

SEELEY LAKE MISSOULA COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
April 16, 2009

Attendance:

Glen Morin	President	PRESENT	Ralph Kloser	Manager	PRESENT
Dave Whitesitt	Vice-President	PRESENT	Felicity Derry	Secretary	PRESENT
Bob Skiles	Director	ABSENT	Tom Morris	Director	PRESENT
Bob Scott	Director	PRESENT			

OPENING

The meeting was called to order at 5:25pm by President, Glen Morin at Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Inc., located at 379 Boy Scout Road.

MINUTES

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

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

Bills

Glen Morin presented the bills to the Board.

1.	RTK & Associates	Inv#77	\$	550.00
2.	Secretary Felicity Derry		\$	75.00
3.	Seeley Lake Water District – Bookkeeping	Inv#38	\$	60.00
4.	Vince Chappell Water Testing		\$	120.00
5.	ME Labs	Inv#902631	\$	230.50

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

Glen Morin read the letter of resignation from Dan Johnson, Jr. The Board noted that Dan Johnson, Jr. would like to be an advisor to the Board.

Tom Morris moved to accept the resignation from Dan Johnson, Jr., Dave Whitesitt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Glen Morin appointed Scott Smith to the vacant position of Director. Tom Morris noted that Scott Smith has not taken his oath of candidacy, nor been sworn in. Ralph Kloser will meet with Scott Smith to facilitate this next week.

Financial Statements

The financial reports for March 2009 were presented to the Board.

Tom Morris moved to accept the financial reports for March 2009, Dave Whitesitt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter of resignation from Dan Johnson, Jr. was covered previously.

CONTRACT MANAGERS REPORT

Ralph Kloser was having computer problems and did not get it printed.

OLD BUSINESS

Funding Strategy Update

Ralph Kloser reported that Marnie Russ had sent an email. Glen Morin read her email to the Board. She was unsure of the grants that had been referenced in Ralph Kloser's email. The District will know the outcome of the stimulus money before she does. The FY09 money was signed last month, which is much later than usual. FY10 is getting started on the Hill. It will be a while until there is any information on this. Next week County Commissioner Bill Carey will be in DC and will be presenting to our delegation asking for the \$27 million for Seeley. Rehberg submitted our request to the Interior subcommittee and thinks that Baucus will be submitting his as well. We are past a big hurdle.

The Board discussed that the \$27 million was an earmark and would require no match. Also that because the Sewer District and the Water District had signed the inter-local agreement the money was to be divided between the two Districts.

The Board discussed the reference in the March minutes to "grant money being lost" and that the Seeley Lake Sewer District was on the ranking list twice. Missoula County had submitted an application for the District also. Walt Hill had heard that both requests would not be funded. The Board discussed the possibility of using some of the approximately \$2.1 million of grant funds available for purchasing property and whether a match would be required.

Fee Assessment Schedule Hearing

Glen Morin read the letter from Patty Rector, County Commissioners Office. The fee assessment hearing has been scheduled for Thursday May 14, 2009 at 6:00pm in the multipurpose room of the elementary school. The Commissioners will need to review a budget for FY10 to ascertain if the fee assessment amount needs to be changed. Please send this to the office by Wednesday April 22, 2009. They will publish a notice of the hearing in the Pathfinder and the Missoula Independent. A notice will also be sent to the District to post prominently around town.

Ralph Kloser informed the Board that he had reserved the Community Hall for this hearing as requested in the March Meeting. Ralph Kloser will amend the summary given to the Community Council. He suggested holding the May Board meeting after the hearing. Walt Hill reminded the Board that this change of meeting date would have to be published in the Pathfinder. The Board agreed to reschedule the May meeting to May 14, 2009.

Beginning last year Ralph Kloser and Felicity Derry have been trying to reconcile the Great West account, but have been unable to because some of the information is missing. This is why the accounts payable shows \$12,000. Ralph Kloser has requested the information from Great West several times. Now he has emailed Dave Aune requesting the information. To date Dave Aune has not sent any information nor elaborated about the \$4 million match from Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) he had mentioned.

Glen Morin said that Cindy Wulfekuhle called to inform him that the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) had money that the District could use, but she needed the funding status for the project. Glen Morin noted that the funding strategy needed to be clarified and/or reworked to show how much money and from what sources is needed in order to move forward. Walt Hill asked if Dave Aune had been working with Marnie Russ. Glen Morin said that they have talked a little. Walt Hill stated that Marnie Russ is using all of the funding resources for Seeley's request. It would be unfortunate if Dave Aune independently duplicated her request. Duplicate funding requests will not be thought of kindly on the Hill. Dave Aune's last funding strategy was unrealistic because it included \$150,000 from the resort tax. An accurate funding projection is needed which spells out items such as how much money is needed to start phase I.

Dave Whitesitt questioned if the Board could expect Dave Aune to redo the funding strategy without paying him. Glen Morin replied that he did not want him to redo do it, but wanted to know what his current idea is for funding.

Ralph Kloser was concerned with the lack of communication between Marnie Russ and Dave Aune. Twice he had requested that Marnie Russ call Dave Aune as he created the funding strategy. She did not. The first time they talked was at that Board meeting. Ralph Kloser said he is afraid that they are working unilaterally. How should that be rectified? Walt Hill replied that they have both have been paid by the Board. The Board should write a strong letter to both making it clear what the Board wants and needs. From Dave Aune this is a timeline based financial strategy that determines how much money is needed to get the project started.

Scott Smith asked if an accountant had reviewed the funding strategy to make sure there were no holes in it. Glen Morin said that the original PER was done in 2004, and was updated in 2008. There have been a lot of changes. He would like to know what Dave Aune is thinking and what can the Board do to move the project forward. Tom Morris recalled that Dave Aune had said at the last meeting that \$8 million was needed to start phase I and worry about the rest of the money later. The Board discussed the site for the treatment plant. Tom Morris noted added that because of the protection of the bull trout a different location away from the original site needs to be found.

Scott Smith said that he has appointment with two real estate agents next week for this purpose. Walter Hill asked how much land is needed for the Sequence Batch Reactor (SBR). Also what is the logic for not using the water from the SBR to water something like the golf course? Glen Morin said that is a possibility, but it would be another pipeline. Walter Hill said that it would be cheaper than buying 10 acres. Dave Whitesitt added that irrigation would only be an option for a few months of the year. Walter Hill thought that a pipeline could be run to the drain field with a bypass to irrigate the golf course when possible. Dave

Whitesitt is uncomfortable having to depend on the golf course to dispose of the water. It may change hands. Walter Hill replied then the water would go to the drain field twelve months of the year. Dave Whitesitt would like to purchase the property from Roger Johnson. It would need to be tested for percolation.

Walter Hill said that there are two questions. Where is the best place for the sewer plant to minimize pumping up hill? Taking into consideration the price of property is it possible to place the drain field locally or would it be better to look at other scenarios. Tom Morris said that the drain field is not the issue; it is the SBR plant that has the odor. Sawdust can be used to minimize the odor. Scott Smith added that the placement of the plant might change the price of the project.

Tom Morris said that he did not agree with using grinder pumps. It must be possible to put in a neighborhood collection system and then use one lift station. Scott Smith suggested having another engineer review the plans. It would only cost approximately \$2,000. Walter Hill said that Stan Nicholson has a relative who does this. Glen Morin said that Scott Gossard does the same thing. He has been asking Glen questions about the system and has had some ideas.

Dave Whitesitt said that the Board should ask Dave Aune how much he would charge to look into alternate sites now that the footprint is smaller. Or get another engineer to do it. A site has to be found. Scott Smith said that the Board could not do all the daily activities. They should consider hiring a manager who meets with the Board at the monthly meetings and the Board gives him a monthly agenda of things to do. The manager needs to be willing to do whatever it takes and work five days a week to get this project done. In his opinion the Board needs a full time manager. The Board needs to figure out how much they are willing to pay this position, hire somebody or it is a lost cause. How do we find money to hire somebody?

Dave Whitesitt said that an engineer could answer these questions. Either we hire another engineer or we lay down the law to Dave Aune. It would be best to pay the engineering firm to find a piece of land, which is suitable; rather than pay a manager to do it. Scott Smith suggested hiring an engineer as the manager to review the plans and find a suitable site. It would be much cheaper to hire an engineer directly and not go through an engineering company. Dave Whitesitt thought it should be a temporary position. Tom Morris said that he knows a retired civil engineer who is looking for something to do. Does the Board want him to talk to Gary Rice? Walter Hill said that the District might not need somebody full time; it might only be a half time position. Scott Smith said that an engineer with a business background could analyze the plans, find problems as well as engineer. Glen Morin said that the Board deciding what they want and making up a job description are the first steps. Ralph Kloser suggesting starting by paying somebody \$2,000 to review the District's plans. Scott Smith agreed the existing plans need to be reviewed to see if there is a better option. Once that is completed somebody needs to identify where the plant goes. This person has to be willing to work with a grant writer or whoever is going to be used to collect funds. Glen Morin agreed that is what is needed because some of this stuff is over his head.

Dave Whitesitt's nephew worked for a sewer district for many years, he suggested getting an operator to review the plans as they have hands on experience. Vince Chappell said that would be good once there is a final design. Scott Smith said that at this stage a professional engineer is what is needed.

Tom Morris said that Ralph Kloser is doing the things that he is being asked to. Scott Smith said that this position is a different kind of manager, more like a business manager. Ralph Kloser suggested that the Board eliminate his position and use the money more productively for the new position.

Glen Morin said creating a job description is the first hurdle. Scott Smith added that the Board has to figure out how to pay for the position, interview and hire somebody. Walter Hill agreed that having somebody to look at the project now for \$2,000 is important. Time is a wasting. The District has missed the golden opportunity by not being dig ready.

Tom Morris said it sounds as if the funding cycle will be good for the District at the end of this biennium. Scott Smith thought that the District could have a complete set of plans and be dig ready by November. Dave Whitesitt said that the District needs a piece of land and a final plan. Glen Morin said that he would meet with Ralph Kloser and Vince Chappell to put together a job description. Ralph Kloser would like to find somebody to review the existing plans first. That will identify what the needs are. Scott Smith suggested asking the existing engineer what the time line to get the project completed is.

Glen Morin said he would talk to Scott Gossard and Tom Morris will talk to Gary Rice. Tom Morris asked where the \$2,000 would come from. Could any of the grant money be used? Vince Chappell said that the funding agencies should be ok with using the money for an engineering review. Glen Morin asked Ralph Kloser to look into that.

Ralph Kloser said that the Board has spent an hour talking about this, what specifically are we going to do? Glen Morin said that he is getting together Vince Chappell and Ralph Kloser to work up a job description for the manager's position. Ralph Kloser asked if we would be contracting with somebody for \$2,000 to review the plans.

Dave Whitesitt motioned to hire an engineer to review the existing plans. Tom Morris seconded the motion.

The Board then discussed how much money to pay this position. Scott Smith estimated that it should cost around \$2,000. Dave Whitesitt said that the funding strategy is a big part of the review process also. The Board discussed the funding going back to the existing engineer and the lobbyist. Walter Hill said that the engineer will look at the plans and the Board can ask if an SBR is the right decision and where to put the plant. This will ascertain if the existing plan is viable or if the District needs to go back to the drawing board. This is basically a second opinion. Glen Morin said that he thought they could talk to their friends and not hire an engineer. Walter Hill replied if they are competent in sewer systems and will do it for free, great. The last thing you want is an engineer that is not knowledgeable. Tom Morris said that the motion should be to contact an engineer. If they want to do it for free, that is all the better. Walter Hill said that the PER is the District's property. There is an electronic version of it somewhere. Tell Dave Aune that the Board will be hiring a manager to work together with the engineer on the project. It is your document.

Dave Whitesitt motioned to hire an engineer to review the plans. Tom Morris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Tom Morris moved to spend a maximum of \$2,500 to hire the engineer. Dave Whitesitt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the letter to the lobbyist and the engineer to make sure there are no duplicate requests for funds. Ralph Kloser said that he would write the letter for Glen Morin's signature. Ralph Kloser will also research if the grant money can be used for the engineering review. The Board discussed the need for a meeting in two weeks to discuss the job description. It was agreed that the special meeting would be held 5:00pm May 1, 2009. Ralph will put a notice in the Pathfinder and call all of the Board members to remind them of the special meeting.

Ralph Kloser, Glen Morin and Vince Chappell will meet April 14, 2009 over lunch to work on the job description. The Board agreed to review the material for the County Commissioners hearing at the May 1 meeting. Ralph Kloser said that he would use the report to the Community Council as a base for that.

NEW BUSINESS

Water Testing Report

Chappell gave the site of the three wells and the two samples taken from the lake. Well #1 is almost 1' higher than a year ago. There is more ground water movement and more snow is melting. The Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of nitrates in drinking water is 10mg/L. The nitrate level for this well is slightly lower than this. Keep in mind that 1mg/L is hazardous for infants and older people. Chlorides are up a little bit. The total count for coliform is 540/100ml. Less than 1 is safe.

Dave Whitesitt asked if Vince Chappell could check other wells in town? Vince Chappell said that he could. There is no history and he would not be able to enforce anything. Well #1 is unacceptable for drinking water and his recommendation is that it is highly unsafe and should not be used for drinking water.

Well #2 the depth did not change that much. The Nitrates and Chlorides are almost double what they were last year. There is no particular pattern to these; it depends on the ground water and snow melt. The total count for coliform is 488/100ml. Well #3 the depth is about the same as last year. It is fairly consistent. The Chlorides are down and the Nitrates are the same. The coliform count is almost double. The Lake sample shows low nitrates, the chlorides are normal and the coliform count is up. Riverview Bridge the water is running high and flushing through the lake. The Bacteria is increasing. A certain amount of what is in the ground water through town is flushing out to the lake and is being diluted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

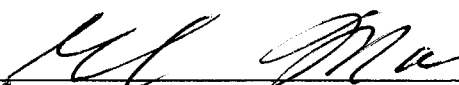
NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

Scheduled for May 1, 2009

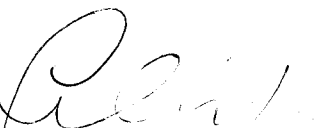
ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm

Attest:



Glen Morin, President



Felicity Derry, Secretary