

SEELEY LAKE MISSOULA COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT
Board of Directors Continuation of February 17, 2011 Meeting
February 24, 2011

Attendance:

Glen Morin	President	PRESENT	Mike Lindemer	Director	PRESENT
Scott Smith	Vice-President	ABSENT	Randy Gordon	Consultant	ABSENT
Bob Skiles	Director	PRESENT	Felicity Derry	Secretary	PRESENT

Vacant Position Director

Public Attendance listed in Appendix A

OPENING:

President, Glen Morin at The Barn, located on Highway 83 N, called the meeting to order at 5:16pm. Glen Morin read the agenda for this continuation meeting and asked for any public comments regarding the two resolutions that were on the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Clydine Robinett questioned the amount of the fee assessment and why they were getting a separate bill. The Board reviewed the informational letter from Missoula County.

Dave Whitesitt questioned if there was a new assessment. Glen Morin replied that it was the same assessment as before.

Bill Bogardus questioned if the loan amount would be added to the assessment. Glen Morin said that it was not. The assessment was for the operation of the District.

Clydine Robinett asked what the assessment was for. Glen Morin replied that it was to run the District, to pay for a manager, a secretary, renting a building, insurance fees, attorney fees, and ground water testing.

Clydine Robinett asked how long the assessment would last. Glen Morin replied that as soon as the sewer was there the assessment would stop. Clydine Robinett asked if the assessment stopped how the employees would be paid. Glen Morin replied that customers would get a monthly bill like any other utility to pay for the operation of the District.

Bob Skiles said that once there was a sewer the assessment would not be charged and they would put that in writing. The Board knows that we need a sewer. The primary focus of the Board is to find a way to pay for it that makes it as easy as possible for everybody in this room. We are trying to get as much grant money to lessen the amount paid by the customers. The Board has been trying to make it equitable and has eliminated things to lower the overall cost. It is a different treatment process, there will not be any lagoons, the water will be put in the ground and the waste will go to the dump. We are trying to have a sewer that everybody can afford.

Clydine Robinett asked if the District was being expanded to include more properties. Bob Skiles replied that more properties along the lake and river would be included. State lands will be joining the District. The more people there are in the District the lower the cost to each customer. The Board wants to do the entire project all at once because it is the cheapest way. The sooner we can get it done the less it will cost.

Beth Hutchinson asked if the Board had a comprehensive report of certified data indicating that a sewer is the only solution to the problem. Bob Skiles said that in 1992 Missoula County Health Department did a study in Seeley Lake, which determined that there was ground water degradation in Seeley Lake caused by the septic systems. If there was an alternative, he did not know what it might be.

Beth Hutchinson said that it would be respectful to the community and to science and economics to have a comprehensive slide show that would document this. There are alternatives that would be considerably cheaper, and she is uncomfortable that the alternatives have not been fully revealed. She came in to the last meeting in support of a sewer, and left the meeting feeling that she could not support this. There was no clear program or analysis of the problem. It has made her uncomfortable. She did research in the mean time and thought that the cart was before the horse. Glen Morin replied that there would be an informational meeting to discuss this kind of thing before the hearing on March 29, 2011.

John Anders said that when the Sewer Board started they said there would be a one-time fee of \$76. Many years later we are still paying \$76, we have not gained much and you are still trying to shove it down our throat. Why is he in the Sewer District if you are going to put the treatment plant closer to the lake and creek than his house? Glen Morin said that the treated water from the plant could be sold to the Water District or the golf course.

John Anders said that there are septic systems with three tanks and the water out of the 3rd tank is used to water the lawns. Why have you not explored that? Glen Morin replied they have looked at them and decided not to go with them. We have to comply with Missoula County. Bob Skiles added that each homeowner would have to put in at a cost of \$20,000 or \$30,000.

Bill Bogardus questioned if the Board alluded to the water being sold back to the Water District so that there could be more subdivision created within the District. The Board said that it was just a comment that the water quality from the treatment plant is very high. Bill Bogardus asked if there was anybody affiliated with the Board that was looking in to subdivision within the new proposed boundaries and that was why they alluded to selling the water to the Water District. Walter Hill said that the Water District would not buy the Sewer District's water. They did not need to. The purity of the water coming from the treatment plant is good enough that it could be utilized in a water recycling program.

Bill Bogardus questioned that the Water District did not have enough water for more subdivisions. Glen Morin redirected the focus to the Sewer District.

Harold Sheets said that it is a good idea to show proof to all of the people in the Sewer District that there were enough pollutants to warrant a sewer system. Or are we past the stage where the State says no more?

Glen Morin said that the ground water contamination is past that. The limit for nitrates is 7 ppm and there are a couple of wells that are at 12ppm. Harold Sheets questioned if that was every test. Glen Morin replied that they had been steadily climbing. Mike Lindemer added that Vince Chappell is certified to take the samples; he sends them to the lab and then shows the data to the Board, which is open to the public.

Caroline Jenkins said that the Pathfinder would willingly publish the data for public information. **Mike Lindemer** said that he would get the information to the Pathfinder to show a three-year trend on all of the well sites. **Bob Skiles** said that the Bureau of Mines had done studies on the water flow. This information had been presented at public meetings where nobody showed up.

**Resolution to call public hearing concerning District Property Assessments for:
2012 District Operations Special Assessment**

Glen Morin called for Board discussion on this matter. The Board agreed that no more discussion was needed.

Resolution #02242011-1 of intention of the Seeley Lake-Missoula County Sewer District, Montana to assess an administrative fee against the properties in the Seeley Lake-Missoula County Sewer District.

	In Favor	Against	Absent
Glen Morin	X		
Scott Smith			X
Bob Skiles	X		
Mike Lindemer	X		
Vacant Position			

Caroline Jenkins asked the Board to explain exactly what that motion meant. Glen Morin explained the annual fee assessment and that the resolution was to continue it at the same rate. The Board explained the way that the assessment was being calculated.

Assessment for Repayment of Pending Intercap Loan for Design Project

Glen Morin opened this to comments

Beth Hutchinson questioned if this would go to a vote, or could the Board just go forward. Glen Morin replied that it would go to a vote. There will be an informational meeting about the pending Intercap loan and the design project. The engineers will attend to give information on the project and the assessment to pay back the Intercap loan.

Beth Hutchinson questioned if they were asking for the fiscal support before the District had support for the project. Glen Morin said that this money would allow the District to get a dollar amount for the project. Bob Skiles said that the District was opening a line of credit so that the District can spend up to that amount. Beth Hutchinson asked when the line of credit is opened will the citizens have given the Board permission to spend as they see fit. Glen Morin said that it would fall back to the citizens.

Dave Whitesitt asked when the informational meeting and hearing were being held. Glen Morin replied that they had no date for the informational meeting, but the hearing would be held March 29, 2011.

Walter Hill commented that \$100,000 was needed as match for the WRDA grant. WRDA requires 25% match from local or State funds. For this loan the Sewer District would receive \$400,000 to allow the engineering to go ahead. The \$400,000 does not have to be paid back.

Caroline Jenkins questioned if those monies paid for the RFP and if the hearing would be specifically regarding that loan. Glen Morin replied that it was for the RFP and the design and the public hearing was to cover the \$100,000 loan and the design of the project.

Harold Sheets asked if there could be more than one informational meeting for people that could not make the first. Glen Morin replied that it was possible, but depended on timing. If not get enough people attended they would try to hold a second meeting. Mike Lindemer said that the notice would be posted at the Post Office, Roveros and around town to inform people. It is the peoples' responsibility to pay attention to the Board's notifications. The Board will get as much information out at the meeting as possible. Glen Morin added that the Resolution on the loan does not mean that it is in place; it will still need to be voted on.

Harold Sheets questioned why the people outside of the District were talking more than those within the District. Walter Hill said if there was a nice way to allow people outside of the District to be assessed there are lots of people that would be willing to. The laws are set up so the people within the District have to pay the cost. The Resort Tax was a beautiful way to spread the cost, but that did not pass.

Glen Morin asked for Board discussion, on the loan repayment.

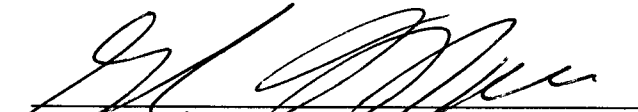
Resolution #02242011-2 relating to the Seeley Lake-Missoula County Sewer District; proposing the levy of special assessments within the District for the purpose of repaying District indebtedness incurred to finance a portion of the cost of designing a sewer system and calling for a public hearing.


	In Favor	Against	Absent
Glen Morin	X		
Scott Smith			X
Bob Skiles	X		
Mike Lindemer	X		
Vacant Position			

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Scheduled for March 29, 2011

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned by Glen Morin at 6:02pm

Attest:


Glen Morin, President


Felicity Derry, Secretary

APPENDIX A

SIGN IN SHEET for Seeley Lake Sewer Board meeting of 2-24-11

Please print your name and place an asterisks (*) by your name if you wish to speak during the public comment period. In order to maintain and ensure effective and efficient operations of the Board and to ensure everyone has an opportunity to speak, comments will be limited to three (3) minutes each unless modified by the Board chair at the beginning of the public comment period.

1. Bill Bogardus
2. DAVID D. WHITESITT
3. Tracey Robinett
4. Cydine C. Robinett
5. Harold Shurt
6. GARY MILLER
7. JIM + DAVE GUELF
8. BETH HUTCHINSON
9. Ken Barber
10. John Anders
11. Bruce Fiedler
12. Michael A. Boltz
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.