

Kootenai County
Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer Protection District
Policy and Budget Committee

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 8, 2019
4:00 p.m.

451 N. Government Way
Administration Building, 3rd Floor Boardroom

Committee Members Present: Necia Maiani, BiJay Adams, Bob Haynes, Larry Simms, Kristy Johnson, Michelle Johnson, and Laurin Scarcello.

Also present were University of Idaho (U of I) Outreach Specialist Marie Schmidt, Kootenai Environmental Alliance (KEA) representatives Melanie Fillios and Dennis Brueggeman, Panhandle Health District (PHD) representative Jenny Gray, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) representative Gary Stevens, BOCC Liaison Nancy Jones and Senior Business Analyst Nanci Plouffe, and Recording Secretary Cheryl Broadway.

Committee Members Excused: Mary Vehr, Chris de Groot, and Jim Hudson.

A. Call Meeting to Order:

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

B. Pledge of Allegiance: Michelle Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Approval of Minutes:

Larry Simms moved to approve the April 24, 2019, meeting minutes, with a correction to change absent members to excused. Bob Haynes seconded the motion. The vote was taken. The motion carried.

D. Treasurer's Report / Expenditure Approval:

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) quarterly invoice was presented to the group. There were no questions and staff was directed to process the invoice for payment.

E. Chairman's Comments and Introductions:

There were no comments from the Chair.

F. Business:

1. Kootenai Environmental Alliance (KEA) FY20 Budget Request Presentation – Confluence Project

Marie Schmidt gave a presentation on this year's Confluence Project. She shared that they did water quality field trips with ten (10) schools (more than 400 students). Snow science trips were done with eleven (11) schools (400 students). Aquifer lessons were done with seven (7) schools (375 students). She discussed changes that were brought to the program, as well as new ideas that have been developed for use in future years. The group asked several questions regarding lesson specifics and funding mechanisms for the program. Identified water lessons included use of ground water and edible aquifer models, a city well tour, educational well water testing, and an upriver dam tour. Marie noted that, using the current model and staffing, the program will probably support a maximum of 500 students. Marie shared a number of organizations that had partnered on the Confluence Project, either through directing funding or through in-kind donations of volunteer time or supplies. She also reviewed how funds had been allocated in the program this year, noting that more was spent on supplies this year because of items (such as radios) which were purchased for multi-year use. It was noted that the FY20 funding request (in the amount of \$15,000) was less than the current year request because of a one-time \$25,000 grant that was awarded to the program by Alliance Data. Marie reminded everyone that the Youth Water Summit would be held on May 21, 2019, and encouraged anyone willing to serve as a judge for the event to contact her for more information.

Kristy Johnson spoke to the educational benefits of the Confluence Project and moved to approve the FY20 funding request forward in the budget process. Bob Haynes seconded the motion. The vote was taken. The motion carried.

2. Project & FY20 Budget Updates

The group reviewed the budget worksheet and reviewed the FY20 funding requests that were approved to date for advancement in the budget process. Revenue amounts for previous years were also reviewed. Nancy Jones updated the group on the status of the Hayden Well Project, sharing that the Board of Commissioners had approved the agreement with the Idaho Department of Water Quality (IDWR) the day before and that Daniel Sturgis would be working to determine a date for the drilling to start on the well. Education and outreach expenditures were reviewed and it was determined that the amount for edible aquifer supplies should be increased to \$700 and that general education support could be lowered to \$1,500. The group agreed that the \$45,000 for recharge zone protection should be allocated to reflect \$15,000 for the contract with Mike Galante and the remaining \$30,000 for easements or land, acknowledging that funds may need to be moved (or additional funds requested from fund balance) in FY20, depending on the movement on and success of those efforts. Nancy shared that the FY19 contract with Mike Galante would be moved forward to the Commissioners for consideration as soon as proof of liability insurance was submitted.

The APD members discussed the existing parcel fee at length and determined that no fee adjustment would be necessary in FY20. BiJay Adams noted that the recharge zone/conservation easement project could require additional funding in FY20 but that, with Board of Commissioner approval for any related expenditures, fund balance could be used for that purpose; there was general agreement among the members. Kristy moved to maintain the fee at \$5.74 for FY20. Laurin Scarcello seconded the motion. The vote was taken. The motion carried.

G. APD Member Comments:

Larry Simms shared information about a new development of 77 – 81 homes in Hauser that his water association had been engaged with as part of the planning process. He noted that an affluent study had been completed and it was determined that pre-treatment would be required on six (6) lots within the subdivision. The group discussed the potential benefits of these kinds of efforts. Gary Stevens spoke regarding the role of DEQ and Panhandle Health District in development planning. Laurin shared several concerns related to the growth and development of the Prairie, including ideas for being more proactive on weed treatment programs. The group also discussed benefits that could be realized from open space planning and more structured efforts to engage the entire group in our education and outreach programs with schools, realtors, chambers, and related organizations, in order to better reach new residents.

H. Cooperating Agency Comments:

There were no comments made.

I. Adjournment

Larry moved to adjourn the meeting. Laurin seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Jones – Acting Recording Secretary