

**SEELEY LAKE SEWER DISTRICT**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
August 19, 2021

Tom Morris	President	PRESENT	Jason Gilpin	Director	PRESENT
Pat Goodover	Vice President	PRESENT*	Cheri Thompson	Director	PRESENT
	Director	VACANT	Felicity Derry	Secretary	PRESENT
	Manager	VACANT	Kim Myre	Missoula Co	PRESENT

\*Joined the meeting at 6:30pm  
Public Attendance - Appendix A

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Tom Morris at 6:14pm. The meeting was held remotely via Zoom.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

The Board reviewed how the action plan items were placed on the agenda.

**PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:**

Tom Morris requested that everybody be as respectful as possible with their time and comments and try to keep moving forward in a positive direction.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Colleen Krause commented that the Clearwater dumpsite is managed by Ryan Sokoloski, FWP, and suggested that a board member might want to contact him.

Jim Erven added that Ryan Sokoloski had informed him that the system had been closed for budgetary reasons and there was no plan to reopen it.

Discussion followed on raising that subject at the Community Council meeting to expand public awareness of the issue, and the Board agreed that Cheri Thompson should request that it be added to their agenda.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Don Larson (Appendix B)

Tom Morris read this email.

Vince Chappell commented that, as they had done previously, the Water District board would not entertain combining with the Sewer District board until the Sewer District had a functioning sewer

system. The Water District could not take on the cost or liability for the Sewer District and charge that cost to the Water District customers. Tom Morris added that the district boundaries were different and currently combining the districts did not make much sense.

## **MINUTES:**

### July 15, 2021 Regular Meeting

**Cheri Thompson moved to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2021 Board Meeting.** Tom Morris seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was carried.

Tom Morris	Aye
Pat Goodover	Absent
Jason Gilpin	Aye
Cheri Thompson	Aye
Director	Vacant

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

### Invoices – July 2021

Tom Morris noted that the Board would be reviewing the Flathead Bio Lab invoices, which had been postponed from the previous month.

Caryn Miske outlined how the testing benefitted the high school students, adding that it also provided useful data about Morrell Creek. Discussion followed on when the work and testing had been performed. The Board noted that there was a contract in place with the high school to do the testing.

Pat Goodover joined the meeting at 6:30pm after experiencing technical difficulties.

**Tom Morris moved to approve all of the invoices for payment, including the Bio Lab invoices.** Pat Goodover seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was carried.

Tom Morris	Aye
Pat Goodover	Aye
Jason Gilpin	Aye
Cheri Thompson	Aye
Director	Vacant

## **MANGERS REPORT:**

Currently there is no manager to present a report.

## **WELL & LAKE TESTING REPORT:**

Vince Chappell reviewed the testing from June 2021. Well#1 had a lower nitrate level than at the same time last year, while the chloride level was similar to last year. The coliform samples were not

received by the lab on time, so those tests had no results. The nitrate and chloride levels for well #3 were about the same as this time last year. The nitrate and chloride levels in the bay corresponded to the levels last year; however, the coliform level was elevated. The samples at the Riverview bridge were also tracking along with last year. The coliform level for this sample was also elevated. The Lions Club Pond results were about the same as last year, other than for coliform, which had been considerably higher last year.

Chappell felt that the groundwater flow was about the same as last year, so was not surprised that the test results were similar.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### Proposed Action Plan for 2021-2022

Cheri Thompson had incorporated the edits from the previous meeting, as well as adding a spreadsheet to track progress.

**Tom Morris moved to adopt the working action plan and continue to try to update it and keep the public informed.** Pat Goodover seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was carried.

Tom Morris	Aye
Pat Goodover	Aye
Jason Gilpin	Aye
Cheri Thompson	Aye
Director	Vacant

Cheri Thompson noted that the District could have a monthly article in the Pathfinder at no charge and therefore had written an overview of the action plan for the Board to review. The Board reviewed the document and made some typographic changes. Cheri Thompson had also created a draft brochure version of the action plan.

Tom Morris liked the article and felt it would be a good tool to keep the public informed. The Board discussed having the Board approve a monthly article prior to being published, as it represented the entire board.

**Tom Morris moved that we find a window to publish this article, as amended, and come up with another one for the next month.** Pat Goodover seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was carried.

Tom Morris	Aye
Pat Goodover	Aye
Jason Gilpin	Aye
Cheri Thompson	Aye
Director	Vacant

The Board discussed adding contact information to the brochure.

Kim Myre suggested that the bulletin needed to clarify that it was from the Sewer District and who the District members were. Discussion followed on contact information and referencing the website on the brochure by adding a link.

The Board agreed to table the brochure and review it further at the next meeting.

Pat Goodover noted that information on a sewer system had been circulated to the Board. Pat Goodover then gave an overview of the system, noting that if it were approved by the various State agencies, it could be an affordable option.

Nathan Bourne commented that Septic Net was the only approved cluster system that treated down to a level, which was easier to permit and suggested that the system operator in Butte could be a valuable resource. The cluster system and the level of treatment were reviewed further.

Jim Erven commented that there were lots of options out there and it would take a consulting firm to figure out how feasible it was.

The Board agreed that they were interested in cluster systems and discussed approaching companies to present at the next meeting. Also, that once a direction had been identified an engineering company would need to be hired.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### Advertise for Interim District Manager

The Board discussed where to advertise the position. The Board agreed that initially the advertisement should be placed in the Pathfinder.

**Tom Morris moved to advertise for an interim manager in the Pathfinder and reference the website for the job description. Cheri Thompson moved to advertise in the Pathfinder and rather than printing the whole qualification, send them to the website for the application.** Tom Morris seconded the motion. Nathan Bourne questioned which kind of ad the District wanted. Cheri Thompson withdrew her motion. The Board discussed the ad and combining the board and manager vacancies into one ad.

**Cheri Thompson moved that the Seeley Lake Sewer District should run two weeks of a display ad soliciting applicants for both the interim manager and a board member. Then four weeks of a classified for the same positions, and two ads on the slideshow of the Sewer District, looking for candidates.** Tom Morris seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was carried.

Tom Morris	Aye
Pat Goodover	Aye
Jason Gilpin	Aye
Cheri Thompson	Aye
Director	Vacant

### Advertise for Board Vacancy

Covered in the previous agenda item.

### Mission Update

The Board discussed Cheri Thompson giving a brief update of what the Sewer District is doing at the Community Council meeting. There were no objections from the Board.

### Income Survey

Pat Goodover noted that Beth Hutchinson would contact him when she was free to move forward with the income survey.

### New Agreement with Seeley Swan High School

Tom Morris noted that the memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed in 2015 and had not been terminated. Discussion followed on the high school science teacher coming to talk to the Board. The Board discussed what tests would be performed and the cost. Caryn Miske noted that the results were on the CRC website and were available to the District. The Board continued discussing their desire for the high school teacher to talk to the Board. The discussion then turned to why the District was funding the testing and not CRC.

Tom Morris reviewed the terms of the MOU from 2015, noting that it was hard to stay within the District's budget when the communications and invoicing for this item had been so erratic.

**Cheri Thompson moved to table this item until the next meeting.** Tom Morris seconded the motion. Discussion followed on the possibility of CRC funding the testing and the need for more information. The motion was carried.

Tom Morris	Aye
Pat Goodover	Aye
Jason Gilpin	Aye
Cheri Thompson	Aye
Director	Vacant

### Nutrient Budget Analysis

Caryn Miske explained what a nutrient budget was and that it would cost approximately \$100,000, noting that there were less expensive options, which she could put together for the Board to consider. Caryn Miske described a nutrient budget analysis in more detail.

Discussion followed on what the benefit and the end purpose of a nutrient budget would be and what kind of testing would be beneficial in assisting the District to identify which sewer system best addressed the nutrient issues in the community. The discussion turned to the well and lake testing and how groundwater affected surface water and the need for more information from testing.

The septic permit requirements for new development in the Seeley Lake community, including the Alpine Trails subdivision, and elevated nitrate levels were reviewed by Jim Erven.

Cheri Thompson requested that this item remain on the agenda.

**NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING: September 16, 2021**

**AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:**

Tom Morris noted that the following items should be added to the September agenda: A presentation on cluster systems, discuss a new agreement with the SSHS, the nutrient budget analysis and an amended budget.

Kim Myre noted that she was working without a supervisor from the District and felt that communication had been difficult, requesting some direction as to her role with the District and whether the Board wished to continue with the interlocal agreement. There was lengthy discussion with the Board regarding Kim Myre's concerns. Tom Morris requested that Kim Myre be included in emails that are sent to the Board to improve communication and that the interlocal agreement be added to the next agenda.

Kim Myre added that the 2022 tax roll had been submitted to DOR today.

**ADJOURNMENT OF MONTHLY BOARD MEETING:**

**Tom Morris moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm.**

Attest:

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Tom Morris, President

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Felicity Derry, Secretary