

**GREENFERRY WATER DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP
January 4, 2021 2:00 PM, Via Zoom**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairman Stephen Tanner opened the meeting via Zoom at 2:00 PM. A roll call confirmed Vice Chairman Carol Rassier, Rex Grace Ron Utz and Bob Stiger were also present. Staff present were John Austin, Manager, Bob and Ian Kuchenski, Water Operators and Roger Glessner, Engineer. Guest was Dave Shults and Jane Morgan.

OLD BUSINESS

Next, the Board heard from Mr. Glessner on the Greenferry Terraces projects, including the mapping and cost estimates. He provided the details of the project, including connecting the new lines to the lines with the individual meters between Kelly, Bret and Rainbow. Mr. Utz discussed construction aspects, including using a 'thumper' and Mr. Glessner stated he thought that would work well. Mr. Utz said the savings in asphalt reconstruction makes it economical to do so. He also responded to Ms. Rassier's question about higher flows or pressures on the old metered lines and he said there would not be additional flows or pressures. Mr. Austin noted the District will be eventually replacing those lines and meters as well, once the rights of way issues are resolved in the alleys. Mr. Glessner mentioned keeping the projects under \$1 million brings more, smaller contractors into the bid process. Mr. Austin suggested having a second bid for Riverview in order to keep the bids under \$1 million each. Mr. Utz suggested adding the Greenferry Booster to that project, which Mr. Glessner said would make sense. The Board directed that Mr. Glessner add the service lines and meters to the project and report the new estimates to the Board. The Board then discussed the timeline for the bids to go out, including having DEQ's approval of the plan. After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the projects, as modified, and directed staff to send the projects to DEQ, and to prepare bid specs for construction, and also for staff to prepare for the issue of revenue bonds to pay for the projects, following a motion by Mr. Stiger and second by Ms. Rassier.

Next, the Board discussed the letter (attached) to the Department of Environmental Quality Board addressing the District's concerns about the aquifer boundary being revised to show it's south of the Spokane River. After discussion, the Board directed that the letter go to legal counsel for review prior to submittal to the DEQ Board, following a motion by Mr. Utz and second by Ms. Rassier. Motion passed unanimously.

Next, the Board considered the minutes of the previous meetings, including November 16, 2020 which were unanimously approved as amended following a motion by Mr. Utz and second by Mr. Grace and December 14, 2020 which were unanimously approved as amended following motion by Ms. Rassier and second Mr. Stiger. The December 21, 2020 were then tabled until the next meeting.

ADJOURN

Next, the Board adjourned the meeting at 4:15 PM, following a motion by Mr. Stiger and second by Mr. Grace.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen Tanner, Chairman

John Austin, Manager

Greenferry Water and Sewer District
9191 W. Michael Way, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
P.O. Box 2788
Hayden, Idaho 83835
Office - 208-773-5510
greenferrywater@greenferry.com

January 5, 2020

To: Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Board of Directors

RE: Petition to the Idaho Board of Environmental Quality for Recategorization of a Portion of an Aquifer at Risk Pursuant to IDAPA 58.01.23

Dear Board of Directors:

The Greenferry Water and Sewer District Board wants to go on the record as supporting the petition to the Idaho Board of Environmental Quality for recategorization of a Portion of an Aquifer at Risk Pursuant to IDAPA 58.01.23. This petition was submitted by Jane Morgan and David Shults and accompanied by signatures from 289 residents within or near the District, also supporting the petition.

The Water District serves approximately 400 customers on the south side of the Spokane River near Post Falls. The water supply is from two groundwater wells. The depth of the groundwater aquifer serving the District's wells is only 125-150 feet. The wells are drilled into porous sands and gravels making them highly vulnerable to contamination. Copies of the well driller's reports were included with the petition.

The quality of the District's well water is exceptional but threatened by septic tank effluent. Septic tanks and drain fields are the only method of sewage disposal in the District and the installation of a central sewage treatment and disposal system is not on the horizon for the District for many decades.

In early July one of the members of the District received a letter dated July 7, 2020 from a hydrogeologist with the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR, included with petition) explaining that they had completed an investigation of the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer (SVRPA), including the area south of the Spokane River where the District's wells are located. IDWR determined that the District's wells are drilled into what is considered the SVRPA. The IDWR boundary also seems to coincide with the boundary of the Aquifer determined by the U.S Geological Survey studies in 2005 and 2007.

These studies also show the Aquifer extending to the south side of the Spokane River where the District's wells are located. These boundaries can be seen on the attached map that are downloaded from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Website.

It is the Board's understanding the Idaho Groundwater Quality Rule defines the boundary of the SVRPA, as established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and is incorporated in IDAPA 41.01.01.110.03.c: "Rathdrum Prairie. That area of land situated in Kootenai County and more particularly defined by the USGS map describing the boundaries of the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer identified and designated under the

authority of Section 1424(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (PL 93-523) (Federal Register, Vol. 43, No. 28 -Thursday, February 9, 1978)". This is the reference in the Panhandle Health District Sewage Disposal Rules for the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer, which are referenced in the Idaho Water Quality Standards.

This Aquifer boundary established in 1978 and used by the Idaho DEQ does not extend to the south side of the Spokane River, including the area of the District's wells. As a result the groundwater is not protected under the Idaho Groundwater Rule, as a "Sensitive Resource Aquifer".

The District's Board is very concerned about protecting the groundwater and its wells from further degradation as a result of development in the District. The Board would like to see the Groundwater Quality Rule changed in a way that would recharacterize the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer to include the area within the District identified by these more recent groundwater studies by IDWR and USGS. The District would like to see the groundwater serving the District's wells afforded the same level of protection in the Idaho Groundwater Rule as other public drinking water supplies located only a few hundred yards to the north of the District's wells. The Board believes there is ample scientific data to show that a recharacterization of the Aquifer is justified and appropriate. Thank you for your consideration of these issues important to the Board.

Sincerely,

Steve Tanner – Chairman

Carol Rassier – Vice Chairman

Ron Utz - Director

Robert Stiger – Director

Rex Grace – Director

Cc: John Austin - District Manager
Bob Kuchenski – Water Operator
Roger Glessner - District Engineer