

**SEELEY LAKE SEWER DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
November 18, 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

Public Attendance - Appendix A

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm and was held remotely via Zoom. Tom Morris requested that every who had joined the meeting identify themselves for the record.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Pat Goodover requested that the Orenco presentation be moved prior to Unfinished Business. The Board agreed to the amendment of the agenda.

**Tom Morris moved to approve the agenda as amended.** 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

**PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS:**

Tom Morris requested that everybody be respectful of everybody’s time and one another.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

TSEP Project Closeout (Appendix B)

Tom Morris noted that TSEP had accepted the closeout of the grant.

Don Larson (Appendix C)

Tom Morris noted that Don Larson had received the District’s letter and continued to argue that he should be reimbursed.

**MINUTES:**

October 21, 2021 Regular Meeting

The Board had no amendments to the October 21, 2021 minutes.

**Jason Gilpin moved to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2021 Board Meeting.** Cheri Thompson 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

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

Invoices – October 2021

Tom Morris reviewed the October invoices.

**Cheri Thompson moved to approve the invoices and pay them.** Tom Morris 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

September 2021 Financial Reports

The Board had no questions regarding the September financial reports.

Felicity Derry noted that the annual financial reports needed to be submitted to the state and the required form should be signed by the President. The Board reviewed the document.

**Jason Gilpin moved that Tom (Morris) sign the document.** Cheri Thompson 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

**MANGERS REPORT:**

Currently there is no manager to present a report.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### Sewer System Presentations - Orenco

Mike Saunders and John Honeywell from Orenco introduced themselves. Mike Saunders gave some background on the company and noted that their systems had been approved for use in Montana. Mike Saunders shared his screen and gave a presentation with an overview of some of the Orenco liquid only products and how they could be utilized as an affordable option for the Seeley Lake community.

Mike Saunders reviewed the systems for individual homes, noting that their products had the flexibility for hybrid systems, as well as scaling systems to meet the community's specific needs.

Mike Saunders noted that cold temperatures did slow down treatment in the systems and what measures had been taken to control system temperatures in colder climates. How the Orenco systems could meet some lower levels of nitrogen was reviewed. Discussion followed on using an Orenco step collection system in conjunction with a different treatment system.

Mike Saunders estimated that a baseline system, which treated 7,500 gallons would cost approximately \$80-100,000. However, if other technologies were added for denitrification the cost would escalate quickly.

The Board discussed how to get questions to Orenco and agreed that Pat Goodover would be the go between for the Board's questions.

Tom with Glacier Precast added that he had been involved with projects in Florence and Bonner, and was available to answer questions.

### Action Plan for 2021-2022

#### Committee Reports

Pat Goodover noted that he had not heard back from Beth Hutchinson and concluded that she was not interested in pursuing an income survey.

The Board discussed what the next step should be after the sewer presentations and agreed that at the December meeting the Board would finalize the questions, which would then be sent to all three of the companies that had presented to the District.

Tom Morris noted that the interlocal agreement was on the agenda for the County Commissioners and would then be drafted by their attorney.

Cheri Thompson noted that the brochure and the next article for the Pathfinder had been circulated. The Board discussed removing the name brand from the article.

**Jason Gilpin moved to accept the lowdown bulletin and the article.** 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

### Nutrient Budget Analysis

The Board discussed the two different proposals from CRC and that if either option were approved the 2022 budget would need to be amended. The 2022 budget was reviewed and where the funds for the testing might come from.

The timeline for the CRC/Missoula County project that had been submitted to the Bureau of Mines was reviewed. The Board discussed the proposed testing locations and the possibility of additional locations. Discussion followed on reallocating the test well funds to pay for the testing or using the unspent manager funds to date.

**Pat Goodover moved to authorize spending \$5,515 for the eDNA testing and take the unspent money from the manager.** Caryn Miske noted that the testing could show infiltration between the groundwater and surface water, as well as a direct connection between septic systems and surface water. Cheri Thompson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was carried.

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

### New Agreement with Seeley Swan High School

Tom Morris noted that the current MOU would continue unless one party decided to terminate the agreement.

**Pat Goodover moved to continue with the agreement.** Cheri Thompson seconded the motion. Cheri Thompson requested that all of the testing needed to be consolidated. The motion failed.

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

### Amend 2022 Budget

Tom Morris noted that there had already been much discussion on this item.

**Cheri Thompson moved to move the unspent money from the manager to pay for the nutrient budget analysis.** 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

### Mission Update

There was no new information for this item.

### Income Survey

Previously covered in the Action Plan Committee Reports.

### Approve Manager Interview Questions

The Board reviewed and discussed the questions that had been circulated. The Board agreed to remove the second and third questions.

**Tom Morris moved to approve the eight questions.** 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

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### Manager Interviews

The Board discussed how to interview the candidates and agreed to interview one candidate at a time. David Losee stayed in the meeting, while Bill Decker was placed in the Zoom waiting room.

The Board asked David Losee the approved questions, which he answered as follows:

David Losee had been involved intermittently with the Woods Bay project and wanted to help Seeley Lake. He had 45 years of experience in the military and corporate environment. David Losee felt that the eminent domain law could get drawn out. So, in the past he had worked to understand what the objections and needs of the holdout property owner were and by getting to know him, he was able to successfully negotiate an easement across his property. David Losee was uncertain if he

would be investing within the District at this time. His managerial style was to be flexible and to understand issues and concerns. He set clear objectives and expectations and then was hands off and monitored progress. His hobbies were hiking, fishing, hunting, woodworking and grandkids. David Losee felt that his experience on a large number of projects was his biggest strength and his weakness was not wanting to give up. David Losee had been involved with many different kinds of wastewater systems and listed some examples.

Bill Decker returned to the meeting, while David Losee was placed in the Zoom waiting room.

The Board asked Bill Decker the approved questions, which he answered as follows:

Bill Decker lived in Seeley Lake and had attended a meeting to learn more and although it did not affect him, as he was out of the District, he understood the issues and wanted to get involved. Bill Decker had been involved with easements and encroachments personally and felt that you could not just force somebody to give up their property for the good of the system. He did not anticipate buying property within the District anytime soon, but he could not rule it out. Bill Decker had operated a water and wastewater system with several people and his managerial style was that he expected people to take responsibility, show up and do their job. His hobbies were an old Jeep, going up in the mountains with his dog, boating and a riding his motorcycle. It was his dream to retire here. His strengths were his commitment to his job and being able to listen and learn from those who knew more than he did. He was a team builder and liked to work with people and come to an agreement as to how things would get done. His weakness was that he cared too much, but thought that he would have no weaknesses regarding the responsibilities of this job. Bill Decker had been involved in two projects. One was to annex an area of high-density septic systems into the City of Great Falls for water and wastewater. He then outlined the projects. He had also owned a trailer park that started out as a public water system and eventually hooked up to the City of Great Falls. The job of an operator and manager was to comply with the regulations.

David Losee returned to the meeting.

The Board discussed how to move forward and the possibility of having a closed session to discuss hiring a manager.

**Cheri Thompson moved to hold a personnel meeting ahead of the meeting next month at 5:30pm to discuss hiring an Interim Manager.** Discussion followed as to when the Board would take action on that discussion. Pat Goodover seconded the motion. The discussion continued on when to hold the Executive Session and holding the vote during the open public meeting. **Cheri Thompson moved to delete her old motion and then moved that prior to the meeting next month to hold an Executive Session at 5:30pm to discuss hiring an Interim Manager. No voting, just a discussion.** The Board discussed when to hold the Executive Session in relation to the Regular Meeting. **Cheri Thompson amended her motion to hold the Executive Session at the beginning of the December meeting.** Pat Goodover agreed to second the motion, as long the Executive Session came right after the approval of the agenda and not at the very beginning of the meeting. Tom Morris restated Cheri Thompson's motion, **that there will be an Executive Session directly after the approval of the agenda at the December 16 meeting.** There was no further discussion. The motion was carried.

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

Board Appointee Interview

None.

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

**AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:**

Tom Morris noted that the following items should be added to the December agenda: Action Plan – Committee Reports, Mission Update, Income Survey, Cheri Thompson requested adding making the website more in tune to people discussion/action, Board Appointee Interview, Executive Session, and Vote on Hiring a Manager.

**ADJOURNMENT OF MONTHLY BOARD MEETING:**

**Cheri Thompson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 pm.** Tom Morris seconded the motion.

Attest:

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Tom Morris, President

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Felicity Derry, Secretary