

**Seeley Lake Sewer district
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
minutes
December 19, 2024 6:00 p.m.**

Location:

**Community foundation building, 3150 MT 83 North, Seeley Lake & Virtual Meeting, via Zoom
Computer:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86464976067?pwd=dFF0UU9yUVIvZjFZQmo4ZIRQR3VEQT09>

Telephone 1 669 900 6933

Meeting ID: 864 6497 6067

Password 032580

Members in attendance:

Tom Morris	President	PRESENT
Pat Goodover	Vice President	ABSENT
Cheri Thompson	Director	PRESENT
Troy Spence	Director	PRESENT
Tyler Smith	Director	PRESENT
Manager		Vacant
Secretary		Vacant

Public Attendance – Appendix A

Non-Members in attendance online:

Mattie Scott, Chris Lounsbury, Shannon Therriault, Austin-WET, Elena Evans, Christina-WET

CALL TO ORDER:

This meeting was called to order at 6:24 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Tyler Smith would like add venue to agenda. Tom Morris will add to the next meeting. Cheryl Thompson would like to take over managing website. Tom Morris said to get the information from Felicity and we can have it on the agenda for next meeting to get updates on the website.

Tom Morris moved to approve the agenda. Troy Spence seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was carried.

Tom Morris - Aye
Pat Goodover - Absent
Cheryl Thompson - Aye
Troy Spence - Aye
Tyler Smith – Abstained

PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS:

Tom Morris when I send out agenda in advance let me know if we need to have something on the agenda I will add it. It’s not normal to change during a meeting is not lawful toad items. You can change the order, but the things posted to the public is what we need to talk about. Please try to be thoughtful of everyone’s time and keep comments on the task at hand. We have someone who has offered to record for us. So please if you speak, before you speak say your name.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Tom Morris, I received an email form Tyler Smith about changing our venue to the foundation building.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Tom Morris hopefully everyone was able to read the minutes, do you have any questions.

Tyler Smith moved to approve the minutes as submitted November 21, 2024. Cheryl Thompson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was carried.

- Tom Morris – Aye
- Pat Goodover – absent
- Cheryl Thompson – Aye
- Troy Spence – Aye
- Tyler Smith – Aye

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Invoices December 2024:

Tom Morris reviews the invoices for a total of \$1,161.84.

Tyler Smith moved to approve the expenditures as presented. Troy Spence seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was carried.

- Tom Morris – Aye
- Pat Goodover – Absent
- Cheryl Thompson – Aye
- Troy Spence – Aye
- Tyler Smith - Aye

October 2024 financial reports:

NONE

MANAGER'S REPORT:

VACANT

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Listening Sessions / Communications:

Cheryl Thompson, we had a really good meeting, at the table was Cheryl, Troy as the Sewer reps. Three of community foundation members who are offering to host the sessions Tom Beers, Carla Shaden, and Mark Williams. We had two people from Missoula County Health Shannon and Charlie. Three from WET Steave, Austin and Christina. Then Heather who is the Director of Natural Resources and conservation from University of Montana as part of the Law school. We interviewed her and she interviews us for being the facilitator for sessions. First part of meeting the talking was about goals, purpose, and why the need for a facilitator that was neutral. The second half of meeting was more on details what the sessions would cover, how they would be ran, how we are going to be doing education outside of the sessions being tenants as one of the target groups, and outreach being door to door and County mailing to send post cards to district members at a bulk rate. In the end the community foundation would like to host these and there would be a collaboration between Missoula County Health Dept. and Seeley Lake Sewer District Board to collaborate to put these meetings on in the advertising and promo would be listed as that. We all came to conclusion in order to have a successful opportunity for district members to voice concerns and ask questions that the name of Listening Sessions be changed to match just that. We are not only listening to them but also hearing them.

Tom Beers would like to add that Heather is putting together a scoping what she thinks she can do based on the meeting we had. How might it be presented with part of that being a budget. Something we will send out when have.

Tyler Smith, what is the scope of cost on or idea of coast? Tom Beers not sure but thinks around 5,000 as a guess could be less or more. Gave more explanation on what Heather will take in to affect when deciding.

Cheryl Thompson, what we need to do as board is affirm that we are in agreement with these meetings that are attentively looking at holding in March April and May.

Shannon Therriault, we are looking at an EPA DQ grant to help pay for facilitator waiting on Heather to know if that is case.

Tom Morris no action at this time. Ted Beers no just affirmation. Tom Morris, what we can act on is approving sending a potential contract to legal.

Tom Morris makes a motion to forward potential contract with facilitator to our legal counsel. Cheryl Thompson seconded the motion. There was further discussion. Shannon Therriault, we are not sure who contract is with at this point still working. Tom Morris, modified motion if it is a contract with the Sewer District to be sent to legal counsel. Cheryl Thompson seconds the motion.

Tyler Smith if the last review was a \$ 1,000 and we are looking at a 5,000 contract. I don't know if it merits spending \$1,000 on contract review for a \$5,000 contract. It depends on who it is with. If with County then not in favor but if with a third party then I would favor. Cheryl Thompson withdraws motion. Motion not carried.

Tom Morris – Aye
Pat Goodover – Absent
Cheryl Thompson – withdraw approval
Troy Spence – Aye
Tyler Smith - Abstained

Wet / Project Update:

Austin with WET, shows map of proposed locations for a treatment plant. Steve Anderson, Tom Morris, Cheryl Thompson, and Austin looked around at potential properties. Yellow line on map represents District boundary. North end of town US Forest Service land approx. 15 acres that could be a candidate. Land behind High School was explored not too much detail on any of these properties. Looking at map anything blue highlighted is what was looked at as potential properties.

Tyler Smith, Austin please clarify I thought 10 acres was minimum site size? Austin if we are going to package them all into one than yes, but some that are smaller will have to be used in conjunction with drain or rapid absorption. Tyler Smith, are they going to rate the sites on these sheets? Cheryl Thompson we were only looking at sizable properties that could be considered. That was blank slates for possible spots. Tom Morris, the only thing on this map is properties for sale. Austin These are all properties looked at even ones not listed for sale. Austin this may be a question for Steve Anderson but my understanding the individual lots would not be rated by public. Cheryl Thompson just reminder this map has a wide variety we just looked blank places. Tom Morris visited with owners of Pyramid and not interest and off the table and make note that spot not available to update map.

Nathen Bourne: Have we looked at grade school fields? Tom Morris, we drove past not sure why we didn't think about it. Make note to add to map. Tyler I am not sure how that would work if have to sell to County to make those improvements, would we have to own the ground to which the disposal is going to for long term.

Austin the only other thing to share is updated map for proposed collection system for downtown area. Tyler Smith this is phase one of four phase District? Austin, I believe so but better question for Steve. Austin any other questions? Tyler Smith so we have no change to scoring matric. Austin, I don't think there is anything finalized yet.

Brandon Grovner Lazy Acres, your Lift station is on North end of town and that is where is collects where would it pump. Austin that would pump again this is assuming there would be a wastewater on South end of town. So, Lift station would follow the purple lines on map. Cheryl Thompson although we are talking about this major portion and this graphic, there is also a plan in process in the group north of Cedar Lane and discussion on how to talk about the group on Hickory and River View Drive. This portion is major concern it's not like the other areas are not under consideration. For the minutes I just want to be noted that although today we are focusing on major system that is not what conversation when we drove around, it was on everyone.

Scoring Matrix:

Tom Morris we are still working on this for next meeting

Monitoring Well Sampling:

Elena Evans Geologist water ecology district gave out maps figures that have been shown when looking at elevations. When Jeanna and Shannon asked what we can do to find out more about Seeley Lake. We will go through Historic data, water levels, hydraulic conductivity (how much water can pull out and how fast), Pressure transducers (way to measure water), and Water quality Samples. First figure was what they were handed to try and figure out what can be use from newer wells that WET installed, from the older wells, and some of the historic studies that pulled things together. From this information first step was to try to find some of the wells and couldn't find a good number. Some on the map were soil borings and MW11 / MW6 weren't installed. MW3, we have a slight amount of data but weren't able to get water from. Then orange colored on map were not representative of ongoing water but still little information. Green longer-term wells. Purple well is out of sewer district but still add information but in terms of flow paths and water quality not as relevant. Blue wells are more readable wells.

Cheryl Thompson doesn't believe MW10 and MW14 are outside district they are in. Elena Evans The purple is not in special management district but in sewer district. This map is to help look at distribution of the wells that were able to get meaningful data from.

Someone from crowd how do you determine water flow through that it is moving east to west not north to south. Elena Evans, we started off with Montana bureau of Mines and geology wells. Then the new wells with the different colors on to show what new information we were hoping to look at. We need to verify elevations from lake to get further on where that flow is from. With that it would tell us about more information on how much the lake affects these wells. Tom Beers remember on that flow chart changed from original that is didn't flow into the lake. Elena Evans happy to look at past document or resources to get that mapped out more. Talks more about MW14 well how the lake did affect that one with elevation and able to get more readings from.

Tyler Smith is there any correspondence between the changes in water level and changes nitrate levels? Elena Evans shows another slide on flow paths and nitrate levels. We mapped out different elevation on these wells and try to see if we could find issues that Bureau of Mines had on their map and there were some slight changes, but the map holds on what the flow paths are.

Longer term data (LT1) added some data had low and high fluorides. LT2 wasn't able to sample but not able to use the pump but got some. LT1 broke it out by seasons, and they were all kind of the same. Spring and summer when we thought would see more impact averaged only slightly less than what we saw in winter and fall and that is not enough to be significant in terms of averaging the values.

Tyler Smith what data are your transducer returning to you just water elevation? Elena Evans no they record pressure. As the water goes up over the transducer it increases the pressure in the well. We use that and take out weather conditions to determine how much water came in up or downs. They also give temperatures they mainly give us water elevation. Tyler Smith what is hard about this is the wells are not consistent in construction or depth. Elena Evans There is commonality with elevation and pressure that is what is documented of what is going on. I will improve for next report. This is initial presentation and is important because it can help Elana look at some of the questions brought up and get all data for report at beginning of next year.

Tyler Smith at end of report will it reaffirm need for this system. Elana Evans, I think right now looking at the new data there is still trends moving up there is variability. Tyler Smith what is the action level?

Jeanna Miller: there are a few action levels and regulations once your nitrate there is a 5 you have to change regulation road, once 7 is additional and 10 is max. We use this data Elena is giving to use on what type of system we use for septic permitting. Nathan did you look at the sewer district that showed all the different chemicals in the wells did you look at those. Jeanna Miller, we gave that information to Elena to fill in some of those gaps and we can show that. Tom Morris it might be valuable to do that again and have two tests instead of one to know why higher in some spots than others. Elena Evans can look at that the ground water elevations and larger molecules that may affect that so depends on where the water was taken from.

Grants & Funding:

Tom Morris: we were emailed copies of the contract with the Department of Commerce, and we are contracted with them for \$38,000. The grant was awarded. One thing I said I would look into last meeting was if Zinke Grant would be available for purchase of the property. John Brockmeier and Ben Van Sickle called from Washington office, and they looked up the subcommittee rules this grant we may be awarded focuses on land and sight acquisition, demolition and rehabilitation. This grant cannot be used for buildings used for general conduct of government. One thing Tyler asked is if we could share of the land. We can't purchase property with that in mind not with this grant. This grant will only allow to purchase property for septic plant and treatment. They do a matrix just like what we do, and it's not guaranteed and 2026 might be when get final decision. For the 2025 cycle we will be eligible to apply again for another grant, up to that much again. One thing that we are not getting that we need now is public support. One thing high on their matrix scoring is public support. We need to see it in writing in order to see this grant application and award be successful. Tyler Smith, I think it highlights the importance of those listening sessions and think that if we produced a generic letter of support for people to sign they are more likely to do that because it's simpler, rather than them having to write out their own letter, as they are more likely not to do.

Tom Morris: Is there any further discussion on this?

Christina sent an email to Tom that we found another grant of \$50,000 from DNRC. That makes it almost \$90,000 for planning funding once we have determined a location, and there will be more RDG funding opening mid-January. Brittany at DNRC is excited about the project and happy to help with what she can. We need to update our address on the website.

Tom Morris: the only other thing was going over the contract with legal to sign and Tom made decision to sign the contract that legal reviewed. If we did not get it done and signed than it would have expired by the end of December. There was no further discussion.

Manager & Secretary Vacancies:

Manager & Secretary job descriptions;

Tyler Smith, I talked with the paper, and we decided an add was better than a listing in legal. So proceeded with that, and think it was \$90.00. I had them bill the address from website so hopefully that was right. I did, in the last day or so get Felicity job description so now I can build one for that secretary and get it out. Need to get with pathfinder people and either take that add and get it on Facebook or something to make this digital market to get word out more and better than paper adds. Think the ad is going to run next week, and no applications yet.

