

SEELEY LAKE SEWER DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
March 17, 2022

Tom Morris	President	PRESENT	Jason Gilpin	Director	PRESENT
Pat Goodover	Vice President	PRESENT	Cheri Thompson	Director	PRESENT
	Director	VACANT	Felicity Derry	Secretary	PRESENT
Bill Decker	Manager	PRESENT			

Public Attendance - Appendix A

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm and was held remotely via Zoom.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Tom Morris noted that the Missoula County Sanitarian could not attend the meeting tonight; therefore, this item would be moved to the April agenda.

Tom Morris moved to approve the agenda as amended. 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

PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS:

Tom Morris requested that everyone should be respectful of everybody’s time and to keep the meeting moving along.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mike Richards requested that the Sewer District return to real meetings as soon as possible. Mike Richards also questioned if the Board had discussed changing the fee assessment back to a fairer and more equitable method for everybody. Not as it had been previously, where the property owners around the lake had to pay ten times as much.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

MINUTES:

February 17, 2022 Regular Meeting

Tom Morris noted that there were two typos on pages 3 & 4. Cheri Thompson requested that the acronyms be spelled out the first time that they were used in the minutes and discussion followed.

Cheri Thompson moved to spell out the acronyms and accept the minutes of the February 17, 2022 Board Meeting as amended. 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

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Invoices – February 2022

Tom Morris reviewed the January invoices.

Tom Morris moved to pay the invoices. 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

January 2022 Financial Reports

Felicity Derry reviewed the January financial reports, noting that as there was no line item in the budget for the Seeley Swan High School (SSHS) testing, the Flathead Bio Station invoices had been included in the Well/Lake Monitoring line item.

MANGERS REPORT:

Bill Decker noted that the Request For Qualifications (RFQ) had been published in the Pathfinder and statewide. There was also a link to the RFQ on the website. To date no RFQs had been received, although there had been email correspondence with some engineering firms, as well as with BioMicrobics.

Bill Decker had met with the Missoula City-County Health Department (MCCHD) and discussed the current regulations and restrictions, as well as drilling additional monitoring wells. Discussion followed on who should advise the District on the best locations to drill the new monitoring wells,

who could drill them and whether Bill Decker should get some quotes to drill the wells. The discussion then turned to the number of wells that would be needed, which was not to exceed five, and the depth of the wells that would be dug. The Board discussed the possibility of using some of the inactive house wells around town that in the past had not met the required parameters. Whether the testing wells around National Automotive Parts Association (NAPA) and other surrounding wells could be used was discussed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Action Plan for 2021-2022

Committee Reports

Cheri Thompson noted that she had met with Felicity Derry to evaluate the website. The Board discussed what documents should be archived and agreed to keep twelve months of minutes and agendas under the meetings tab and adding a tab for the Manager.

Pat Goodover suggested that as there was no imminent need for an income survey, it should be removed from the agenda. There were no objections to removing this item from the agenda.

Cheri Thompson requested approval to publish the article. Discussion followed on the final paragraph of the article referencing septic effluent contamination, and the study from which it had been taken. The wording of the final paragraph was discussed and there were no objections from the Board to the suggested alternative wording: “indicate the presence of septic effluent contamination in the airport area.”

Tom Morris moved to allow you (Cheri Thompson) to do the report with those changes. Jason Gilpin seconded the motion. There was further no discussion. The motion was carried.

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

Mission Update

None

Income Survey

None

Reorganizing the Website

Covered under committee reports.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request For Qualifications/Request For Proposals (RFQ/RFP) - Scoring

There was some discussion on the scoring sheet. Cheri Thompson requested that this item be tabled until the April meeting. There were no objections from the Board. Bill Decker added that the RFQs would be distributed to the Board for review.

Environmental Deoxyribonucleic Acid (eDNA) Sampling

Caryn Miske, Clearwater Resource Council (CRC), noted that she and Amanda Zehnis had spent a great deal of time researching the best plan for the eDNA testing, to ensure that the District's money was well spent and then outlined her findings. Subsequently CRC had created a new recommendation that utilized more detailed testing of the four samples taken from the lake at the beginning of June and then repeated two or three more times over the course of the year. Caryn Miske then summarized the testing regime and the reasons for this recommendation, noting that each test would cost \$800, as opposed to \$300, which just tested for human E. coli, as discussed at the last meeting.

Tom Morris noted that the budgeted amount of \$5,515 would only pay for one round of the more expensive testing and that he had understood from the discussion at the previous meeting that the originally proposed eDNA testing would separate out the human and animal DNA. Caryn Miske verified that the original proposal for eDNA testing would confirm and give the concentration of human e. Coli, but not if animal e. Coli were present. E. Coli samples would also need to be collected to show if there was a health hazard and help indicate potential problem areas. This would not be billed to the District. Discussion followed on possible testing regimes, water flow and the sampling locations in the lake. Budgeting for this testing in fiscal year 2023 (FY2023) was discussed. The Board discussed using the budgeted amount of \$5,515 for one set of \$300 samples and one set of \$800 samples. Caryn Miske added that \$200 would need to be spent on a piece of equipment to concentrate the samples, which would save money on postage.

Michael Richards asked when the first sample would be taken. Caryn Miske noted that the cheap round of testing would be in May and the expensive round in June.

Caryn Miske clarified that the Board wanted to do the e. Coli sampling starting in April, the screening eDNA (\$300) testing in May and the full eDNA (\$800) testing in June.

Pat Goodover moved to start with the e. Coli sampling in April (CRC expense), the inexpensive eDNA sampling in May and the expensive eDNA sampling in June. Cheri Thompson seconded the motion. Discussion followed on the sampling locations and what would change those locations. There was no further discussion. The motion was carried.

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

FY2023 Budget

The expenses to date were reviewed and discussed. The discussion then turned to how to list the various water testing items and the amount to be allocated to those items. The well drilling line item, how to carry unspent funds over to FY2023 and decreasing the budget total were discussed.

Pat Goodover suggested putting the \$25,000 for drilling five wells into the next fiscal year and showing that it would be paid out of the reserve funds. The Board discussed doing this for other line items.

Bill Decker noted that in the future the money in the reserves would need to be used as matching funds for grants. Bill Decker suggested adding a line item for engineering. The Board discussed how to offset the budget with the reserve and agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting.

Michael Richards commented that he had paid ten times the assessment that other people had paid, which was unequitable, and that the assessment should be changed back to an equal assessment, as everybody received the same service. Discussion followed on the method of assessment and how the District would charge customers once there was an operational system. Felicity Derry clarified that last year there was an equal assessment of \$245.75 per lot, it had been the previous year that the assessment had been much higher for the lake properties.

Test Result Map

This would be added to the April agenda.

Introduction of Missoula City-County Health Sanitarian

This would be added to the April agenda.

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING: April 21, 2021

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

Tom Morris noted that the following items should be added to the April agenda: Action Plan – Committee Reports, Mission Update, eDNA Sampling, Reorganizing the Website, Introduction of the County Health Sanitarian, RFQ/RFP Scoring, 2023 Budget, Test Result Map and Meeting Locations.

Mike Richards asked if the April meeting would be in-person. The Board discussed holding in-person meetings and checking what locations would allow for the meetings to continue to be Zoomed. The Board agreed to holding the April meeting via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT OF MONTHLY BOARD MEETING:

Tom Morris moved to adjourn the meeting at 8: 32pm. Cheri Thompson seconded the motion.

Attest:

Tom Morris, President

Felicity Derry, Secretary

