancy A. Jones, Acting Recording Secretary