

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

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday January 25, 2023
4:00 p.m.

451 N. Government Way
Administration Building, First Floor, Meeting Rooms 1A/B

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

Committee Member Present Via Phone: Dominic Parmantier

Committee Members Excused:

Committee Members Absent:

Also present were: Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Hydrologist Seth Oliver, Panhandle Health District Specialist Jenny Gray, Alta representative Kyle Duckett, Andy Dunau and ToniLee Hanson – Master Plan Facilitator and associate, and Recording Secretary Julie Kamps.

A. Call to Order:

Committee Vice-Chair BiJay Adams called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

B. Introductions / Guest Welcome

C. Approval of Minutes: January 11, 2023

Corrections to the January 11, 2023 meeting minutes were read by the recording secretary, Mr. Simms made a motion to approve the meeting minutes with stated changes. Ms. Reed-Johnson seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the minutes approved.

D. Business (Action):

1. Master Plan – Andy Dunau

Mr. Dunau shared a PowerPoint presentation on the Master Plan broken down into: Materials Reviewed, Mission/Purpose/Perspectives, Evolution not Revolution, Revenue, Grants/Expenditures, Funding Focus Areas, Jurisdictional Authority, Master Planning Outline, and Next Steps.

Specifics from discussion are the following: grant categories, and budget expenditures including APD funding focus areas. He emphasized being clear and transparent, and said it was important to get the order of operations right. As well, he brought up priorities, goals, reporting and governance.

So far, everyone has been helpful in the interview process with Mr. Dunau. He would like to make sure everyone is on the same page as the process begins. He is looking for real input from everyone. Five board members have been interviewed so far, Ms. Maini, Mr. Adams, Ms. Gersdorf, Ms. Reed-Johnson and Mr. Haynes. He asked if the APD board had a mission statement, as he was unable to find one. Ms. Reed-Johnson shared the history of aquifer funding in our area.

Mr. Dunau would like input from everyone via email, notes, or other means of communication. He will decide whether to continue gathering information through an interview process. He will continue reviewing documents and preparing the next report. He wants to be asking the right questions and staying on the same page as the board. There was a discussion on aquifer fees and to whom they go.

Board members were asked for their response to the presentation. Comments from the board were positive - appreciative of the work done so far and the clear path ahead. Mr. Dunau will provide the PowerPoint presentation to the board.

2. 2023 Goals and Committee Assignments

Discussed who is on each committee.

Budget committee: will bring reports to the next meeting.

Work program elements: funding request notice went out – discussed if everyone is comfortable with the March 1 deadline.

Public education: Ms. Reed-Johnson will straighten out the receipts for her completed projects.

Critical Recharge: Mr. Adams said he is planning next steps to move it forward. This would involve having a discussion with the county to get better gauge on the Commissioners interest in an ordinance for Kootenai County.

Open Space: Ms. Vehr reached out to Kiki Miller for information, but has not heard back.

Cooperating Agencies: Mr. Simms said he can be the contact person when PHD and DEQ has something to share with the APD board.

E. Member Comments (Discussion)

Mr. Scarcello had an update from Steve Neff on what the Twin Lake Improvement Association is working on. He also suggested watching a 20-minute video on the reforestation of Silver Valley.

Ms. Gersdorf shared that the atlas is in the final stages of production. A few more edits are needed but it looks good. They would like a short blurb about APD to put in the book.

F. Cooperation Agency Comments (Discussion)

Mr. Oliver from DEQ said they are grateful for the APD funding. There are some logistical issues to work out on the location of the next Confluence Project. He also mentioned the sampling done at the Atlas Mill site, and that the results will soon be reported. As well, the DEQ budget/spending info is available to anyone who would like to see how the funds are being spent. Per Ms. Maini, maybe APD could clarify what they would like DEQ and PHD to report back to them on those funds. Mr. Oliver encouraged the board to pass on project ideas they would like to see DEQ do.

Ms. Gray stated that she and Mr. Ketner (PHD Division Administrator) met with the City of CDA Water department reps to discuss a possible city ordinance for the Critical Materials Program. The idea was met with support and they will get PHD on the agenda at an upcoming City Executive Team meeting to present their proposal. PHD reps will also soon be meeting with Dalton Gardens, and will reach out to Rathdrum for the same purpose. PHD continues with their educational focus that will include a class for local realtors on Tuesday.

F. Public Comment

None

G. Adjournment (Action)

Mr. Simms made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Reed-Johnson seconded the motion. The vote was taken, and the meeting adjourned at 5:54 pm.

Julie Kamps
Recording Secretary