

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

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 22, 2019
4:00 p.m.

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

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

Also present were University of Idaho (U of I) Area Water Educator Jim Ekins, Panhandle Health District (PHD) Program Manager Erik Ketner, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Remediation Manager Gary Stevens, Spokane River Forum Program Director Tonilee Hanson, and Acting Secretary Nancy Jones.

Committee Members Excused: Larry Simms and Jim Hudson.

A. Call Meeting to Order:

At 4:00 p.m., Committee Chair Necia Maiani called the meeting to order. Bob Haynes made a motion to add a presentation on the Waste Directory as a discussion item, as having this information was time-sensitive due to the timing of the budget process. Chris de Groot seconded the motion. The vote was taken. The motion carried.

B. Approval of Minutes:

No minutes were brought forward for approval.

C. Treasurer's Report / Expenditure Approval:

There were no expenditures for approval.

D. Chairman's Comments and Introductions:

Necia stated that the usual maintenance items were being dispensed with in the interest of time, as several members and guests had other meetings to attend that evening.

E. Business:

1. University of Idaho FY20 Budget Request Presentation – Jim Ekins

Jim Ekins gave a PowerPoint presentation that addressed

- The history behind the development and funding for the Outdoor Classroom project
- Information as to how the size and scope of the project was determined
- Overview of University of Idaho student volunteer participation
- Description of contributions provided by the City of Coeur d'Alene
- Review of educational lessons being taught, including content on bio-swales, macro-invertebrate bugs, and ground water education

He shared that over \$50,000 in match was received on the project to date, not including the value of the land itself. Final goals for the project included creation of a fully ADA accessible path to the classroom area, as well as some resetting of the existing pavers. Jim explained that the \$8,000 FY20 funding request would be used toward these goals, noting that the pavers were donated by the city and that basalt was chosen as it would provide long-term durability for the paver setting with minimal maintenance needed. Kristy thanked Jim for his donation of elementary watershed publications for use in the education program. Laurin asked about possible future encroachment at the classroom site; Jim explained that the area is bordered by city and university land, as well as a portion of the Centennial Trail, which would allow for some possible future growth. He noted that the proposed trail creation would improve visibility for added safety.

2. Waste Directory Presentation – Tonilee Hanson

Tonilee Hanson presented a PowerPoint related to the Spokane River Forum conference and the Solid Waste Directory. She stated that 335 people attended this year's conference and that feedback from attendees was very positive. She gave an overview of the topics addressed at the conference and shared that all presentations are available on the Forum website. Kristy spoke to the historical and current benefits of partnering with the Spokane River Forum.

Tonilee went on to review the success of the Solid Waste Directory, the partners who are contributing to it, and recent updates that were done. She noted the substantial increase in use of the online directory since the addition of information for North Idaho.

3. Galante Contract Update

Nancy Jones shared that Mike had provided the necessary proof of liability insurance and that the contract was ready to be put before the Board of Commissioners at the next Business Meeting. She said she would reach out to the group to confirm when the contract was brought forward for approval.

4. IDWR (Idaho Department of Water Resources) Contract / Hayden Well Update

No information was available as to the status of the Hayden Elementary Well Project; Nancy agreed to reach out to Daniel Sturgis for an update.

5. Preparation for June 12, 2019, Public Hearing

BiJay shared a copy of the draft Work Elements document for the public hearing and asked the group to review the information and contact him with any change suggestions.

The committee reviewed the information presented regarding the Outdoor Classroom. Kristy felt that assisting with the safe completion of the project was critical. Mary Vehr asked if providing funding for construction materials was an appropriate use of APD funds, since it would not directly go to educational programs. Nancy shared that she had done research but had not found a previous legal opinion on that question. Mary was also concerned about the need to re-do previous efforts in placing the pavers; Kristy noted that the previous work had been done by volunteers only and no money was spent on that portion of the project. Laurin noted that he was encouraged by the substantial community support that had emerged for the project. Michelle Johnson, Mary, and Necia expressed concerns regarding project management, especially the lack of information related to any engineering processes or analysis as the classroom was developed. Chris de Groot shared concerns that funding an existing facility for safety and ADA compliance might be outside the scope of the APD mission. The group expressed interest in supporting the completion, as the APD had helped with the creation of the classroom and were in favor of the potential long-term educational potential of the project; however, there was a broad general concern as to whether or not the requested funding would be a legally appropriate APD allocation. Mary made a motion to deny the FY20 funding request from the University of Idaho. The motion was not seconded. Necia asked Nancy to submit the funding request to legal for an opinion as to whether or not funding the project would be appropriate. She said that she would reach out to the city for information regarding the engineering and planning that was done on the project. Kristy moved that the committee agree to fund the FY20 funding request from the University of Idaho if legal found that the necessary criteria had been met and an engineering evaluation was presented. The motion

was not seconded. Chris said he would rather wait to make a determination once all available information was presented related to those questions; the group agreed.

F. APD Member Comments / Subcommittee Comments:

There were no comments.

G. Cooperating Agency Comments:

There were no comments.

H. Adjournment

Laurin moved to adjourn the meeting. Michelle 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