

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

Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, March 13, 2019  
4:00 p.m.

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

**Committee Members Present:** Necia Maiani, Michelle Johnson, Chris de Groot, Bob Haynes, BiJay Adams, Kristy Johnson, and Laurin Scarcello.

Also present were Department of Environmental Quality Hydrogeologist Gary Stevens, Panhandle Health District Representative Erik Ketner, Hauser Lake Water Association Board Member Larry Simms, and acting Recording Secretary Nancy Jones.

**Committee Members Absent:** Jim Hudson & Mary Vehr (both excused)

**A. Call Meeting to Order:**

At 4:00 p.m., Committee Chair Necia Maiani called the meeting to order.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance:** Larry Simms led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. Chairman's Comments:** Chair Necia Maiani introduced Larry Simms, who was considering application to the APD as a representative of the Hauser Lake Water Association (private water system representative).

**D. Business:**

**1. FY19 – 20 Budget Funding Request Review**

- a. Panhandle Health District – Panhandle Health was scheduled to give their budget request presentation on April 10, 2019. Their funding request for FY20 was \$330,999.
- b. Department of Environmental Quality – DEQ was scheduled to give a budget request presentation on March 27, 2019. Their funding request for FY20 was \$91,060.
- c. AgriMet / Bureau of Reclamation – The group agreed that no presentation was necessary this year, since one was given in June 2018, unless substantial program changes had taken place. BiJay Adams agreed to reach out to verify the current program scope. Their funding request for FY20 was \$3,400.
- d. Pend Oreille Waterkeeper (LPOW) – The committee reviewed a request from Sharon Bosley of the Lake Pend Oreille Waterkeeper, asking for support in the amount of \$7,794. The group reviewed the goals detailed in the request, which included support of programs to measure water quality across Lake Pend Oreille and the Pend Oreille River. In response to questions from the committee, Gary Stevens spoke regarding existing water quality testing that was being done in Pend Oreille, noting that DEQ was unable to use the storm water sampling data being presented by LPOW unless they develop a water quality

assurance plan. As a whole, the group agreed that the efforts of this program are worthwhile but there the correlation to aquifer protection was not sufficient enough to support funding from the APD. Nancy Jones agreed to send them a letter of denial.

- e. Jim Ekins / University of Idaho – Necia noted that the Outdoor Classroom support request from Jim Ekins, in the amount of \$11,497, was less than a previous request. Kristy Johnson shared that the project had received significant financial support from Alliance Data, which may have resulted in a need for less funding from other sources.
- f. Spokane River Forum – Andy Dunau was scheduled to speak to the group on March 27, 2019. BiJay noted that he would like to receive some analytics related to the Stormwater directory, since last year was the first year that APD had supported that project. Their funding request for FY20 was \$6,000. Kristy verified that this amount supported sponsorship of the Spokane River Forum in the amount of \$3,000 and \$3,000 for the Stormwater Directory.
- g. Kootenai Environmental Alliance – Noting that this year’s program would be completed in May, the group agreed that a presentation should not be scheduled until closer to that date, but that receiving an update would be important, given the level of support being provided. Kristy agreed to reach out to Marie Schmidt at the University of Idaho to schedule a presentation for April 24, 2019. The KEA funding request for FY20 was \$15,000.

#### **E. APD Member Comments:**

It was noted that no request had been received from the Kootenai Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District (KSSWCD). Laurin Scarcello verified that was correct, explaining changes that were occurring at KSSWCD and that no meeting was scheduled until fall. Kristy said that she would submit an education and outreach request shortly and she gave an overview of some of the events she had done in the past year. The group agreed that, moving forward, they felt it would be beneficial to track all education & outreach events to allow for better evaluation of what schools and organizations are being reached.

The recharge zone protection proposal was discussed at length. It was agreed that \$45,000 should be included in the FY20 budget, with acknowledgement that the exact amount needed to complete this project could be difficult to determine and that budget amendments from the APD fund balance might be necessary. Factors that might affect the timetable and cost included negotiations with property owners and evaluation on a case-by-case basis regarding whether conservation easements or property acquisition were more appropriate for individual recharge areas. Larry Simms commented, and the group strongly agreed, that conservation easements were preferred and that property acquisition should only be pursued when an existing property owner showed express interest in that as an option for aquifer protection. Nancy said she would let everyone know when a draft contract was available.

**F. Cooperating Agency Comments:**

Gary discussed the aquifer atlas process; Kristy and Gary each had about 10 – 12 boxes remaining from the last order. It was discussed that atlas production costs should be included in the FY20 budget, as the process would likely start in the fall. Nancy reminded everyone of the Open Meeting Law workshops that would be offered on March 18<sup>th</sup> and March 20<sup>th</sup>.

**G. Adjournment:** Bob moved to adjourn the meeting and Chris seconded the motion. The motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Nancy Jones – Acting Recording Secretary