

Seeley Lake Sewer District
BOARD MEETING
April 21, 2011

ROLL CALL

Glen Morin	President	PRESENT	Mike Lindemer	Director	PRESENT
Scott Smith	Vice-President	ABSENT	Mike Boltz	Director	PRESENT
Bob Skiles	Director	PRESENT*6:15pm	Felicity Derry	Secretary	PRESENT
Craig Pozega	Engineer	PRESENT			

Public Attendance listed in Appendix A

OPENING:

The meeting was called to order at 5:18 pm by President, Glen Morin at The Barn, located on Highway 83 N.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Beth Hutchinson asked if the Board was going to address the letter to the editor from Dave Whitesitt and the ideas that he pointed out. Glen Morin replied that he had not planned on responded to it. Beth Hutchinson formally requested that his letter regarding the cost of O&M for Phase I was addressed.

Glen Morin said that the costs have to be worked on. Mike Lindemer said that the O&M cost would depend on which type of plant was chosen. Beth Hutchinson said that the information was presented at the informational meeting. Mike Lindemer said that the informational meeting used rough numbers. That was why they were afraid to use any numbers. When they get to a closer number they would let the public know. Glen Morin said that those numbers were if they did not receive any more money. That is why the Board refused to go any further. Beth Hutchinson asked if the District could get financial support for O&M. Glen Morin said that they would not. Mike Lindemer said that Dave Whitesitt did not know which plant the District would chose and have the information for that plant.

Beth Hutchinson said that the information was clearly presented. Mike Lindemer did not agree. Beth Hutchinson said that even if the plant was fully funded by grants when it was all added together the projected cost was astronomical. Glen Morin said that was why there had to be some other income, possibly the resort tax to help pay the O&M cost. The Board agreed that it was too much to ask the people to pay. They had to figure out how to get the cost down. Beth Hutchinson said that it was nerve wracking that the Board still wanted to move forward and spend \$0.5 million on design when she was unaware that the Board was looking at any other kind of systems. She was concerned by their readiness to spend money on a very extraordinary system. She would like the Board to stop for three months and investigate other options. It would make people feel more comfortable rather than going straight to the shock level of things.

Dave Whitesitt said that the figure he quoted was Craig Pozega's best estimate that the O&M cost would be \$189,000. Mike Lindemer said that was an estimated cost. They were currently

looking at three plants each with a different O&M cost. Dave Whitesitt replied that was not what Craig Pozega had said. Mike Lindemer questioned that Craig Pozega had taken all three to come up with an average. Craig Pozega added that for some of the costs he did use an average. Some costs were fixed. The biggest variable would energy costs and he did average out the three options.

Randy Gordon said that the process had been going on for nineteen years. A lot of people were only now showing up to a meeting. The other options had been discussed for nineteen years. Now there were dead zones in Seeley and Salmon Lakes caused by septic systems. Beth Hutchinson added they could be potentially. Randy Gordon replied that potentially the light could go out. History showed if untreated sewage was continually dumped in to the groundwater it would create a problem. This system was the best system out there for the lowest cost. There was an SBR outside of Bozeman that operated on half that cost because they had a part-time operator. That was one of the options that the Board was looking at to bring those numbers down. That number was the worst-case scenario. It was nice to see this many people attend the meetings. The longer this went on the more it was going to cost due to stricter permit levels from EPA and DEQ. That is part of the cost to live in a community. Unless you want to live here with dead fish and water you cannot drink, that is what is going to happen.

Dennis Rathbun asked what the cost would be for the Board to feel that it was too much for the people to pay. Glen Morin said that the Board lived here too. That was why they talked to Missoula County, who also think they could lower the numbers. The Board was going forward and working with Great West Engineering (GWE) to find out how they could do it. Mike Lindemer said that the Board would not push the button until they feel and know it was affordable for the people of Seeley Lake. The rumor was wrong that they were trying to shove it down everybody's throat. He was looking towards the future for his kids and grandkids. It needed to be done. DEQ, the State or the Feds would come in and mandate it. The Board was trying to find the most affordable way possible. They had done much research and would only move forward if it were affordable. There were many people on a fixed income that could help the District. If the income survey had been completed it could have paid up to 75% of the cost of the hook-up. Each phase would have to do an income survey. The Board was doing everything they could but needed the response from the people of Seeley Lake.

Diane Braach asked what system Lolo had upgraded from, what the new system was and how much was that costing per household. Mike Lindemer replied that they had upgraded from a lagoon system, but he did not know the cost. Lolo discharged into the river and the new DEQ requirements for discharge had forced them to upgrade.

Randy Gordon said that Lolo had a low service number because their system was built forty years ago. Seeley Lake would never get a permit to put in a lagoon system. There would be no way to get to the limits of nutrients and the Total Suspended Solids (TSS). There was not 180 acres available. Dave Guelff said that he could sell him 180 acres but nobody had ever talked to him. Randy Gordon said that he had talked to every realtor in town. Dave Guelff said that he should talk to the landowners. Randy Gordon said that the cost of buying the land would raise the capital costs greatly. Discussion followed.

Caroline Jenkins, Pathfinder requested that the Board hold two public informational meetings. One to discuss the treatment site in a similar to the presentation that Craig Pozega had done

before. Focused on why that site was selected and the studies that had been done. The second on financials looking at all the grants, what they could pay for, and what we needed to be done to get them.

Secondly were the records centrally located and how could they be observed? Glen Morin replied that he had files that he worked with and Felicity Derry had those that she worked with at the Seeley Lake Water District. Felicity Derry had a request for information form to be completed when information as requested. Caroline Jenkins confirmed that the files were split between two locations. Glen Morin noted that he had spoken to Craig Pozega, GWE regarding the meetings.

Don Ditty said that he had been intermingled with the sewer since 1989. He had heard a lot of talk from diff people that they did not know about the meetings because they did not read the Pathfinder and they did not read the agenda at the Post Office. Were there ways to get it broadcast and get more involvement from the public. It started four or five years ago with the meeting at the grade school. The Board had the County Commissioners at the meeting and they wanted to assess a tax of \$72 per year. There was opposition and the people spoke up. The Commissioner said because of the pollution in Seeley Lake they would let it go forward. At least 85-90% of the people were against it and very few for it. Glen Morin agreed that had happened. Don Ditty said after that the people were down on the entire system because they felt it had been shoved down their throat. Glen Morin said that was true they could have stopped there; they could have lived with the groundwater being polluted. It had to go forward. Don Ditty said that was what turned the people against coming to the meetings. Glen Morin said that they were hoping that once the design and permit were completed things could settle down so that they could work on the cost and make it affordable. They were not going to have a \$300 per month bill. They live here also.

Don Ditty said that the Pathfinder was the one real solution, if the people would read it. Glen Morin said that they had mailed letters and there have been meetings. People were learning more and they were getting the information out. Caroline Jenkins was doing a great job putting articles in the paper. They were getting as much information out as they could. Don Ditty said that he was not against the Board they were essential and were doing a great job.

Public: He thanked the Board for the great job they were doing. There were many kinds of systems that could be built. The best soil maps were available. Not every area could have the same system. They need to get all of the people together to draw a design, get contractors to build it. It was a good time to do it when there were no jobs in existence. The USA needed to do this kind of thing. People could get together in the community and built it.

Randy Gordon replied that the plans had to be approved by EPA. They would not let this system be built with volunteers. Public: The contractors were willing to have volunteers work for them. Randy Gordon said that the laws today would not allow that.

Caroline Jenkins, Pathfinder noted that local contractors maybe employed as subcontractors. Randy Gordon said that he understood that. Caroline Jenkins, Pathfinder said that people take issue with some sweeping comments that were made. That was where people got sensitive and there was a credibility issue. Randy Gordon said that was why Caroline Jenkins was going to start writing articles to try to explain that. Caroline Jenkins, Pathfinder noted that she had been writing articles.

Beth Hutchinson said that she had heard over and over that the town could not expand without this system. Why do so many people that cannot afford the parameters of the system expected to subsidize the profit making expansion in this town? She felt resentful that it was up to her on a fixed income to create an environment for businesses to come in and make a profit. When you enter in to profit making conditions you should have to cover your own costs. Glen Morin said that she would have to talk to the zoning committee on that. They were just trying to supply the sewer system. Randy Gordon said that there were laws that would not allow that to happen. People would have to pay latecomers agreements to pay for the capacity in the plant. The best thing would be to get the 125 vacant lots to develop so they could help pay for the sewer.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Dave Whitesitt Letter

Glen Morin read the letter – Appendix B

Dave Guelff said that he owned some of the higher ground in Seeley Lake. The Community Council had it set up for four houses per acre. He went out with a skid steer and buried it on one of the highest areas of his property. He had no idea it was that soft when he walked across it. Had anybody been back behind the Community Center recently with a machine to see what the ground conditions were? Glen Morin said that high groundwater was the problem with a lot of the sites. Mike Lindemer said they had three test wells behind the Community Hall. Dave Guelff said it would be a good time to take a machine back there to see if the ground could hold the water. Glen Morin said that the study was to see if the ground would be able to do what was needed. Mike Lindemer asked Craig Pozega's opinion. Craig Pozega said that the studies were to see if the land could hold that influx of water. Dave Guelff said that he would like to take a machine over there. He questioned if the ground could physically hold the plant.

Beth Hutchinson said that on adjacent properties there was flooding on at least three of them. That flooding was typical of every year.

Craig Pozega said that the disposal was subsurface. Flooding happens a lot this time of year. They had a well driller drill three wells, which they are monitoring for groundwater characteristics and hydrogeological characteristics. If they continued with that site they would do a geotechnical evaluation on the soils at the site for building requirements. Don Ditty questioned if they would use an auger. Craig Pozega said that they might, they would get three bids for the survey

Randy Gordon said that Dave Aune came out and Gary Lewis dug a pit. Soil samples were taken at every elevation whenever the soil would change. A lot of work was done before the Board chose that site. Various studies had been done previously. This was all monitored by DEQ and EPA. The various steps started two years ago.

Don Ditty asked if Randy Gordon had the samples. Randy Gordon replied that they were sent to GWE. Caroline Jenkins, Pathfinder said that was the kind of information that people would love to see. Dave Guelff asked when that was done. Randy Gordon replied that they were there in October/November. That information had been discussed in open public forum. A monthly newsletter could be sent out but that was costly. Caroline Jenkins, Pathfinder said that

with respect the people were here now and they should have been here before. They were here now and people wanted to see it. Craig Pozega did a beautiful presentation and the perception of transparency was there.

Dave Geulff said that now was the time to look at the site. You do not want to build the plant there and find you have the wrong place. He was not against the sewer. If you take a driller in there right now and could drill a well it would be a great site.

Dave Whitesitt said that the test wells and perk test was done in November during the driest part of the year. It would be very different now.

Public: Why was nothing found with a lower elevation to avoid pumping? Randy Gordon said that the ground at lower elevations floods. When something floods it leaves marks in the ground, it is a science. He had nothing to do with the Sewer District anymore, but he could help him get the information he wanted.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Glen Morin said that the Board was going to respond to the correspondence at this meeting. Scott Smith had been handling that and he was absent tonight. Bill Bogardus had commented that the records were changed. He would like to respond to that. There was a comment during a meeting that Randy Gordon had made. Randy Gordon said that in a meeting they had been talking about the income survey and how it worked. The income survey was sent out to everybody and they were returned to a third party. Once the third party received the required response then it became a good survey and it was shut off. That was how they were done. For this income survey they wanted the people with the lowest income to complete and return their forms. If the people with higher incomes returned their surveys then the median income might be too high to qualify for grants. He had made the remark that they wanted the people with the lowest income to fill the survey out. Maybe he should not have said that, but that was what was needed. Before that meeting all of the minutes go to all of the Board members. The Board members read those minutes and they can change them however they want to. Glen Morin had Felicity Derry change the minutes before the meeting, which he is allowed to do. I had brought an original copy of the minutes and Dave Whitesitt got a copy of those. The official meeting minutes that were voted on and passed were the ones that had been amended. The minutes were not changed after the vote.

Glen Morin added that he read the minutes and did not want that statement in the minutes. He had changed the minutes. It was not Randy Gordon or Felicity Derry. He had learned from that.

Dave Whitesitt said that at two different meetings Randy Gordon said that they had to spread the word around town that anybody that made over \$35,000 should not return their survey. That was in a copy of the minutes that was handed out before the meeting and those minutes were then approved by the Board without any change. The minutes of that meeting that he picked up at the following meeting did not show any change to that statement of Randy Gordon. He sent it to the County; the Board sent a copy to the County that did not say that at all. It had been edited out. It was edited out after the Board had approved the minutes. Randy Gordon said that it never happened. Glen Morin said that he went through all of the minutes and that was the only thing that he could find. He apologized and said that they had learned

from that. Going forward the minutes would be reviewed by the Board at a meeting and not outside of that setting.

Diane Braach said that there were minutes online of two different meetings where Randy Gordon had said that that for the income survey they would only use the people with the low income for the survey. It was deceptive. Glen Morin said that he had reviewed the minutes and did not find this discussion. Discussion of this followed.

Caroline Jenkins, Pathfinder asked Craig Pozega if the plants that they were being considered would have parallel train redundancies and was that required by DEQ. Craig Pozega replied that they would and it was a DEQ requirement. Caroline Jenkins, Pathfinder noted that people were concerned that there was no way to store two days worth of flow in an emergency. Greg Robertson, Missoula County Public Works said that there would be redundancy that could take the back-up. So there would be provision for that. Craig Pozega said that it did have a redundancy provision, but it did not have basins big enough for three days of storage. The redundancy would allow the plant to run on one or the other. So if one part was in repair, the other part could be used. Caroline Jenkins, Pathfinder asked if there would still be a need to have a basin. Craig Pozega said that it would not for this application. It was not standard to have a holding tank.

Dave Whitesitt asked what would happen when there was a malfunction in the plant. Craig Pozega replied that was why there was redundancy. Caroline Jenkins, Pathfinder asked if there was ever a situation where one basin was processing and the other was filled and there was nowhere for the sewage to go. Craig Pozega said that there would be regular operation and maintenance where they would be taken out and the batch cycle would be changed to compensate for that. Caroline Jenkins, Pathfinder noted that the concern was that there might be a catastrophe with the plant and what would happen to the sewage. Were there enough redundancies to handle that? Craig Pozega said that with anything there were some catastrophes that you could not plan for. For instance if something similar to what happened in Japan happened here there would be no mechanical plant in the State that could handle that. There were some scenarios out there that could not be dealt with. You had the ability to change batch cycles and take any portion out of service and still be able to operate the treatment plant. Caroline Jenkins, Pathfinder asked how long the portion could be taken out of cycle. Craig Pozega said for how ever long was needed. There was total redundancy so any portion of the treatment plant could be taken out of service for any length of time. It would be a matter of how the batches were run.

Beth Hutchinson noted that redundancy was an issue, but Dave Whitesitt had questioned volume. Dave Whitesitt noted that the PER said that one vessel would be filling while the other was processing. If it did not finish processing when the other filled where would the sewage go? Craig Pozega replied that you could control batch cycles, so that would not happen. Dave Whitesitt asked if the plant could be run continually. Craig Pozega said that it could. Caroline Jenkins, Pathfinder asked if the effluent would still exit the plant at 7.5mg/l maximum and go in to the drain field. Craig Pozega said that it would be more difficult to achieve the higher quality limits under those conditions. Those things would be taken in to consideration in the design of the plant. The tanks were larger than they would be ordinarily if they were not trying to treat to such stringent limits. With regard to the volume the only technology out there that can hold massive volumes was lagoon technology. There were no mechanical treatment plants that could hold multiple days worth of effluent. A typical cycle for effluent through a

plant is hours not days. Potentially there were hundreds of thousands of gallons per day.

Caroline Jenkins, Pathfinder asked with regard to the hundreds of thousands gallons of effluent per day did the studies show that the ground could handle that volume. Craig Pozega said that when talking about the hundreds of thousands of gallons he was speaking in general and not of Seeley Lake. Everything that they were doing looked at a 20-year capacity of the system for that site.

Public: Was Lolo changing to the same system that the Seeley Lake Sewer District was considering? Glen Morin replied that they were changing to a MBR system. Public: Was Lolo pumping in to the ground? Glen Morin replied that Lolo had a permit to discharge in to the river. The Seeley Lake Sewer District did not have a permit to discharge in to any creek. Don Ditty asked if the District expanded again would the area handle it. Craig Pozega said that the plant size was small and the disposal area was much bigger and it would be the limiting factor for a big expansion. You would probably not be able to triple the size of the entire District. There was more room so some expansion would be possible. Some of the ground was suitable and other parts were steeper and less suitable for different portions of the plant.

Caroline Jenkins, Pathfinder said that she had talked with Pat O'Herren about over laying the Sewer District with the land use designation map for the downtown area. There had been a request to start zoning from the land use designation. That would dictate how much opportunity there would be for growth. There would not be a huge amount of growth because there was not accommodation for that in the land use plan. Randy Gordon said that had been done to look at all of the potential land that could be sewered. Unless the US Forest Service or the State started to sell land that site could handle that kind of flow. Caroline Jenkins, Pathfinder said that would be a very interesting map for people to look at. Dave Guelff asked if the plant was at 100% now, what percentage could be added. Randy Gordon said that the only areas that could be added to the Sewer District in the future would be Double Arrow phases 2 and 4 and all of the DNRC land along the lake and river. The latter had to be put in to the Sewer District because most of it was in a flood plain. With that in mind they were looking at 750,000 gallons total build out. That site would be able to handle that. The plant would be a 20-year plant. The Board could get that through the County GIS Department. Seeley Lake did not have much available land to develop. Anyway the town could not grow unless it got more water rights.

Glen Morin said that with regard to the correspondence Scott Smith was going to respond to them. The responses would be moved to the next meeting.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the March 17 Board meeting, March 22 Informational Meeting, March 29 Special Board meeting and March 29 Public Hearing were presented to the Board.

Mike Boltz moved to accept the minutes for March 17, 2011 as presented, Bob Skiles seconded. The motion passed.

Mike Lindemer moved to accept the minutes for March 22, 2011 as presented, Mike Boltz seconded. The motion passed.

Mike Boltz moved to accept the minutes for March 29, 2011 Special Meeting as presented, Mike Lindemer seconded. The motion passed.

Bob Skiles moved to accept the minutes for March 29, 2011 Public Hearing as presented, Mike Boltz seconded. The motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Invoices

Glen Morin presented the March invoices to the Board.

Randy Gordon said that in January the Board approved to give the Key Club at the High School a donation. They called people and knocked on doors trying to get them to complete their income survey. They did a great job. He requested that the Board approve a donation for their effort. There were five students who each spent approximately 2-3 hours. He suggested donating a minimum of \$100.

The Board discussed this matter and decided to put a donation of \$150 to the High School Key Club on the invoices for the May meeting.

Bob Skiles approved payment of all of the March invoices as presented, Mike Boltz seconded. The motion passed.

The Board reviewed the financial reports for March 2011. The Board noted that office supplies and well monitoring needed to be adjusted on the budget.

Bob Skiles moved to accept the March 2011 financial reports as presented, Mike Boltz seconded. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Missoula County Proposal

Glen Morin said that they had not advertised for a manager because the Board was still discussing with the County their proposal. Glen Morin read the letter from the County Commissioners outlining the proposal. Appendix C.

Glen Morin said that the Board had a meeting with the County on April 19, 2011 to discuss their proposal and answer the District's questions. Bob Skiles said that the County was from the government and they were there to help us. He was against it. If their track record with everything else showed anything that was the way it would be with the District. Diane Braach asked what Bob Skiles was against. Bob Skiles replied that he was against the County taking over the Sewer Board. Glen Morin said that they would still be their own Board who would make the decisions. The County would like to help the District. He felt it would be a benefit. Bob Skiles said that he was not sure that it was the right thing to do. The Board was charged with reviewing the economics and the feasibility of the sewer and he was concerned that the District would be competing against the County for grants. With their track record on the condition of the roads and everything else that had happened it sounded too good to be true. Why now? Glen Morin said that in politics you were not going to get an apology. This was the County's apology. He felt it was something the Board could work with and the County was

being very transparent and they really wanted to help the District. Bob Skiles said that they came up to Seeley and derailed everything. He would have to consider all of the options. Glen Morin said that the contract with Great West Engineering was on hold because they did not have the money. They chose to not continue with the \$110,000 loan at the March 29th, 2011 meeting. The County was not going to hold the money over their heads and make the District pay it back if the District dissolved. Mike Lindemer said that they could modify the agreement as the Board liked; they did not have to use their help. If they did not like it they did not have to use it.

Mike Boltz said that he would take their money. Mike Lindemer said that the County Attorney had said the Board could formulate the agreement as they saw fit. The ball was in the Board's court and they could use what they needed. Glen Morin said that the County knew that the Board was their own entity and he felt that the County was trying to be totally transparent. He felt that this offer was the political version of an apology. Mike Lindemer said that the County had offered to help the District with things that they had been struggling with in the past and they put it in writing.

Randy Gordon said that there were grants that the District could apply for as a sewer district. Then there were grants that only towns and counties could apply for. There was a huge Federal sustainability grant that only municipalities could apply for. He spoke to Cindy Wulfekuhle, Missoula County Office of Planning and Grants (OPG) regarding this grant. She had been tracking the grant and they were going to apply for it for some other place in the County. It was a rural grant for towns smaller than 10,000 people. The Sewer District would have to have partnered with other entities to be eligible. Those were some of the limitations on the Sewer District because Seeley Lake was not a municipality. Seeley Lake had to decide if they wanted to control their destiny or let Missoula County. There were a lot of advantages to becoming a municipality. There were limitations on the Sewer District. He believed that the Sewer District was set up to fail from the beginning. If Seeley Lake became incorporated it would be eligible to get more money to pay for the sewer project. Seeley Lake should look at becoming a city or the resort tax. Other communities have used the resort tax to pay for their utilities.

Walt Hill said that the Board had raised some good points. The inter-local agreement needed to be well crafted. It was a contract and any portion of it could be deleted or the agreement could be dissolved. He thought it was a winning situation. If it turned out that the grant writing was not working, the Board could opt out of that portion of the agreement. It was fluid enough that the Board could make it work for them. There were many advantages and there might be some disadvantages. As Bob Skiles said there are governmental agencies that are not to our liking. The Sewer District had been at this a long time, as a volunteer board it was not always easy to make the proper decisions. The Board would be getting some expertise with the County that would be hard to turn down. It was good that the Board had established that they were in charge. The Board could modify the agreement for the good of the District. Glen Morin said that any question the Board had the County said no problem.

Don Ditty asked how the land purchasing was coming along. Glen Morin replied that it was still in the works.

The Board discussed the proposal further. Randy Gordon commented that the Missoula County proposal should be included in the informational meeting that Caroline Jenkins had requested to allow the members of the community speak their mind.

Bob Skiles said that he was not opposed to the County proposal he was just very leery. He wanted to make sure that they were doing the right thing. Glen Morin said that the County would like to see a sewer system in Seeley Lake. They would do everything they could to get one. They see the work the Board had done to get to this point. Bob Skiles added that if the Board had to get help from the County to get a shovel-ready project maybe that was what they had to do. The Board agreed that there should be more discussion on this matter and they should devote an entire meeting to it.

Randy Gordon said that the Montana Annotated Code spelt out how water and sewer districts had to be governed. It would be wise to have a legal opinion on the agreement so that the Board had a legal opinion of what needed to be done.

Design Project

Craig Pozega said that last month there had been a big push to get the cost estimates and O&M costs for all of the phases. They still had the RFPs for the treatment proposals. They have almost completed the design of the collection for Phase I. It was all surveyed and mapped. There was only preliminary layout with no final depths and grades. They had talked about getting more data in the spring to be able to finalize things. Since the last public hearing they had been on hold, only doing the bare minimum to keep things going. They have a meeting scheduled with the US Forest Service to discuss some of the environmental requirements that might be associated with the land purchase.

NEW BUSINESS:

STAG Grant Extension

An extension needed to be submitted for the STAG grant. He had talked with EPA regarding this who felt it was not a big deal. Once Great West Engineering was given the go if the Board agreed he would do a thorough evaluation of the RFPs, score them and then discuss them.

Walt Hill commented that he could reflect the feeling of a lot of people in the community that the major issue was cost. The problem was that Seeley Lake needed a sewer system but could not afford it. There were several ways distribute the cost, one of which was the resort tax. There were other ways, some of which would need the community to incorporate. The State had an entitlement fund that goes back to cities and towns in the. This was allotted to the cities, towns and counties in the State according to population. Seeley Lake did not receive any of that, it went to the County. There were several ways that the problem of funding could be distributed. Another way was a Water Quality District. The County Commissioners could draw a line around everything from Clearwater Junction to the Summit and call it a Water Quality District. Then they could assess everybody in that district to maintain water quality within the district. He had calculated that they could probably fund the \$2.5 million loan with the proceeds of the Water Quality District. A lot of people outside of the Sewer District would be willing to help. The challenge was to find ways to spread the cost so that nobody would pay that much for the sewer. The water bill was enormous. The average bill for Water District was \$50 before they used any water. Again there are too few people to spread out that cost.


We spend a lot of time saying we cannot do it because we cannot afford it. We have to do it. It was wrong that we put everything on the backs of 400-500 users. We should look at ways to

spread the cost through the area, it was everybody's problem and we all need to work together. The cost of \$15 million was big. There were ways to trim that down including such things as the resort tax that would help spread the burden to more than those people in the Sewer District.

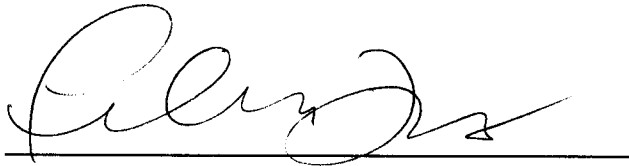
NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING: May 19, 2011

ADJOURNMENT: Glen Morin adjourned that meeting at 7:09pm.

Attest:



Glen Morin, President



Felicity Derry, Secretary

APPENDIX A

SIGN IN SHEET for Seeley Lake Sewer District Board Meeting - April 21, 2011

Please print your name and place an asterisks (*) by your name if you wish to speak during the public comment period. To ensure that everyone has an opportunity to speak, comments will be limited to three (3) minutes each.

1. Franny Trexler
2. Dennis Rathbun
3. BILL JACOBS
4. Don Doucett
5. Barb Cebulski
6. Ray Cebulski
7. David D. Whitesett
8. Marabel Litty
9. Craig Pozoga
10. CAROLINE JENKINS
11. Beth Hutchinson *
12. Spike Stone
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APPENDIX B

P.O. Box 322
Seeley Lake, MT 59868
April 12, 2011

Montana Department of Environmental Quality
655 Timber Wolf Parkway Suite 3
Kalispell, MT 59901

Attn: Mr. Greg Butts

Re: Seeley Lake Sewer Board's application for a wastewater discharge permit in Sec. 35, T17N, R15W, MPM.

Many of us who live in the Seeley Lake area are concerned that the proposed location for a sewer plant and wastewater disposal will pollute the lake. We doubt that the minimal site suitability tests done adequately consider the capacity of the soil to absorb so much water, the location of the site on the bank of Seeley creek within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of the lake, the intermittent streams on two other sides of the proposed site or the fact that spring runoff from the area regularly floods neighborhood basements and buildings.

There are more suitable sites available which are downstream from the lake and farther from surface water which should be studied rather than securing a permit for this environmentally unsuitable place.

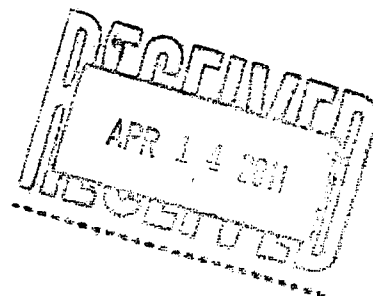
Sincerely,

David D. Whitesitt

David D. Whitesitt

cc: Pathfinder
Sewer Board
interested individuals

Enclosed: copy of petition opposing use of site





BCC 2011-070
March 23, 2011

PHONE: (406) 258-4877
FAX: (406) 721-4043

Seeley Lake Sewer Board
Mr. Glen Morin, President
P.O. Box 403
Seeley Lake, MT 59868

Dear Glen:

Missoula County wishes to confirm our offer of assistance in bringing a sewer to the Seeley Lake area. Much like the Sewer Board, the Commissioners interest in this project is to:

1. Assist the community in protecting and improving its water quality;
2. Obtain sewer infrastructure to spur appropriate economic development;
3. Assist the district in providing transparency in the operations of the district; and
4. Provide for the efficient use of taxpayer funds.

It is also important to note that the Missoula County Commissioners recognize the Sewer Board as the legitimate body to set policy and make decisions relative to the affairs of the District.

If the District believes it would be beneficial to partner with the County on a process to allow the public to take a fresh look at the Seeley Lake Sewer Project, Missoula County would be willing to provide:

- A. Project support by Greg Robertson, Director of Public Works, and his staff, providing full management of the project. This would include record keeping, mapping support, grant administration and management. It would also provide PER refinement and consultation with the District's engineering firm. The cost of this assistance will be \$1.00 per year.
- B. Billing and financial record keeping, as well as organization of those records into a transparent system openly available to the public, at no cost.
- C. Office space in Seeley Lake for the Board's records and secretary, at no cost.
- D. Regular updates from Public Works on financial transactions and balances, at no cost.
- E. Grant solicitation for additional funding, where possible.
- F. Recommendations from Public Works to the Board on plant design and maintenance options, at no additional cost.
- G. Select legal services, public outreach and other opportunities as outlined in our earlier letters, at no cost.
- H. A no-interest loan in the amount of approximately \$110,000 to cover the current match requirements and expenses in the Water Resources Development Act grant from the Army Corps of Engineers. This loan would be repaid when the district has a functioning sewer plant in place.

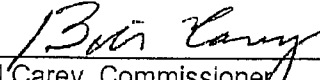
The Sewer Board would continue to be responsible for the daily expenses of the District (mailings, secretarial staff, Board expenses, etc.) as well as policy decisions. Missoula County's role would be to offer guidance and support, but ultimate decision-making on the sewer project will remain with the Board.

If you and other Board members are interesting in pursuing an Interlocal Agreement between the Board and Missoula County, following the rough outline above, please let us know at your earliest opportunity. We will then begin drafting the appropriate paperwork to help the Board move forward on this project. We feel the project is critically important to the community, the resources, and the future of Seeley Lake.

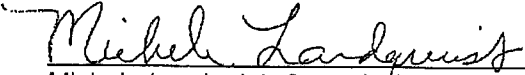
Sincerely,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Jean Curtiss, Chair



Bill Carey, Commissioner



Michele Landquist, Commissioner

BCC/ppr

cc: Barb Berens, Auditor (via email)
Greg Robertson, Public Works Director (via email)
Dale Bickell, Chief Administrative Officer (via email)
Anne Hughes, Communications and Project Manager (via email)
Dori Brownlow, Deputy County Attorney (via email)
Pat O'Herren, Rural Initiatives Director (via email)
Seeley Lake Community Council (via email)