

SEELEY LAKE MISSOULA COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
May 14, 2009

Attendance:

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

OPENING

The meeting was called to order at 7:50pm by Vice President, Dave Whitesitt at the Seeley Lake Community Hall, Highway 83 N.

MINUTES

The minutes from the April 16, 2009 and May 1, 2009 meetings were presented.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

Bills

Glen Morin presented the bills to the Board.

1.	RTK & Associates	Inv#77	\$	550.00
	3.25 Hours over base @ \$27.50 per hour		\$	89.88
		Total	\$	639.88
2.	Secretary Felicity Derry		\$	75.00

Bob Skiles moved to pay the bills, Tom Morris seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Statements

The April financial statements were presented to the Board.

Tom Morris moved to approve the financial statements, Bob Skiles seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

CONTRACT MANAGERS REPORT

Ralph Kloser informed the Board that Marnie Russ had sent an email containing a STAG grant application that needed to be completed as soon as possible. He called Dave Aune regarding this, who said that he would do it. Ralph Kloser also submitted the information requested by the election office. Glen Morin, Dave Whitsitt and Bob Skiles are up for reelection this year. Also Scott Smith's certificate will be sent to the elections office.

Dave Aune sent the requested billing information and the Great West Engineering account is being reconciled to confirm the amount owed. Dave Aune shows the District still owing \$5,000. If needed there is double that amount in First Valley Bank.

Tom Morris moved to accept the manager's report, Bob Skiles seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Bob Skiles raised the subject of buying property so that the District would have a base somewhere. He asked how much land would be needed. Ralph Kloser said that Dave Aune recommended at least 10 acres. Tom Morris suggested approaching Plum Creek to see if they would make a corporate donation to the District. Ralph Kloser said that he would research this. Bob Skiles questioned if the land behind the Lazy Pine Mall might be suitable. As soon as a piece of land is purchased and a Sewer District sign is erected it will stir up a hornet's nest. Various other options were discussed.

Ralph Kloser said that there had been conflicting motions passed regarding hiring a sewer manager and this will have to be resolved in the June meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Project Review Discussion with Randy Gordon

Ralph Kloser informed the Board that Randy Gordon had a copy of the PER. If contracted the Board should decide how to use his services.

Randy Gordon thought that the first step is to have a vote out, without that you cannot move forward. Bob Skiles said that it would cost \$20 million to build the sewer system. If the District asks the people right now, it will cost \$185 per month. According to Dave Aune the District needs \$8 million to move forward. This is too much money to spread over too few people. If the District gets more grants and only needs \$2 million then we can go for a vote.

Randy Gordon suggested going with a smaller collection system and phase down. The proposed system is a basic system of which most is a standard package. The District cannot continue to ask the public for more money if the public cannot see something real. Buy a piece of land and inform the taxpayers that the District has purchased the land. In Spokane the taxpayers paid for the system because DEQ mandated it. The same thing could happen here.

The drain fields can be placed under ballparks. There is no reason for not using a sewer drain field. The drain fields could be leased to an airport. Dave Whitsitt said that the people by the airport signed a petition saying not in my back yard. Randy Gordon said that as a board you have to understand where they are coming from. It is the treatment plant that will put out the odor not the drain fields, if they are operated properly. It has to go somewhere.

Bob Skiles asked if Randy Gordon's references had been contacted. Ralph Kloser said that one had called back. Bob Skiles said that Randy Gordon had a lot of knowledge from reading the PER for 3 hours. The Board should consider talking to Randy Gordon about expectations, the bottom line, time and money. The Board is not ready to make a decision at this time; Glen Morin should be present for that. There has to be a workable plan, a timeline, task assignment, with reporting to the Board. Does Randy Gordon have the time, and does the District have the money to pay that person for what we need? Dave Whitsitt wondered if Randy Gordon felt qualified to study Dave Aunes' funding strategy.

Randy Gordon gave the Board some of his background. He was born in Missoula. He worked in the food industry for 15 years. He has worked in a ditch. He had a car accident and went to college. He went to work for engineering firm and then for Spokane County doing surveying for topos. He performed soil samples, worked with rock, and surveying. Spokane County would design a sewer on the computer, and then build it the next year. He was on-site building it. He worked on the project from beginning to end. After several years of doing that he perform maintenance on the sewer system. He went through the system to see which parts were crucial, and if they needed to have a replacement part in stock or how long it would take to get one and where.

This sewer system is a brand new baby. You want to do it right, and that way it will save money in maintenance. He has a technical engineering degree. He had to tell people on fixed incomes that will have to spend a large amount of money on sewer. Bob Skiles asked if he was qualified to write grant applications. He said that he can review them, but the Board should use a professional grant writer to do that. He would be able to review them and give the Board some insight. Each funding source has a different goal and the grant writing is geared to that goal.

Dave Whitsitt asked if he could review Dave Aune's funding strategy. Randy Gordon said that he could take a look at it. If he is going to move forward he will have to know where the money comes from and which grants have been secured. The funding agencies want to make sure that the users are willing to put the money up. If the public voted in favor of the sewer, that would help with this immensely.

Randy Gordon said that the Board has to look at this as a government entity. You do not have to have all of the money; the government operates on the money that they will get. He spoke to Dave Aune who is waiting to see if Marnie Russ had got any money.

Ralph Kloser said that the District had \$2.2 million, of which \$1.75 million were 2 STAG grants. The District also has DNRC and TSEP grants. Some money had been drawn so that solidified the other money.

Randy Gordon questioned why the Board is second-guessing the engineer. Dave Whitsitt said that he had been a little evasive. Walt Hill had picked up a few things and was concerned about the validity of the funding strategy. Randy Gordon said that if the engineer does not get these grants he would not build the sewer and therefore not make money. If he writes pie in the sky stuff it will not benefit him. He is not more qualified than Dave Aune.

Randy Gordon met Dave Aune at the Water District hearing. He liked the fact that he was honest, saying that they could not clear their schedule soon enough to meet the District's time line. Nobody could. Tom Morris noted that Dave Aune had got their grant money and done it all for much less.

Randy Gordon said that the Board needs a sewer manager, and not need a full time manager. It had worked out well for him, as he wants to get back in to engineering. He will work with them part-time as contract labor and do it as the Board wants. Ralph Kloser said that he did not feel that we had our arms around our project. The District needs somebody that can look at it all and get their arms around it. Then can say this is where we are going and this is how we will get there.

Randy Gordon said that the Board could not be the Board and the workers at the same time. They have to have somebody that is willing to do the work. He can do it, and he is excited about it. The position will be like a sheriff and will not have a set schedule. He anticipates 10-15 hours per week to get up and running. It will take a couple of weeks to get up to speed. The time could increase and it could decrease. He will have to find the money to get paid, as \$32,000 is not a lot of money to operate on. He will take on the challenge and will give more than what he bills. He would like to work for 1 year and then renegotiate his contract. Bob Skiles said that he should work under a contract for now until we get a feel for this.

Tom Morris asked if he had a computer to log time and telephone access. Randy Gordon said that he has telephone access and he could use his home computer. The Board questioned how much time he would need. Randy Gordon replied that it would be about 10-15 hours per week. He will do what it takes to get the job done. If the Board does not feel that he is doing the work, he will go. His name and reputation are important. When it comes to the point that he is not working the hours, or if he needs more time he would let the Board know. He does what he says.

Ralph Kloser asked Randy Gordon if he had a monthly rate. Randy Gordon said that he would look at it and get back to the Board.

Dave Whitsitt said that he would talk to Glen Morin and see if he wants to have a special meeting or to appoint a committee. The committee would then make a recommendation to the Board. The Board agreed that all members should be present to make the decision. The Board discussed the position further and agreed they all need to be on the same page as far as what this person will do. The Board was impressed by Randy Gordon's experience.

Bob moved to have a meeting on Thursday, May 21, 2009 if Glen Morin and Scott Smith were able to attend, Tom Morris seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

Scheduled for June 18, 2009

ADJOURMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52pm

Attest:

Dave Whitesitt, Vice President

Felicity Derry, Secretary