

Kootenai County
Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer Protection District
Policy and Budget Committee

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 24, 2016
4:00 p.m.

451 N. Government Way
Administration Building, 1st Floor

Committee Members Present: Leslie Duncan, Kristy Reed Johnson, Jim Hudson, Dion Holton, Laurin Scarcello, BiJay Adams, Mike Galante, and Paul Klatt were present. Tiffany Heiss was excused.

Also present were: Panhandle Health District Administrator Dale Peck, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Hydrologist Gary Stevens, Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) Representative Allen Beardslee, Citizen Mary Vehr, and Board Administrative Supervisor Nancy Jones.

At 4:00 p.m., Chair Leslie Duncan called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the January 27, 2016, minutes was made by Kristy and seconded by Jim. The vote was taken. The motion carried.

Chairman's Comments and Introductions: Chair Leslie Duncan noted that several members had other commitments after the meeting and requested that the agenda move forward as quickly as possible. For the benefit of the new members and guest in attendance, she had everyone present state their name and affiliation.

Business Items

- 1. Open Position Review & Update:** Leslie introduced Mary Vehr who had applied for a County advisory board member position and was interested in filling the 'at large' opening on the APD committee. Nancy confirmed that the well-known business representative and at large position are the two remaining vacancies. She also shared that Alethea Carpenter had been hired to replace Leighanna Ward as the BOCC Senior Secretary and that she would begin serving as the APD recording secretary as soon as possible. Mike stated that Linda Kiefer from Avista indicated that she is not available to serve on the committee as she will be retiring soon. He said that he would contact Necia Maiani at Welsh Comer Engineers to see if she would be interested in the open business representative position.

- 2. Hayden Lake Wetlands Treatment Project:** Paul Klatt shared with the group that the project results have been found to be inconclusive as to the benefits of the Floating Wetlands. Gary Stephens added that there was some evidence suggesting that phosphorus levels may have actually increased. The group recalled that Adrienne Cronebaugh of Kootenai Environmental Alliance (KEA) had noted errors in the first project run that may allow for improved results in the future. However, it was agreed that no funding assistance should be offered until process changes and additional review of the findings are presented. Adrienne will be

invited to give another presentation when KEA has a program update available. Todd Walker of the Hayden Lake Watershed Improvement District helped plant and harvest the wetlands and may also be asked to speak to the group if the committee considers funding the project in the future. Gary will send out the pdf of the presentation detailing the results.

- 3. Growers' Meeting Summary:** Laurin Scarcello gave an update on topics that were covered at the annual Growers' meeting, including thanks from the group for the support provided by the APD. Topics of discussion included Rathdrum Prairie future municipal water demands, drought, water damage, forest/wildfire protection, discussion of AgriMet station locations and benefits, and a topographical watershed mapping presentation. He added that, at Twin Lakes, there is more water in the snow this year than in the last two previous years. The group briefly discussed the benefits that would come from having an ag station at the Fairgrounds, which has been previously mentioned as a possibility by Jama at the Bureau of Reclamation.
- 4. Our Gem & Spokane River Forum Attendance:** Paul stated that sponsorship of the River Forum allows for three committee members to attend. It was decided that Kristy, Jim, and Mike would attend on behalf of the APD. Paul and BiJay will attend, as well, but will be sponsored by their employers. Leslie will check with Tiffany to see if she wants to attend.
- 5. Budget Subcommittee Update & Discussion of FY17 Budget Requests:** Nancy Jones presented an updated budget worksheet to the group and shared that County staff will be continuing to work on the new format. The budget subcommittee will receive a copy of the completed spreadsheet to begin entries for the FY17 budget proposal. Panhandle Health will present their budget request at the April 13th meeting. The DEQ presentation will be ready at the March 9th meeting. The group reviewed the requests that were received last year and discussed outreach for FY17 budget requests. Mike Galante will meet with Nancy to conduct a year-to-date budget review and calculate a submission deadline for budget requests.
- 6. IDWR Monitoring Well Progress Update (Timberlake HS):** Allen Beardslee shared that two locations had been identified as potential spots for the well. The group discussed the parameters of the well and it was established that this will also serve as a DEQ monitoring station as well as for educational purposes. The project is expected to begin in June. Gary shared that the high school lesson plans have been completed and will be used with this well.
- 7. Review of Meeting Schedule, Topics, and Deadlines:** The committee discussed outreach for the upcoming public hearings, including options for a press release, flyer, and ad. Kristy offered to post a flyer at the Spokane River Forum. Nancy reviewed recent outreach options and agreed to create a flyer for the group by the next meeting.

APD Member Comments:

Kristy shared an update from Jim Ekins that the topography has been completed on the outdoor classroom site. He will come back before the APD when the project is ready to move forward. She also shared that the CDA Business After Hours event was a success and that she would support participating again.

Cooperating Agency Comments (PHD, DEQ, IDWR, etc.): There were no comments or updates.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Paul and seconded by Dion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teri Johnston
Recording Secretary
(Minutes written from audio recording of meeting)