

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

Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday February 22, 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, Suzanne Scheidt, Laurin Scarcello, Dominic Parmantier

**Committee Member Present Via Phone:**

**Committee Members Excused:** Alyssa Gersdorf

**Committee Members Absent:**

**Also present were:** Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Hydrologist Seth Oliver, Panhandle Health District Specialist Jenny Gray and Program Manager Jamie Burton, Alta representative Kyle Duckett (via phone), Spirit Lake Mayor Jeremy Cowperthwaite, Spirit Lake City Engineer Kevin Koesel, Idaho Farm Bureau Regional Manager Bob Smathers, CDA Press staff writer Josa Snow, and Recording Secretary Julie Kamps.

**A. Call to Order:**

Committee Chair Maiani called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

**B. Introductions / Guest Welcome**

Chair Maiani welcomed guests and explained the purpose of the APD board.

**C. Approval of Minutes and Discussion Notes: January 25 and February 8, 2023 (Action)**

Motion to approve made by Mr. Simms and seconded by Mr. Haynes. Vote was taken, and motion passed.

**D. Business (Action):**

1. Monitoring Wells Map and Discussion

Per Ms. Scheidt, they are looking for potential well sites to monitor the Hauser area. Two locations have been chosen so far, although these two sites might not actually be located where the map shows them.

The cryptosporidium parasite can be fatal for those who are immune-compromised. A first step would be to get permission to sample the privately owned wells. Per Ms. Gray, PHD can get the conversation going. After gathering information, PHD can make formal plans for forward direction. As well, they can arrange the data in order to extract it for APD's use in the future.

## 2. Business Fair Entry Fees

Per Ms. Reed-Johnson, the usual entry fee for local business fairs is between \$325 and \$350. The process for cost reimbursement to the board members for the fairs was discussed. In the past the entry fee was paid by the BOCC office; going forward the entry fee request will be sent to Mr. Parmantier, the bill will be approved, then submitted to the BOCC office for payment.

## 3. Master Plan

Board members were encouraged to continue to email their comments on the Master Plan to Andy Dunau.

## 4. 2023/2024 Funding Requests

So far, one funding request has been submitted. Extending the funding request deadline was discussed. A motion to extend the deadline to March 17 was made by Ms. Scheidt and seconded by Mr. Simms. A vote was taken, ten votes in support of the extension, one vote against. The motion passed and steps will be taken in the BOCC office to advertise the new deadline date.

## 5. Subcommittee Updates

It was announced that the upcoming Confluence Project Water Summit will take place in Moscow at the University of Idaho campus. Winners of the event will be given scholarships. APD board members were encouraged to participate as judges if they would like to.

## **E. Member Comments (Discussion)**

Mr. Scarcello said he is still gathering data on his Open Space Pilot Program and is approaching it from a landowner's point of view. He recognizes it needs to be associated with a business plan at some point. He has distributed at least 100 of the plans and has heard from people in many counties in Idaho on the topic. He feels like this is fairly time sensitive and also pointed out that a very small number of people in America are involved in agriculture today and the average age of the American farmer is 57 years old.

Mr. Bob Smathers, Regional Director from the Idaho Farm Bureau, was introduced. His organization is also working on an open space program. The state legislature is concerned

about the preservation of farmland in the state, especially in our region and Ada county. An advisory committee was put together to create a proposal for the state legislature. The areas of concern are called Ag Protection Zones.

It was also mentioned that wind that blows into our area (mostly from the southwest) has an effect on the aquifer.

#### **F. Cooperation Agency Comments (Discussion)**

Per Mr. Oliver, DEQ has a project where they will look at two sampling programs and their waste impacts. They are working on a 3-d visualization of the USGS groundwater module which will be geared toward education and outreach. They are continuing to update the Nettleton Gulch nutrient pathogen evaluation, doing nitrate sampling. The Aquifer atlas is almost finished; it is at the final proofread point. They should have the final product in the next two weeks.

Per PHD rep, Ms. Gray, she will reach out to the APD board about well sampling. She asked the board if they have a priority list and what they would like to work on next, after the Hauser area project. The APD board indicated that Rathdrum would be their choice. Spirit Lake was mentioned as another option at some point.

#### **F. Public Comment (This section was done first in the meeting, just before the “Business D” section.)**

Mr. Cowperthwaite, Mayor of Spirit Lake, presented a funding request for a Spirit Lake Weir Dam flow measuring device. Mr. Koesel explained the technical aspects of the device as well as how the lake water levels change. This device would help maintain a consistent water level. They are asking for \$30,000 in funding.

#### **G. Adjournment (Action)**

Mr. Simms made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Haynes seconded the motion. The vote was taken, and the meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Julie Kamps  
Recording Secretary