

**Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer Protection District
Policy & Budget Committee
Minutes of Meeting & Public Hearing
March 20, 2013
4:30 p.m.**

Members present: Paul Klatt, Bert Rohrbach, Ron Johnson, Tom Depew, Allen Isaacson, Kristy Reed Johnson, Rob Turnipseed and Jim Markley. Kerri Thoreson was excused.

Members absent: Loren Scarcello

Others present: Dale Peck (PHD), Dick Martindale (PHD), Lora Whalen (PHD), Allan, Rick and Sara from Panhandle Health District, Al Beardsley (IDWR), Gary Stevens (IDEQ), Helen Johnson and Lori Cogley, Recording Secretary.

Public Attending included: Mark Solomon (U of Idaho), Jama Hamel (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation), Corey Bryant (Upper Columbia RC&D) and Steve Focile.

At 4:38 p.m. Chairman Paul Klatt called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Chairman dispensed with the Pledge of Allegiance as there was not a flag in the room.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Tom moved that the minutes from February 20, 2013 meeting be approved as written. Allen seconded the motion. The roll was called. The motion carried.

INTRODUCTIONS: Paul introduced those members present and also others in attendance.

CHAIRMAN AND MEMBER COMMENTS: Paul praised Jim and also James Martin, Information Systems Director for Kootenai County, for all of their hard work in getting the Aquifer Protection District information on the County's website.

Kristy would like to print more of the APD brochures with the County's website on them prior to the Spokane River Forum Conference next week. Kristy will also follow up with a link at Panhandle Health District (PHD).

Paul asked the members who will be attending the Spokane River Forum. Paul will be sitting on a panel on Wednesday, March 27th.

Bert reminded everyone that the Work Elements Committee will be reviewing proposals for the upcoming budget year. They need input and prioritization and stated it will be a

challenging year for the budget. The County Commissioners have asked that there be little or no carryover in the budget.

The only new item on the regular meeting agenda was Dale Peck with Panhandle Health District. He presented and provided copies of a power point with the following agenda items:

1. CY2012 Program Accomplishments
2. Sampling Data Access Demonstration
3. FY12 Close out report
4. FY13 Financial Status
5. FY14 Budget Request

Dale stated it has been a busy but successful year and they are focusing on the protection of ground water. Dale introduced three of his four field staff. One of Rick's projects was assisting with the Highway 95 fueling project getting them into compliance. Through educational and outreach programs, Allan has focused on chemical containment. One of Sara's projects was working at the industrial park at waste management on the oil/water separator. She took care of servicing and implemented a monthly rotation of the separators so they function properly. Dale stated that there is a lot of turnover with new managers at the various sites so it is extremely important to have his staff continue to visit the sites. The fueling project at Highway 95 wasn't being contained properly so that was a major improvement. Dale stated that his staff has been updating the Best Management Practices manual which has been quite a lot of work to complete.

The FY2014 work plan is as follows:

- *Critical materials – Inspect all fixed facilities every two years.*
- *Sewage management – There are active sewage management agreements with Athol, Dalton Gardens, Hayden Lake Recreational Water and Sewer District and Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDWR).*
- *Stormwater management – Continue to implement MOU with IDWR.*
- *Water Quality Sampling – Sample 25 wells three times per year to monitor water quality.*
- *Interagency Cooperation and Administration – Bi-State Aquifer Protection Council, Idaho Washington Aquifer Collaborative, Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan (CAMP), DEQ, IDWR, Cities, Kootenai County, Spokane and State of Washington.*
- *Community Outreach – Aquifer atlas, presentations, information materials, media interaction when needed.*

In regards to stormwater management, Dale stated that programs are currently being implemented over the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. The report (attached) will attempt to

determine if the programs are comprehensive and effective in protecting the Aquifer from potential impacts due to stormwater runoff. PHD has created a database on their website to view the aquifer sampling results which is a great program. Dale and Dick Martindale demonstrated the public access capabilities of the database.

Dale stated that the FY2013 approved funding by the APD was \$384,700. Panhandle Health District's request for FY2014 is \$408,100, an increase of \$23,400 or 6% over FY13.

Dale's staff will continue to evaluate this year and look for FY15 whether there needs to be changes made. He feels it is in the best interest to eliminate the fees.

Jim questioned when the APD will take action on their request. Paul stated the first meeting in May. Jim would like to possibly see more detail on the budget. Kristy asked whether four staff is enough and Dale said yes it is. Paul asked about the Aquifer newsletter and Dale stated he has substituted that with brochures and other outreach material.

Dale concluded his presentation at 6:00 p.m. Chairman Klatt closed the regular meeting at 6:00pm and stated that they will take a 15 minute break before beginning the Public Hearing.

Public Hearing

At 6:15 p.m. Chairman Klatt called the meeting to order and welcomed the public. Paul also thanked Panhandle Health District for graciously providing the meeting room, drinks and food, as well as Kristy also. Paul explained that the reason for the Public Hearing was to solicit public comment regarding aquifer protection needs in accordance with *Idaho Code* §39-507.

Paul announced that two (2) members of the public have requested to speak.

The first speaker was Mark Solomon who is the project coordinator for the Idaho Water Resources Research Institute at the University of Idaho. Mark and the staff are proposing to conduct a survey resulting in the development of a geostatistical model of aquifer hydrochemistry that would help aid in understanding the factors that influence aquifer water quality. He proposed a 3-year research project to the APD consisting of three phases:

1. **Phase 1** (Project Year 1) is an analysis of existing data. This analysis includes recent data generated by IDEQ's well sampling.
2. **Phase 2** (Project Year 2) uses the existing data in Phase 1 to guide the program of geochemical sampling and to analyze the aquifer sediments.

3. **Phase 3** (Project Year 3) extends the work of phases 1 and 2 using geochemical sampling.

The proposed cost of the project is \$600,000 with a breakdown as follows:

- University of Idaho \$200,000
- Idaho Water Resources \$300,000
- Washington State \$ 45,000
- Aquifer Protection District \$ 60,000 In-Kind match

University of Idaho would like the sediments from the wells. The University of Idaho would need a written letter of commitment prior to the May 10th IDWR meeting. Gary Stevens with IDEQ feels that the monitoring wells are advantageous.

Mr. Solomon concluded his presentation and Paul introduced Jama Hamel with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. Jama is the AgriMet Program Coordinator, which is the Pacific Northwest Cooperative Agricultural Weather Network. Their 2014 project consists of a partnership with multiple entities installing smart controller boxes at the new stations which would provide for better water quality and power conservation. Their case studies would cover residential, commercial, agricultural and municipal. Water quality is their focus.

Ms. Hamel is requesting \$1,600.00 once again which is the same as in years past. This would cover their maintenance fees. The Agrimet stations cost approximately \$6,000 each. She will finalize these costs and will consider whether to submit any requests for additional stations to the APD.

Paul asked for any comments and closed the Public Hearing at 7:40 p.m.

Paul stated that the next APD meeting will be held April 3rd at 4:30 p.m. at the Commissioner's boardroom.

At 7:40 p.m. Tom moved that the Board adjourn. Rob seconded the motion. The roll was called. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Cogley
Recording Secretary