

# SEELEY LAKE MISSOULA COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT

## Board of Directors Meeting

August 20, 2009

### Attendance:

Glen Morin	President	PRESENT (5:27pm)	Ralph Kloser	Manager	PRESENT
Dave Whitesitt	Vice-President	PRESENT	Felicity Derry	Secretary	ABSENT
Bob Skiles	Director	PRESENT	Tom Morris	Director	PRESENT
Scott Smith	Director	PRESENT	Bruce Friede	Advisor	PRESENT
			Walt Hill	Advisor	PRESENT
			Mike Lindemer	Public	PRESENT

### OPENING

The meeting was called to order at 5:17pm by Vice President, Dave Whitesitt at Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Inc., located at 379 Boy Scout Road.

### MINUTES

The minutes from the July 16, 2009 meeting were presented.

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

### FINANCIAL REPORT

#### Bills

Dave Whitesitt presented the bills to the Board.

1.	RTK & Associates	Inv#84	\$	567.99
2.	Secretary Felicity Derry		\$	75.00
3.	Seeley Lake Water District – Bookkeeping	Inv#42	\$	52.50
4.	Rock-N-Horse Ranch LLC		\$	1,259.40

Scott Smith requested the details for the bills.

Tom Morris moved to pay the bills, Scott Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Financial Statements

The financial reports for July 2009 were presented to the Board. Scott Smith asked what kind of insurance the payment was for. Ralph Kloser clarified that for him.

Scott Smith moved to accept the financial reports for July 2009, Tom Morris seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Notice from Missoula County that the Elections Office had received the paperwork from Dave Whitsitt and his name will be on the ballot.

## **CONTRACT MANAGERS REPORT**

Ralph Kloser gave a verbal report.

Tom Morris moved to accept the contract manager's report, Scott Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **CONSULTANT'S REPORT**

Randy Gordon informed the Board that he had spoken with Roger Johnson regarding selling the District some property for the treatment facility. This discussion led Randy Gordon to believe that the property would not meet the ground water criteria. The Board discussed various ways of utilizing a smaller lot for the treatment plant and putting the drain field elsewhere.

The regional manager for the US Forest Service was at the Water District observing the tank site construction with Tim Love. From discussions that day it seems that if an acceptable site can be found on Forest Service they may not require a lease payment from the Sewer District because it is serving the community. Randy Gordon will be meeting with Tim Love tomorrow to discuss land.

Randy Gordon found some funding through Rural Initiatives. The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has grants available for ground water protection. They also have stimulus money available in the form of grants and low interest loans administered by Rural Development, USDA. He met with Rory Schmidt of Montana Rural Water who has been working with communities in similar situations. Before the District can find out if we can apply for USDA money we need to have another income survey done. The last income survey completed was not defined enough for the Federal Government. The 2000 survey lists the median household income is \$35,000. In order to be eligible for the highest level of funding the median income has to be \$32,000 or lower. Rural Initiatives would do an income survey for the entire District and pay for it. Randy Gordon will have to assist Rural Water on some of the door-to-door stuff. Once the survey has been completed it will show what funding would be available to the District. There is stimulus money available over the next several years, much of which has not been applied for. This could mean building the system in one shot and funding the entire project. Montana Rural Water will also assist with training staff and Boards, adopting a set of standards and help with rate schedules. They have requested two copies of the PER and some other documents including the environmental review, which has not been completed to date. They will help the District find funding to pay for this. Missoula County, OPG also offered assistance with the study. Rural Water will also help with the site permit. This may also help us with the Forest Service and avoid having to do an environmental impact study. Randy Gordon has also been working with Midwest Assistance Program. They are similar to Rural Water but have closer ties to the EPA.

Randy Gordon noted that many people have suggested increasing District boundaries would be beneficial. Boy Scout Road and Riverview Drive are areas that have groundwater pollution issues. The Board discussed the groundwater pollution within the District and the studies that have been performed. Scott Smith noted that if the worst possible picture is painted in order to receive the maximum funding, this will mean the cost will be less for everybody. Dogtown will also help with the income survey. On this matter Pat O'Herren informed him for all of the DNRC land, DNRC would get one vote. The DNRC will not accept a tax and they will not pay for it. He is exploring billing them as the Water District does on a monthly bill, which they are paying. He will be meeting with Liz Mullins, DNRC next week. The Board discussed how increasing the size of the District would affect the design and cost of the system.

Dave Whitesitt questioned the laws for petitioning land in to the District. Randy Gordon replied that if the area he had spoken about were to be annexed in the entire District would have to vote on it. The benefits of enlarging the District are that there would be more users to spread out the cost of operation and maintenance. Increasing the number of lower income households might qualify the District for more grants. Bob Skiles questioned if the people that live along the lake and river have a median income is less than \$32,000. Randy Gordon replied that the income survey would have to be done to show that. Most of the people that live in that area of town are retired and live on a fixed income. Glen Morin added that the current financial plan would not work; other avenues have to be explored.

Randy Gordon said that once EPA finds out that those people are polluting the ground water they would contact Missoula County, who is responsible for this even though they are within the Sewer District. Missoula County can dissolve the Sewer District and form their own entity to clean up the situation. They did this with Lolo. The Board discussed this possibility.

Randy Gordon is still working on the earmark and will be talking to Tester's office. The Board discussed the inter-local agreement and the performance of the lobbyist.

Currently the cost of the hook ups to the homes is approximately \$23 per foot. This does not include engineering. Randy Gordon spoke to a contractor in town who would charge \$7 per foot. If the homeowner is paying for the line they would be more likely to do more themselves, which would save money, as well as lowering the District's liability. The Board discussed this further.

As a result of the newspaper article in the Missoulian Randy Gordon had a meeting with Michelle Landquist, County Commissioner, to review how this came about. He is in the process of writing an article for the Pathfinder. Next week he will be meeting with the reporter for another article in the Missoulian.

Randy Gordon predicted that with the current direction of the Board more people might start attending the meeting. He proposed moving the Board meetings upstairs at the Barn. He has contact information for all of the Board, but still needs a phone number for Dave Whitesitt.

Tom Morris moved to accept the Consultant's report, Scott Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Scott Smith informed the Board that his Information Technology person has not had the time to work on building the website, so no progress has been made there. He requested that Randy Gordon work on a flow chart to help him with putting together the business plan. The Board agreed he should do this.

Scott Smith requested that the next meeting begin later as he is flying in that night. The Board agreed that the meeting begin at 6:00pm and will be held at Pyramid as usual.

Glen Morin thanked Randy Gordon for doing a great job.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

Scheduled for September 17, 2009

## **ADJOURMENT:**

Attest:

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Glen Morin, President

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Felicity Derry, Secretary