

**SEELEY LAKE SEWER DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
December 16, 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	ABSENT

Public Attendance - Appendix A

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm and was held remotely via Zoom. Tom Morris requested that everybody who had joined the meeting identify themselves for the record.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The Board discussed rearranging several items on the agenda.

Tom Morris moved to move the vote to hire a manager after Correspondence and the Sewer Presentation after that. 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

Tom Morris called for an Executive Session at 6:05pm and requested that all of the meeting attendees who would not be attending the Executive Session be placed in the Zoom waiting room for the duration of the Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Board entered into the Executive Session at 6:06pm. The Executive Session concluded and the public rejoined the meeting from the Zoom waiting room. The Regular Board Meeting resumed at 6:23pm.

PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS:

Tom Morris apologized that the Executive Session had taken so long, but it had been an important discussion regarding hiring an interim manager. Tom Morris noted that it was a full agenda and requested that everyone be respectful of everybody’s time.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

Vote to Hire a Manager

Tom Morris noted that this was an interim position, not a permanent fulltime job, and the Board might be looking at the other candidate for a position in the future. It was a difficult decision as both of the candidates were highly qualified.

Jason Gilpin moved to hire William Decker as the interim manager for the Seeley Lake Sewer District. Pat Goodover seconded the motion. Cheri Thompson agreed that it had been a very difficult decision, as the candidates were so equal and the only thing that swayed the decision was William Decker’s sewer experience. David Losee thanked the Board for their consideration and to let him know if he could be of help in the future. There was no further discussion. The motion was carried.

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

MINUTES:

November 18, 2021 Regular Meeting

Cheri Thompson moved to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2021 Board Meeting. Tom Morris seconded the motion. Jason Gilpin noted a typo on page 7. **Cheri Thompson restated her motion to move to accept the minutes with the correction of the spelling of December.** 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

Sewer System Presentation - BioMicrobics

Nathan Pierce from BioMicrobics felt that a better sewer solution for the Seeley Lake area would be to look at an individual approach, as well as a community approach. Their proposed treatment

solution would be for approximately 160,000 gallons per day, which was twice the requested amount of 80,000 gallons. A treatment system of that size would not exceed \$2.5million. BioMicrobics had a product, the Retrofast, that could rectify failing septic systems and bring them up to the needed treatment level. These products could be installed into existing septic tanks. The Retrofast cost \$3,600, not including installation. Most of their systems had been approved by DEQ for individual residential use, as well as some commercial use, and systems could treat to below 10mg/L for nitrate.

Tom Morris questioned if treating below 7.5mg/L would substantially increase the cost. Nathan Pierce, felt that it would not. Most of BioMicrobic’s systems met or exceeded that level. BioMicrobic was currently working with DEQ to get a designation below the 7mg/L. The effluent was clean and could be used for non-food crop irrigation, which could open up possibilities for smaller properties. Due to BioMicrobic’s treatment level, DEQ had given them an approximately 50% reduction in the size of their drainfields. The size of the drainfield was reviewed.

Nathan Pierce outlined the possibility of utilizing cluster systems for some properties and reviewed how their products worked with existing septic systems. Also, how neighborhood systems that utilized irrigation could be more efficient in some areas. Nathan Pierce estimated that the cost of such a system for 12,000 gallons per day, would be under \$500,000.

Nathan Bourne questioned how the step tank effected the treatment. Nathan Pierce then outlined how their step system worked. Nathan Pierce also reviewed how the Retrofast product worked with existing systems and how high nitrate levels could be lowered. Typically, the installation cost for the Retrofast was \$500 to \$750. The equipment cost was \$3,600, without shipping.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Invoices – November 2021

Tom Morris reviewed the November invoices.

Tom Morris moved to pay the invoices. 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

October 2021 Financial Reports

Felicity Derry reviewed the October financial reports. The Board had no questions regarding the October financial reports.

MANGERS REPORT:

Hopefully there would be one next month.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Action Plan for 2021-2022

Committee Report

Tom Morris had not received any further correspondence from Shane Stack and would report when there had been some progress. Cheri Thompson requested that Gregory Robertson unmute himself and confirm who he was. There was no answer from the attendee listed as Gregory Robertson.

Pat Goodover noted that he had not heard from Beth Hutchinson regarding the income survey. Pat Goodover suggested that the Board draft a request for proposals (RFP) to send to the various sewer system presenters. The Board discussed using an RFP as the next step. The Board agreed that the questions should be sent to all of the presenters. Formulating an RFP was discussed further. The District boundaries were discussed. Tom Morris appointed Pat Goodover and Jason Gilpin to form a committee to work on an RFP.

Nathan Bourne suggested that the Board wait for the manager to come onboard, as he might have input on how to get the project done.

Cheri Thompson had written an article about how septic tanks work, but had not had a chance to circulate it to the Board prior to the meeting and requested that the Board approve the article for publication. Cheri Thompson also requested that Reorganizing the Website be moved to the January agenda.

Tom Morris moved to publish Cheri's 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

Mission Update

Nathan Bourne informed the Board that Missoula County did not receive the grant for the water study and recommended that the District look at drilling test wells, utilizing the Bureau of Mines for guidance on the well locations. Tom Morris noted that the wells were in the budget and the Board could discuss utilizing the Bureau of Mines.

Income Survey

None.

Board Appointee Interview

Tom Morris noted that there was nobody to interview and that the election was coming up pretty soon.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 12162021 – Nutrient Budget Analysis

Tom Morris suggested that a resolution could be used as an agreement with CRC, which would save the cost of using legal counsel. Discussion followed. **Cheri Thompson moved to table this item until CRC comes to us with a proposal in a common language.** Utilizing a contract was discussed further. Nathan Bourne added that at the previous meeting the Board had voted to spend \$5,515 to do the testing regiment. The Board continued to discuss the possibility of CRC creating a contract.

Cheri Thompson moved to move this to next month and request that they (CRC) submit a contract. Discussion followed on the Board using a resolution rather than just a vote to accept CRC's proposal for the eDNA testing or if a contract was needed. The CRC testing proposal was reviewed and whether a contract was required was discussed further. The Board agreed that a contract was not needed and discussed what should be included in a resolution. This item would be moved to the January agenda.

Finalize Questions – Sewer System Presentations

The Board agreed that these questions should be sent to all of the sewer system presenters.

Amendments to the Website

Moved to the January agenda.

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING: January 20, 2022

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

Tom Morris noted that the following items should be added to the January agenda: Action Plan – Committee Reports, Mission Update, Income Survey, RFP, Reorganize the Website, Resolution for CRC Testing and Board Appointee Interview. The newly hired manager should be invited to the meeting.

Having the brochure at the Historical Society was discussed. There were no objections from the Board.

ADJOURNMENT OF MONTHLY BOARD MEETING:

Tom Morris moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:39pm.

Attest:

Tom Morris, President

Felicity Derry, Secretary