

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

Tom Morris	President	PRESENT	Troy Spence	Director	ABSENT
Pat Goodover	Vice President	PRESENT	Tyler Smith	Director	ABSENT
Cheri Thompson	Director	PRESENT	Felicity Derry	Secretary	PRESENT
Bill Decker	Manager	PRESENT			

Public Attendance – Appendix A

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm. The meeting was held at the Barn, 2920 Highway 83, Seeley Lake, MT and via Zoom.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Tom Morris moved to move the County Commissioners to after the Manager’s Report.** Cheri Thompson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was carried.

Tom Morris	Aye
Pat Goodover	Aye
Cheri Thompson	Aye
Troy Spence	Absent
Tyler Smith	Absent

**PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS:**

Tom Morris requested that everybody be respectful of each other’s time and opinions, and to try to keep moving through the agenda.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

None.

**MINUTES:**

July 18, 2024

**Cheri Thompson moved to accept the minutes (July 18, 2024).** Pat Goodover seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was carried.

Tom Morris	Aye
Pat Goodover	Aye
Cheri Thompson	Aye
Troy Spence	Absent
Tyler Smith	Absent

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

### **Invoices**

Tom Morris reviewed the invoices.

**Tom Morris moved to pay the bills.** Cheri Thompson & Pat Goodover seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was carried.

Tom Morris	Aye
Pat Goodover	Aye
Cheri Thompson	Aye
Troy Spence	Absent
Tyler Smith	Absent

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

### **June 2024**

Tom Morris noted that Missoula County had not closed out June, so there was no report this month.

## **MANGER'S REPORT:**

Bill Decker noted that he had made inquiries to DEQ about the District's old discharge permit and listed the advantages to using the previously proposed site, as opposed to a new site, that would begin from ground zero.

### **Missoula County Commissioners**

The County Commissioners offered their support to the District, in whichever direction was chosen and to help the Board achieve their goal.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### **Action Plan for 2023-2024 - Committee Reports**

#### **Pathfinder Article & Email Newsletter**

Cheri Thompson noted that the Pathfinder required letters to the editor to be 500 words or less, so the letter that had been approved at the previous meeting was run as an article.

Cheri Thompson had been working on the email system. Several entities in town had systems up and running, which could be utilized to share information. Discussion followed on how to collect email addresses and disseminate information.

### WET/Project Update

Steve Anderson noted that the original scope of work had been completed. The site selection would be next. There was discussion regarding possible sites, the number of lift stations needed and the opposition that had arisen to the previous site. Discussion followed regarding the design of the system. Steve Anderson questioned WET's involvement, if the old location was chosen as typically engineers did not build other engineers' designs.

Cheri Thompson commented that with the mill closing there might be a possibility of using that location. Steve Anderson noted that placing the plant at either the north or south end of the district would utilize as much gravity as possible and limit the number of lift stations that would be required. Steve Anderson reviewed the possible locations on the map, how many acres would be needed and the possibility of using US Forest Service land. Discussion with Gary Chilcott followed as to whether a 5-7 acre drain field would work on the RV property. The possibility of using the Pyramid Mountain Lumber property and how much it might cost to buy a property was discussed.

Steve Anderson noted that he had been working with Missoula County and other state agencies regarding securing funding. As 90% of the PER was still applicable, it made sense to complete an addendum to the PER.

Tom Beers commented that if a site was cheaper, but would need more lift stations, that cost factor needed to part of the site evaluation, as well as the maintenance cost. Steve Anderson noted that it was hard to put a cost on some things. Consideration would be given to the length that would have to be pumped and the booster pumps. The County Commissioners encouraged the District to facilitate as much public comment as possible, which would take longer, but could avoid the project being derailed down the road.

Steve Anderson noted that there would be a matrix for the site selection. It would be important to have community involvement, so the matrix would be weighted to reflect what is important to the community and met their needs. There was discussion with the County Commissioners as to whether a land swap with Missoula County would be possible.

There was discussion regarding grant funding. Tom Morris read a draft letter to the Department of Commerce.

There was discussion regarding the timeline for the site selection. Steve Anderson felt that it would be narrowed down to three sites by the next meeting.

Tom Morris questioned the Board if there were any modifications to the letter other than correcting the entity and president's name. There were none.

**Tom Morris moved to modify the letter and send it to Steve Anderson.** Cheri Thompson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was carried.

Tom Morris	Aye
Pat Goodover	Aye
Cheri Thompson	Aye
Troy Spence	Absent
Tyler Smith	Absent

### Monitoring Well Sampling

Jeanna Miller noted that monthly sampling was not feasible, and the testing would be performed quarterly. There was discussion whether the wells had been surveyed yet.

### Grants & Funding

Covered previously.

### Congressman Zinke's Office Update

Bill Decker noted that the earmark had been voted through the committees and was going to congress to vote on.

### Build a Network to Share Information

Previously covered.

### Spending Policy & Debit Card

Tom read the updated policy.

**Tom Morris moved to approve the policy.** Cheri Thompson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was carried.

Tom Morris	Aye
Pat Goodover	Aye
Cheri Thompson	Aye
Troy Spence	Absent
Tyler Smith	Absent

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### Communications

Cheri Thompson noted that once the email system had been set up, bullet points would be agreed upon at the meeting and then sent out.

**NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING: September 19, 2024**

**AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:**

Tom Morris noted that the following items should be added to the September agenda: Action Plan – Committee Reports – Pathfinder Article, Monitoring Well Sampling, WET Update, Grants & Funding.

**ADJOURNMENT OF MONTHLY BOARD MEETING:**

**Tom Morris moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:18pm.**

Attest:

---

Tom Morris, President

---

Felicity Derry, Secretary

