

SEELEY LAKE SEWER DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
May 20, 2021

Tom Morris	President	PRESENT	Cheri Thompson	Director	PRESENT**
Beth Hutchinson	Vice President	PRESENT	Jason Gilpin	Director	PRESENT
Pat Goodover	Director	PRESENT*	Felicity Derry	Secretary	PRESENT
Jean Curtiss	Manager	PRESENT			

* Joined the meeting at 6:23pm

** Appointed at this meeting

Public Attendance - Appendix A

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Tom Morris at 6:04pm. The meeting was held remotely via Zoom, due to COVID-19.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Approved as presented.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

Tom Morris noted that he had heard many comments regarding the assessment, which would be addressed a little later in the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Missoula County Commissioners (Appendix B)

Tom Morris read this letter regarding the interlocal agreement.

Jean Curtiss (Appendix C)

Jean Curtiss read this email to the County Commissioners and the Health Department, noting that Commissioner Strohmaier had replied that there would not be a major allocation of funds to Seeley Lake.

Candace Driscoll (Appendix D)

Tom Morris read this email, noting that the assessment methodology would be discussed later on in the meeting.

Jean Curtiss added that an email from the District's general counsel had just been received with notification that he had started his own firm. This correspondence would be added to the June agenda.

MINUTES:

April 15, 2021

Beth Hutchinson reviewed her amendments to the April 15, 2021 minutes. Felicity Derry noted one additional amendment.

Jason Gilpin moved to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2021 Board Meeting as amended.

Beth Hutchinson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was carried.

Tom Morris	Aye
Beth Hutchinson	Aye
Pat Goodover	Absent
Jason Gilpin	Aye
Director	Vacant

Pat Goodover joined the meeting at 6:23pm

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Invoices – April 2021

Tom Morris noted that the DEQ invoice to renew the discharge permit was for 2020, so the District owed that money. A letter would accompany the DEQ check to clarify that no further funds were owed. Tom Morris also noted that the unused LOR funds, which were being returned, were also included on the invoice sheet. Vince Chappell's trailer repair invoice was reviewed. The attorney invoice and the balance owed was discussed. The total owed for the April invoices was reviewed.

Beth Hutchinson moved to approve all of the invoices for payment as adjusted. Tom Morris seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was carried.

Tom Morris	Aye
Beth Hutchinson	Aye
Pat Goodover	Aye
Jason Gilpin	Aye
Director	Vacant

Felicity Derry reviewed the reserve spreadsheet and the funds that had been included. Discussion followed on the funds that were currently in the reserve fund and how much had been budgeted for the reserve in 2021. Budget overages and grant matching funds were discussed and it was agreed that the reserve should be included in the June agenda.

Financial Reports – March 2021

The fixed assets were reviewed and how they would be reflected in future reports was discussed. Land acquisition and other assets were reviewed. Felicity Derry reviewed the March 2021 financial reports.

Financial Reports – April 2021

Felicity Derry noted that the Missoula County report had been received late, so this would be added to the June agenda.

Jean Curtiss noted that the Board had previously approved payment of the final Great West Engineering invoices and the Dorsey & Whitney invoice. These invoices would be fully paid by RRGL and WRDA funds. The Board agreed that Tom Morris should sign these checks and they would be held until the money had been received from the funding agencies.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jean Curtiss had continued to work to close out the project.

Jean Curtiss then reviewed the timeline for the assessment if the public hearing were scheduled for June.

INTERVIEW FOR DIRECTOR:

Cheryl Thompson

Tom Morris noted that the Board approved questions had been forwarded to Cheri Thompson prior to the meeting. Tom Morris then asked Cheri Thompson each of the questions.

Cheri Thompson answered the questions noting that she wanted to understand the science and in turn educate the public in a noncontroversial way to find a wastewater solution to the nitrate problem, allowing for workforce housing without creating a huge burden to the community. Cheri Thompson felt that the Board should listen to their constituents and hear what they had to say. The public had voted against the proposed system and there was now an opportunity to move forward and explore new technologies to solve the nitrate issue. Cheri Thompson felt comfortable committing an average of 10 to 15 hours per week, whilst in a project. Cheri Thompson felt that the previous Sewer Boards had good intentions, but had not listened to District members, nor reevaluated the chosen system. This was a time to regroup, study the data and involve the community. The Board had a huge responsibility to represent the constituents and share the education. Cheri Thompson considered herself a team member and that she would be able to listen and find a workable center, creating a positive environment.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Appointing a Director/Appointment Committee Report

Pat Goodover noted that the committee had compiled the interview questions, but had nothing further to add, other than the appointee should be seated immediately.

Beth Hutchinson moved that we appoint Cheri Thompson to fulfill the empty seat and that she will run through next May, or to next May, depending on what our debate on is then. Discussion followed on the term being until the next election cycle and to seat the director immediately. **Beth Hutchinson restated her motion that we appoint Cheri Thompson to fulfill the empty director's seat until the next election cycle and that we seat her immediately and take care of the swearing in, in the immediate future.** Tom Morris seconded the motion. Beth Hutchinson felt that the District and the Board were very fortunate that Cheri Thompson had applied for the office. The Board clarified that Cheri Thompson owned properties throughout the District. Colleen Krause commented that Cheri Thompson would do a fabulous job and was a great addition to the Board. The motion was carried.

Tom Morris	Aye
Beth Hutchinson	Aye
Pat Goodover	Aye
Jason Gilpin	Aye
Director	Vacant

Assessment Methodology

Tom Morris moved to choose option one. Beth Hutchinson seconded the motion. Tom Morris noted that he had played with the numbers for the third option on the assessment spreadsheet, but felt that there was no way to make that option, or the second option equitable. There were several properties that would be assessed huge amounts, if option three was utilized.

Cheri Thompson agreed that each property would gain an equal benefit from the assessment and agreed that option one was the fairest. Tom Morris added that even for those who owned multiple lots the assessment would not be as unfair as option three. Pat Goodover agreed that there was no perfect answer. There was no public comment. The motion was carried.

Tom Morris	Aye
Beth Hutchinson	Aye
Pat Goodover	Aye
Jason Gilpin	Aye
Cheri Thompson	Aye

Jean Curtiss reviewed the proposed timeline for the assessment public hearing. Holding the public hearing before the Board meeting and whether to hold an in-person meeting were discussed. Tom Morris emphasized that the protests needed to be in writing. Whether to hold the public hearing in June or July was discussed. The procedure for the fee assessment and the public hearing was reviewed. Discussion continued on whether to hold the public hearing in person and/or via Zoom at the Barn. The length of the protest period and when to schedule the public hearing was discussed. The procedure for the fee assessment was reviewed again and when to schedule the public hearing to maximize public attendance was discussed further.

Pat Goodover moved that the next meeting be held on Monday, June 28' at 6:00pm. The Board discussed the times for the hearing and the meeting. **Pat Goodover restated the motion, that the next Board meeting be Monday June 28, and to have the hearing meeting at that time to address the protests.** Tom Morris seconded the motion and confirmed that the meeting would begin at 6:00pm. There was no further discussion. The motion was carried.

Tom Morris	Aye
Beth Hutchinson	Aye
Pat Goodover	Aye
Jason Gilpin	Aye
Cheryl Thompson	Nay

Legal Update

Tom Morris noted that the District's general counsel had started his own firm and this item would be put on the June agenda.

The lawsuit was over. The insurance company would absorb the legal fees and the District would have to pay the insurance deductible.

Insurance Premium

Jean Curtiss noted that the premium for the Directors & Officers insurance would be \$1,371 and \$600 for the general liability. **Tom Morris moved to put the invoices on the bills for next month.** Pat Goodover seconded the motion. Beth Hutchinson reviewed the District's insurance coverage for Cheri Thompson. How the premium effected the budget was discussed. The motion was carried.

Tom Morris	Aye
Beth Hutchinson	Aye
Pat Goodover	Aye
Jason Gilpin	Aye
Cheryl Thompson	Aye

Proposed Action Plan for 2021-2022

Beth Hutchinson reviewed the proposed plan. The Board discussed delaying this item for a month to allow the plan to be reviewed. **Jason Gilpin moved to defer this item to next month so Cheri Thompson, our new Board member, has a chance to review it and be a part of the discussion.** Tom Morris seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was carried.

Tom Morris	Aye
Beth Hutchinson	Aye
Pat Goodover	Aye
Jason Gilpin	Aye
Cheryl Thompson	Aye

Interim General Manager

Tom Morris noted that the current manager would be retiring in June and that the District was legally required to have a manger. The Board discussed requesting Felicity Derry to be the interim general manager for a couple of months, to allow time for the Board to finalize a job description, to advertise and then hire a general manager.

Beth Hutchinson moved that the Board ask Felicity, who is currently our clerk, to fill in for July and August, while we work on the process of defining what we need in the way of a general manager and go through the proper process of hiring one. Cheri Thompson seconded the motion. The Board discussed compensation for Felicity Derry, while acting as general manager. **Beth Hutchinson amended her motion to say to be paid at the rate of \$25 an hour for assigned tasks.** Pat Goodover seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was carried.

Tom Morris	Nay
Beth Hutchinson	Aye
Pat Goodover	Aye
Jason Gilpin	Aye
Cheryl Thompson	Aye

Felicity Derry agreed to be the manager for July and August, noting that the work load should be light during that time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Collaboration with CRC

Caryn Miske thanked the Sewer District for the years of support for the students in the action program and paying for the nutrient samples. Caryn Miske then outlined the robust changes to the adopt a lake program and the tests that would be performed, some of which addressed septic leach issues.

Caryn Miske was hoping to put together a project for the Clearwater Valley, relating to water quality issues and offered to have a meeting with any Board members to discuss submitting a proposal to the Bureau of Mines and Geology.

Discussion followed with Caryn Miske regarding testing and nutrients. What kind of project could be submitted to the Bureau of Mines & Geology and meeting with directors were discussed.

Schedule Public Hearing

Previously covered.

Health Department Plans for Special Management Area & Additional Monitoring

Jim Erven noted that the Health Department was reviewing data collection and how to assist the Sewer Board and the community to fix the groundwater problem. Currently there were no plans to change the regulations and the special management area would remain in effect.

Discussion followed on Seeley’s permitted RV dump station, concerns that it was a source of contamination and the community’s need for an RV dump station. Jim Erven noted that the Health Department currently had no plans to take regulatory action against the dump station.

Caryn Miske and Jim Erven discussed submitting a common proposal.

Nathan Bourne asked if the Health Department would come to Seeley and have discussions that involved the public. Jim Erven appreciated public input, but currently the discussions were internal and their capacity was limited.

Whether to move into the Executive Session was discussed.

Tom Morris moved to enter into Executive Session for the purpose only to approve the minutes of the previous executive sessions. Jason Gilpin seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was carried.

Tom Morris	Aye
Beth Hutchinson	Aye
Pat Goodover	Aye
Jason Gilpin	Aye
Cheryl Thompson	Aye

All of the Regular Board Meeting attendees who did not attend the Executive Session were placed in the Zoom meeting waiting room while the Executive Session took place. The public was informed that there would be nothing further of substance in the regular meeting when it resumed.

Cheri Thompson left the meeting at this time, as she was not a Board member during the Executive Sessions that the minutes reflected.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Board entered into the Executive Session at 9:05pm. The Executive Session concluded and the Regular Board Meeting resumed at 9:11pm.

There were no members of the public remaining in the Zoom waiting room at the conclusion of the Executive Session.

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING: June 28, 2021

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

Tom Morris noted that the following items should be added to the June agenda: The Reserve under financials, general counsel email, interim general manager and the action plan.

ADJOURNMENT OF MONTHLY BOARD MEETING:

Tom Morris moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:16pm.

Attest:

Tom Morris, President

Felicity Derry, Secretary