

**SEELEY LAKE SEWER DISTRICT**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**October 21, 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 6:03pm  
Public Attendance - Appendix A

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Tom Morris at 6:02pm. The meeting was held remotely via Zoom. Tom Morris requested that every who had joined the meeting to state their names for the record.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Pat Goodover requested that the sewer system presentations be moved prior to Unfinished Business. The Board agreed unanimously to the amendment of the agenda.

**PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:**

Tom Morris requested that people who wished to speak should first give their name and wait to be recognized prior to speaking.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Jim Erven, MCCHD, noted that he had taken a job at DEQ and tomorrow was his last day with the Health Department.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Carwash (Appendix B)

Tom Morris noted that this correspondence had been passed on to illustrate the hurdles that had to be overcome by people who were trying to sell or develop a property. Tom Morris read the email.

**MINUTES:**

September 16, 2021 Regular Meeting

Tom Morris noted that he had received some correspondence voicing concern that at times this meeting was almost incomprehensible and requested that it be noted on the minutes. The challenging internet connection was discussed.

**Tom Morris moved to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2021 Board Meeting as amended.** Jason Gilpin 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

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

### **Invoices – September 2021**

Tom Morris reviewed the invoices. The photocopies listed in the invoices were discussed.

**Tom Morris moved to approve all of the invoices for payment.** Cheri Thompson 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

### **August 2021 Financial Reports**

Felicity Derry reviewed the August 2021 financial reports. The fixed assets listed in the financial reports were discussed.

## **MANGERS REPORT:**

Currently there is no manager to present a report.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### **Sewer System Presentations**

#### **Aqua Tech Systems**

Tom Bartlett, Aqua Tech Systems, then shared his screen and gave a presentation showing the community and decentralized sewer systems available from Aqua Tech Systems and their capabilities. Tom Bartlett then reviewed some of the systems they had installed throughout the US and Canada and the footprint for different sized systems. No systems had been installed in Montana to date. Maintenance and operation of the system and the different methods of discharging the effluent were reviewed.

Jim Erven reviewed the steps required for a system to be approved by DEQ.

Tom Bartlett estimated the cost of the equipment for an 80,000 gallon a day system was approximately \$580,000, which did not include engineering, installation and some freight. How the system could be used in conjunction with existing septic tanks was reviewed. Tom Bartlett estimated the cost of the equipment for a single home would be approximately \$8,500.

### SepticNET

Steve Anderson, SepticNET, shared his screen and reviewed the technology utilized in the SepticNET systems and how they worked. The SepticNET systems had been approved by DEQ in 2011 and approximately 100 systems had been installed in Montana. SepticNET tended to install smaller units and to date had not implemented an 80,000 gallon a day system; however, the systems were scalable and modular. Their systems were more expensive because they treated to a lower level. Some different system installations around the state were reviewed.

Steve Anderson reviewed the nitrogen cycle. Utilizing the mill for a carbon source was discussed.

Steve Anderson estimated that the cost for an individual system was \$25,000. Using the effluent for irrigation was discussed. The operation and maintenance for a small system was reviewed.

After discussion the Board invited both companies to submit proposals.

### Action Plan for 2021-2022

#### Committee Reports

Tom Morris noted that he had been in contact with Shane Stack, Missoula County Public Works, regarding the interlocal agreement and Missoula County was interested in developing a new agreement.

Cheri Thompson read the proposed Pathfinder sewer lowdown bulletin for the Board to review. Tom Morris and Cheri Thompson discussed the information included in the proposed article.

**Tom Morris moved to allow it (the sewer lowdown bulletin) to be published.** Jason Gilpin seconded the motion. Jim Erven requested including information on how often to pump a septic tank. Discussion followed on including a pumping schedule in the next article, which would be about septic maintenance. There was no further discussion. The motion was carried.

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

Cheri Thompson suggested that the email addresses be hot linked.

### Amend 2022 Budget

Tom Morris noted that the most recent SHSS testing expense came out of the 2021 budget. Some of the already collected testing for samples would be in the 2022 budget, which had no line item. The budget would need to be amended if the Board wished to consider the nutrient budget and continued the high school testing.

Caryn Miske reviewed the two testing programs and explained the transportation costs listed. E. coli and eDNA testing and nutrient loading were discussed. Whether E. coli testing was an indicator of septic influence was discussed. Jim Erven agreed that E. coli testing was helpful and reviewed the schedule for the Bureau of Mines grant application.

Tom Morris noted that if the Board wanted to pursue this testing, the budget would have to be amended. Tabling this item was discussed to allow CRC to provide more information. Discussion followed on addressing the nitrate issue, first before tackling E. coli.

**Cheri Thompson moved to table the budget amendments (for the potential SSSS and CRC testing) until next month.** Jason Gilpin seconded the motion. Cheri Thompson requested a presentation illustrating how the CRC & SSSS testing would benefit the District.

Gretchen Watkins advocated again for the high school students. The students were currently participating in a FEMA project and Gretchen Watkins requested that community members come and speak to the high school students. Cheri Thompson requested a quarterly student presentation, if the Board chose to award this funding. The motion was carried.

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

Gretchen Watkins added that it was hard to have this item tabled again and was unsure if she would be able to attend the next meeting. The ten years and data, as well as testing upstream were discussed. The shipping costs were revisited.

### Mission Update

There was no discussion on this item.

### Income Survey

Pat Goodover noted that he had heard nothing from Beth to date.

### Interlocal Agreement

Covered in Committee Reports.

### Lawsuit Fees Discussion

Tom Morris noted that at the last meeting he had recused himself. After the meeting it was discovered that Cheri was a plaintiff on the lawsuit and he wanted to bring this to the Board's attention. Pat Goodover and Jason Gilpin were comfortable to leave the action for this item as it stood.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### Applications for Board/Manager Positions

Tom Morris noted that there had been two applicants for the Board/Manager positions. Both looked over qualified for the interim manager and neither lived within the District boundary, so they could not be a director. Discussion followed on the questions for the applicants, how the Board could approve them, if the questions should be sent to the attorney and when the applicants should be interviewed. The Board discussed the legal aspects of the applicant questions further.

**Cheri Thompson moved that the Board members submit no more than five questions to be considered and evaluated for the interview process of the new Interim Manager for the November meeting. To be submitted by November 10<sup>th</sup> for circulation in the board packet.**

Tom Morris seconded the motion. There was discussion as to how the questions would be asked. The motion was carried.

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

#### Citizens Alliance Account

Felicity Derry noted that since the grant funds had been repaid to LOR the balance of this account had dropped below the \$25,000 minimum and the District was now being charged a monthly service fee.

**Tom Morris moved that \$28,000 of reserve funds be moved from the Missoula County bank account to the Citizens Alliance Bank account and keep it in reserve, that can only be touched at such time as the Board votes on it.** Jason Gilpin 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

STAG Closeout Form

Tom Morris noted that a closeout form was required by STAG and requested the Board’s approval to sign the document.

**Cheri Thompson moved that Tom Morris sign this form.** Jason Gilpin 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

**NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING: November 18, 2021**

**AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:**

Tom Morris noted that the following items should be added to the November agenda: Action Plan – Committee Reports, Amend the 2022 Budget, Nutrient Analysis & New Agreement with SSHS, Mission Update, Interlocal Agreement (under the Action Plan), Approve the Interview Questions and Manager Interviews.

Pat Goodover requested that an Orenco presentation be added to the November agenda.

Jim Erven added that he had received a report of a harmful algae bloom on Seeley Lake. Caryn Miske added that it did look like blue green algae and CRC had taken samples. The Board requested that the photos be sent to them.

**ADJOURNMENT OF MONTHLY BOARD MEETING:**

**Cheri Thompson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:56pm.** Jason Gilpin seconded the motion.

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Morris, President

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Felicity Derry, Secretary