

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

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 19, 2023
4:00 p.m.
451 Government Way
Administration Building, 1st Floor, Meeting Rooms 1A/B

Committee Members Present: Necia Maiani, Suzanne Scheidt, Larry Simms, Kristy Reed-Johnson, Mary Vehr, BiJay Adams

Committee Members Present Via Phone: Michelle Johnson, Alyssa Gersdorf, Dominic Parmantier

Committee Members Excused:

Committee Members Absent: Bob Haynes, Laurin Scarcello

Also Present Were: Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Hydrologist Seth Oliver, Panhandle Health District (PHD) Environmental Health Specialist Jenny Gray and Environmental and Health Protection Administrator Erik Ketner, Alta Representative Kyle Duckett, Master Plan Facilitator Andy Dunau, Kootenai County Board of Commissioners Administrative Supervisor Leighanna Keiser, and Recording Secretary Julie Kamps.

Present via Zoom was Civil Engineer/Hydrogeologist for the Bureau of Reclamation (Boise), Jama Hamel and Kootenai County Attorney Pat Braden.

A. Call to Order:

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

B. Introductions/Guests Welcomed

C. Approval of Minutes: March 22, 2023 (Action)

Motion made to amend date of the meeting minutes to be approved at this meeting from 3-22-23 to 4-12-23 by Mr. Simms, seconded by Ms. Scheidt. Vote taken and motion approved. Motion to approve minutes from 4-12-23 made by Mr. Simms and seconded by Ms. Vehr. The vote was taken, and the motion passed.

D. Business (Action)

1. 2023/2024 Funding Request Deliberations

Ms. Maiani outlined how the funding request deliberations would proceed during the meeting. The board will go over each funding request individually, then vote on them. If all funding requests are approved, it will be necessary to go into the fund

balance. In order to stay within the fund balance and fund everything that is currently being requested, \$253,000 will need to be used. Going into the future APD might not always be able to fund all requests, or the parcel fee of 5.74 might need to be raised. Side note: the maximum fee allowed is 12.00/parcel. Changing the parcel fee amount was discussed in detail and how it would affect the fund balance.

It was asked whether a funding request could be partially funded. At this time the board doesn't have an answer but it has been done before. Ms. Scheidt said that the Dalton Water Association is not congruent with the APD board's goals and she would not recommend supporting it with funding. Ms. Reed-Johnson did not agree. Ms. Gray confirmed that it would be redundant.

Ms. Scheidt made the motion to *not* approve the **Dalton Water Association** funding request; Ms. Vehr seconded the motion. The vote was taken and passed. This request will be removed from the list.

The **Spokane River Forum** funding request was discussed next. Ms. Vehr suggested only funding the wastewater directory portion of the request (1/2 of the request) and that the money could be put to better use in other educational endeavors. Other board members commented that the meeting part of the request is educational and that many people learn from it, so it also has value. Ms. Vehr made a motion to only fund \$3000 of the request (one half) and Mr. Parmantier seconded the motion. An individual vote was then taken. With two aye votes and seven nays, the motion died. Mr. Adams made a motion to fund the total \$6000 funding request to the Spokane River Forum, which was seconded by Ms. Reed-Johnson. The motion passed with two nays and the rest ayes.

Mr. Adams made a motion to approve the **City of Spirit Lake** funding request, stating it is similar to the Twin Lakes funding request from last year. Mr. Parmantier seconded the motion, the vote was taken and the motion passed.

Mr. Simms made a motion to approve the **DEQ** funding request. The motion was seconded by both Ms. Scheidt and Ms. Reed-Johnson. The vote was taken and the motion passed with all ayes.

Mr. Adams made a motion to approve the **AgriMet** funding request. It was seconded by Mr. Simms. It was mentioned that there is an MOU between the county and the Bureau of Reclamation regarding the yearly maintenance of five AgriMet weather stations in Kootenai County through 2025. This is separate from the funding request.

Mr. Adams made a motion to approve the **PHD** funding request. Ms. Scheidt seconded the motion. The vote was taken with all in favor and the motion passed.

The **Kootenai-Shoshone Soil & Water Conservation District** No-Till Drill funding request was discussed. Ms. Reed-Johnson shared details of this request saying how it is tied in with the AgriMet education program. Ms. Reed-Johnson made a motion to approved the funding request, Mr. Parmantier seconded the motion. There were two nay votes but the motion passed.

While discussing **The Confluence Project** funding request, Ms. Vehr suggested having more control over where the funding goes, such as approving costs like educational parts of a project, but not for items like t-shirts. Ms. Reed-Johnson mentioned that the funds are only spent on Kootenai County schools. Mr. Simms made a motion to approve the funding request, Ms. Reed-Johnson seconded the motion. There were two nay votes and the motion passed. There was then a short discussion about what the funds could be spent on.

Next, internal funding requests were discussed. Ms. Maiani broke down where the \$140,000 amount would go: SARA, LiDAR, RFPs, and ordinances. Ms. Scheidt stated that a contract can be used instead of an RFP for the SARA location determination, and in that case it would be necessary to reach out to geologists. Mr. Simms made a motion to move ahead with the internal funding as stated. Mr. Reed-Johnson seconded the motion. The vote was taken and motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Simms to move forward with the internal funding allocations as discussed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Parmantier. The vote was taken and the motion passed.

There was a 5-minute recess at this point in the meeting.

2. FY24 Budget Direction with Kootenai County BOCC Administrative Supervisor Leighanna Keiser

Ms. Keiser began with an explanation of her role in the budget process. She gave details on how she arrived at figures and made her calculations. She presented a recap of the budget items that had been previously stated by Ms. Maiani. She explained that the APD's budget presentation to the BOCC is the time when they can share with the Commissioners what they have done as a board over the past year. The Kootenai County Auditor's office will also review the APD budget when presented. Mr. Simms made a motion to approve the preliminary APD budget as

stated. Ms. Scheidt seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed.

3. Parcel Fee

Discussed previously in the meeting.

4. Master Plan – Andy Dunau

Mr. Dunau began by thanking Ms. Gray and Mr. Peppin of PHD for their good interviews. He will be back from his traveling on May 17. He mentioned that there are still three categories in the Master Plan: a history of the APD organization, general housekeeping topics, and challenges/moving forward.

5. Subcommittee Updates

Ms. Scheidt had previously presented her committee update.

E. Member Comments

None.

F. Cooperating Agency Comments

Mr. Oliver from DEQ mentioned that there are solutions to the parcel fee dilemma. He asked the board if there had been any discussion on the outflow meters at Hauser, Twin Lake and Spirit Lake and how that data could be passed along. That conversation has not occurred yet and he was asked for suggestions.

Ms. Gray from PHD said they had made it through another draft iteration of the City of CDA Ordinance and it is now up for legal review.

Before adjourning it was mentioned that May 10th is the next meeting where the board will share funding project updates. Ms. Scheidt will reach out to the various parties to get that information. As long as the Commissioners are okay with the budget as will be presented to them at the May 4th meeting, the new funding recipients will need to be notified that they were funded. The SARA identification will also be updated.

G. Adjournment (Action)

Mr. Simms made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Parmantier seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the meeting ended at 5:25 pm.