

**SEELEY LAKE SEWER DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
May 15, 2024**

Tom Morris	President	ABSENT	Cheri Thompson	Director	PRESENT
Pat Goodover	Vice President	PRESENT*	Troy Spence	Director	PRESENT
Jason Gilpin	Director	PRESENT	Felicity Derry	Secretary	PRESENT
Bill Decker	Manager	PRESENT			

Public Attendance – Appendix A
*Joined the meeting at 6:26pm

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:09pm. The meeting was held at the Barn, 2920 Highway 83, Seeley Lake, MT and via Zoom.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Jason Gilpin moved to approve the agenda. Bill Decker requested that the Congressman Zinke item be moved to directly after Public Comment. **Jason Gilpin moved to approve the amended agenda.** Troy Spence seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was carried.

Tom Morris	Absent
Pat Goodover	Absent
Jason Gilpin	Aye
Cheri Thompson	Aye
Troy Spence	Aye

PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS:

Cheri Thompson requested that everybody be respectful of each other’s time and to not deviate from the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mike Lindemer wanted to set the record straight, stating that the RV dump at Lindey’s was legally permitted through the Missoula County Health Department and presented the District with the permit for the RV dump. Secondly, when Mike Lindemer had been on the Sewer Board the monitoring wells had been numbered and after that they were not referred to by name. When Well #1 was referred to as the Lindey’s well, people perceived that Lindey’s had nitrates in their water. Lindey’s water comes from the Water District. Discussion followed on the various rumors circulating regarding monitoring Well#1 and the various articles that had been published.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

MINUTES:

April 18, 2024

Jason Gilpin moved to accept the minutes for the regular meeting (April 18, 2024). Troy Spence seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was carried.

Tom Morris	Absent
Pat Goodover	Absent
Jason Gilpin	Aye
Cheri Thompson	Aye
Troy Spence	Aye

NEW BUSINESS:

Congressman Zinke Grant Application

Sonny Capece, Congressman Zinke's office, noted that they were trying to help Seeley Lake get a treatment plant built and would be submitting a Community Development Fund/earmark of close to \$18 million, based on the previous project. If awarded the funds could be used for the construction of a sewer plant. Congressman Zinke would do his best to carry it through committee to get the funds awarded. Approval would take 1-8 months and then 8-10 months to release the funds to the Sewer District. The project could be fully or partially funded. Bill Decker noted that the project could be tweaked to allow for the project to be fully funded. Bill Decker then reviewed a possible timeline.

Jeanna Miller, MCCHD, asked how the Health Department could be helpful. Bill Decker and Sonny Capece noted that letters of support would be very helpful.

6:26pm Pat Goodover joined the meeting.

Devin Beal, Midwest Assistance Program, (MAP) and Bill Decker discussed the how the Sewer District might handle receiving the earmarked funds and how that might affect the District's timeline, noting that a shovel ready project would be a plus. Sonny Capece added that this project was the number one project on their list, but could not guarantee that it would pass.

Brandon Grosvenor questioned if WET would be able to have a shovel ready project that fast. Bill Decker had consulted with WET on the application for a start date of spring 2025 and completion in 2026.

Sonny Capece clarified that the release of funds would take 16 to 18 months, which would be around November 2026, give or take 6 months.

Mike Lindemer questioned that if WET was using the old PER, was there an alternative location for the treatment plant? Cheri Thompson noted that the District was looking at several possibilities.

Mike Lindemer noted that the proposal from the RV Park would not cost the District anything for the engineering and the development of that bid and questioned why the District was paying WET to do the engineering for the project. Bill Decker replied that WET would design a complete system, the plant, location and collection system. The RV Park proposal was for a mechanical plant on that location. While that was an option, it was not the only one and ultimately it would go to bid. Mike Lindemer questioned that an option that cost the District nothing was in the best interest of the community and would put them further ahead. Cheri Thompson noted that that proposal was for a design build and discussion followed on how the District should move forward. Brandon Grosvenor suggested that the Board consider forming a committee to discuss the timeline with Emerine's engineers and what they were asking for. Cheri Thompson suggested that Emerine submit a proposal in writing.

Steve Anderson, WET, noted that they had spoken with Brandon Grosvenor and Gary Chilcott and were evaluating their proposal, along with the other technologies and would then rank them. Their proposal and location might end up being the best, it was too early to say. The collection system design would be complex. Having a full design when the funding was ready would not be an issue.

Brandon Grosvenor asked if a cost matrix would be available in 8 weeks. Steve Anderson replied that ranking would be finalized shortly. Part of the process was to identify the hotspots and ensure they were hooked up to the system.

Tyler Smith asked if the Federal funds would require American iron and steel, as the domestic steel was slow to come. Sonny Capece would get an answer on that.

Bill Decker noted that WET would design a system around the hotspots. If the RV Park was not a hotspot and the most cost-effective system did not include Brandon Grosvenor's lot, where would that leave the District? The District had an engineer and was following a process to ensure that they could receive Federal money.

Mike Lindemer noted that there were two options and he was baffled that the Board would not give Brandon Grosvenor permission to move forward to give the District a bid. Discussion followed on the location options for the treatment plant.

Shannon Therriault, MCCHD, thanked Sonny Capece and Representative Zinke's office for recognizing this issue. Sonny Capece added that it was clearly a huge issue and they would do their best to help alleviate it.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Invoices

Pat Goodover moved to approve the invoices as presented. Troy Spence seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was carried.

Tom Morris	Absent
Pat Goodover	Aye

Jason Gilpin Aye
Cheri Thompson Aye
Troy Spence Aye

MANGER'S REPORT:

Bill Decker noted that all the items in his report were in the agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Action Plan for 2023-2024 - Committee Reports

Pathfinder Article & Email Newsletter

None.

Monitoring Wells & Lake Sampling

Jeanna Miller noted that these one-inch monitoring wells had been harder to sample than a typical two-inch monitoring well. It was their intention to sample monthly, but if it continues to take 3 days to sample that might be difficult. Hopefully there would more water in the wells this time, and there would be results for the next meeting.

WET Proposal Next Step

Steve Anderson noted that he had submitted the revised scope of work. He had met with Missoula County regarding the FEMA funding and there was potential to secure that funding. The best solution would be to get as much of the town as possible on the sewer system. RV parks and dumps should be included in the system. The \$18 million would be great, but a few more million would be better.

Election

Cheri Thompson questioned if the applicant for the board position owned property in the District and if he was eligible. Felicity Derry noted that he did own property within the District, it was listed under an LLC. Discussion followed on which property that was.

Brandon Grosvenor noted that he had expressed an interest in the board position, but would step back at this time. Tyler Smith noted that he had been in the water and wastewater industry for 30 years and felt that his knowledge could be invaluable. Adding that with a design build the authority would pick an engineer and contractor, which DEQ does not allow. Steve Anderson concurred, adding that the project would require DEQ approved drawings.

FY2025 Budget

Bill Decker reviewed the District's operating expenses totaling \$113,600 and offsetting the budget using the District's reserve funds. Felicity Derry noted that the Sewer District had always utilized the Water District's QuickBooks program. The Water District can no longer have two company files.

Therefore, the Sewer District could either continue to use the unsupported version or purchase the QuickBooks 2024 software at a cost of \$650. Discussion followed whether to purchase the software and how to pay for that additional cost.

Pat Goodover moved to increase the office supplies (expense) to \$1,000 in order to purchase QuickBooks. Operating expenses would total \$114,200, the District Reserve would offset in the amount of \$83,600, leaving the total assessment of \$30,600. Troy Spence seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was carried.

Tom Morris	Absent
Pat Goodover	Aye
Jason Gilpin	Aye
Cheri Thompson	Aye
Troy Spence	Aye

NEW BUSINESS:

Fee Assessment Methodology & Notice of Hearing

Felicity Derry noted that the District had used the equal assessment methodology for the past several years and that the Board needed to approve a methodology tonight, reviewing the possible timeline for the notice of hearing and when the hearing needed to be set.

Pat Goodover moved to approve the equal assessment methodology. Jason Gilpin seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was carried.

Tom Morris	Absent
Pat Goodover	Aye
Jason Gilpin	Aye
Cheri Thompson	Aye
Troy Spence	Aye

Set a Public Hearing

The Board discussed when to hold the June meeting.

Pat Goodover moved to move the meeting from June 20th to June 26th, with a hearing set for 5:30pm and the meeting set to follow around 6:00pm. Jason Gilpin seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was carried.

Tom Morris	Absent
Pat Goodover	Aye
Jason Gilpin	Aye
Cheri Thompson	Aye
Troy Spence	Aye

Bill Decker requested that the Board approve the notice of hearing. Felicity Derry added that because the budget number had changed slightly the Notice of Hearing would reflect those changes, so the numbers in the final version would be a little different from those in the draft copy.

Pat Goodover moved to approve the notice of proposed levy of special assessments for the administrative fee. Troy Spence seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was carried.

Tom Morris	Absent
Pat Goodover	Aye
Jason Gilpin	Aye
Cheri Thompson	Aye
Troy Spence	Aye

Mike Lindemer requested that the Board use the numbers for the monitoring wells and not the place names. Cheri Thompson agreed that the Board would use numbers to identify the monitoring wells. Bill Decker added that using place names and not the numbers had not been done intentionally.

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING: June 26, 2024

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

Cheri Thompson noted that the following items should be added to the June agenda: Action Plan – Committee Reports – Pathfinder Article, Monitoring Well & Lake Sampling, Public Hearing, WET Proposal, FEMA funding, DRNC Grants and Election.

ADJOURNMENT OF MONTHLY BOARD MEETING:

Cheri Thompson moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:25pm.

Attest:

Tom Morris, President

Felicity Derry, Secretary

APPENDIX A

SEELEY LAKE – MISSOULA COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT
 Regular Board Meeting
 Virtual Meeting Via Zoom
 May 15, 2024

NAME	ADDRESS/EMAIL	PHONE #
Jeanna Miller, MCCHD		
Shannon Therriault, MCCHD		
Dennis Clark		
Brandon Grosvenor, Lazy Acres		
Tom Beers		
Mike Lindemer		
Mike Williams		
Devin Beal		
Chris Lounsberry		
Tyler Smith		
Josh Vincent, WET		
Steve Anderson, WET		
Keely Larson, Pathfinder		