

**SEELEY LAKE MISSOULA COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**March 19, 2009**

**Attendance:**

Glen Morin	President	PRESENT	Ralph Kloser	Manager	ABSENT
Dave Whitesitt	Vice-President	PRESENT	Felicity Derry	Secretary	PRESENT
Bob Skiles	Director	ABSENT	Scott Smith	Public	PRESENT
Tom Morris	Director	PRESENT			
Dan Johnson, Jr.	Director	ABSENT			

**OPENING**

The meeting was called to order at 5:03pm by President, Glen Morin at Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Inc., located at 379 Boy Scout Road.

**MINUTES**

The minutes from the February 19, 2009 meeting were presented.

Dave Whitesitt moved to approve the minutes as presented, Tom Morris seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Bills February 2009**

Glen Morin presented the bills to the Board.

1.	Secretary Felicity Derry		\$	75.00
2.	Seeley Lake Water District – Bookkeeping	Inv#37	\$	82.50
		Total	\$	157.50

Tom Morris moved to pay the bills, Dave Whitesitt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Financial Statements**

Felicity Derry informed the Board that the check detail had been included this month, as they had requested.

Tom Morris moved to approve the financial statement, Dave Whitesitt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Correspondence**

Evelyn Kearns sent a letter to the County Commissioners trying to help the District get some stimulus money. Glen Morin read the letter to the Board. The Board noted that they had requested members of the public write letters of support.

The Board discussed the parcel of land by the airport and that it was not the needed 5 acres. A 10 acre lot would be better if expansion was ever needed. Glen Morin said that the stimulus money is going to shovel ready projects. The Board had been discussing buying a parcel of land to raise public awareness. Dave Aune had told Glen Morin that if the District can get \$4 million that can be used to match \$4 million from Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). At that point the District could have a meeting to inform the public how much money the District has, how much their monthly bill would be and then have a vote. This would enable construction of phase 1 to begin. It has been estimated that the system will cost \$18-20 million.

Nancy Harte, City of Missoula sent email saying that the City of Missoula has a \$150,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). This is stimulus money; they are looking for projects that can be under contract in 120 days. Glen Morin passed this on to the Water District, as the Sewer District project cannot be ready within 120 days.

## **Contract Managers Report**

Karen Linford, US Forest Service called for an update on the status of the sewer project. Ralph Kloser let her know that the Board had decided to utilize a Sequence Batch Reactor (SBR) system so much less land would be needed.

Dave Aune has not given an answer on the land near the winery. Craig Pozega is looking in to it.

The Board needs to decide if the fee assessment will continue and if so how much will it be. Then a fee assessment hearing will have to be scheduled in Seeley Lake with the Missoula County Commissioners.

The Board gave Scott Smith some background on the reasons a sewer is needed/wanted, the grants that have been secured (some of which have been lost) and status of the engineering.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Funding Strategy Update**

Ralph Kloser emailed Marnie Russ for an update. She responded that the request for funds had been submitted to the delegation and she has asked to branch out beyond State Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG)

to increase the dollar value. The District will know the outcome of the stimulus money before she does so let her know what happens. Ralph Kloser asked her how much money she was going after. She responded that she was asking for \$27 million.

The Board explained to Scott Smith various aspects of the funding strategy. Also discussed the cost of septic systems, how long they last and what happens when they fail.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Fee Assessment**

Glen Morin informed the Board that it is once again time for the annual hearing before the Missoula County Commissioners to continue the fee assessment. The fee assessment is currently an annual fee of \$72 per lot on the Missoula County taxes. This is the money the District uses to operate.

Tom Morris resolved to contact the County Commissioners and set up the hearing enabling the fee assessment to continue at \$72 per year, seconded by Dave Whitesitt. The motion passed unanimously.

Felicity Derry will inform Ralph Kloser that the motion was passed to continue the fee assessment at \$72. He will then talk to Dale Bickel regarding the hearing.

Tom Morris informed the Board that he will be gone towards the end of April. Dave Whitesitt expressed a preference that the Board holds the meeting at a venue other than the Grade School due to the noise level.

Glen Morin said that Scott Smith had expressed an interest to be on the Board and asked that he give them some background. Scott Smith said that he grew up in Ovando. Then his parents moved to Missoula and he attended Hellgate High School. He went to Montana State to study engineering for 2 years. He hated engineering. Then he studied business at the University of Montana. During school he worked a summer at Montana Power Company Business and saw a need for a business. He quit school in his last year to start One Call Locators. He owned that for 10 years and had about 1,000 employees. In 2000 he sold One Call Locators to Montana Power Company. He worked for Montana Power Company for 2.5 years and was in charge of 1,500 people. They went through a divestiture and he ended up working for North Western Energy. It was not a great relationship so he left after 6 months.

Currently he owns 3 bar/casinos, a utility contracting company with offices in Montana, Minnesota, South Dakota and Texas, 2 software companies and he also is a real-estate developer. He has 4 children. In his free time he coaches high school basketball, goes snowmobiling and in the summer spends as much time as possible at the lake. He owns Seeley Lake Ranch, as well as a house in Big Sky and Missoula.

Scott Smith was involved in the zoning for the downtown plan, but not formerly. He travels a lot but has a flexible schedule so will be able to attend the meetings. He is high energy and has a staff that he can delegate tasks to. He has a lot of connections in Helena.

Tom Morris asked Scott Smith if he intends to keep Seeley Lake Ranch intact or to develop it. Scott Smith replied that he intends to keep it whole; he does not plan on developing it. He would like to keep it potentially, but if he does sell it he will sell it whole without contingencies. The only reason he would sell it if it becomes too much work.

Glen Morin said that most people here do not want Seeley to turn in to a big casino resort. Scott Smith said that he likes it here. It is quiet. The only reason to sell is if he were to downsize. Then he would buy another place on the lake. His ultimate reason to get involved is that the environment needs to be protected so his grandkids will be able to swim in this lake. A sewer system can inhibit contamination of the lake without this it is realistic that we will not be able to swim in the lake.

The Board discussed appointing Scott Smith, and agreed that he should be appointed.

Dave Whitesitt moved to remove Dan Johnson, Jr. from the Board due to non-attendance, seconded by Tom Morris. The motion passed unanimously.

Glen Morin said that he would talk to Dan Johnson, Jr. about his resignation.

Tom Morris moved to have the Chairman to appoint Scott Smith to the empty position on the Seeley Lake Sewer District Board, Dave Whitesitt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Glen Morin then appointed Scott Smith to the vacant position left by Dan Johnson, Jr. The term is 4 years, the meetings are open to the public and special meetings have to be advertised.

Scott Smith asked if a CPA has ever scrutinized the funding strategy. Tom Morris replied no. The engineer he has done more work than he has been paid for. Glen Morin added that the engineer is not currently under contract and the District is not obligated to use him for the project.

Scott Smith asked if this system is modeled after another. Tom Morris replied no it is not because the Board is so picky. Scott Smith asked what kind of engineer is Dave Aune. The Board did not know.

Dave Whitesitt asked if Ralph Kloser could look in to some property. He thinks that not having a site is the biggest hang up, even though Dave Aune does not think so. Scott Smith will volunteer to find 10 acres to buy.

Tom Morris moved to pay for the Community Hall so that the County Commissioners hearing can be held there because it has better sound, Dave Whitesitt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.


## **NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

Scheduled for April 16, 2009

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

Glen moved to adjourn the meeting 6:34pm

Attest:

  
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Glen Morin, President

  
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Felicity Derry, Secretary