

SAJB Officers: President Jeremy Jenkins, Vice President Shane Sheppard,
Secretary Todd Henry, Treasurer Doug Greenlund



SPOKANE AQUIFER JOINT BOARD

Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2024, 1:30pm

Hybrid Meeting

Spokane County Water District #3

1225 N. Yardley Rd., Spokane, WA

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Directors of the Spokane Aquifer Joint Board (SAJB) met in Regular Session via Teams and in person at Spokane County Water District #3. A total of twenty-one (21) attended the meeting including: ten (10) SAJB voting representatives, one (1) non-voting representative, retiring Program Manager Tonilee Hanson, onboarding Program Manager Meagan Hayes, and eight (8) guests.

President Jenkins called the regular meeting of the Spokane Aquifer Joint Board to order at 1:35pm.

Consideration of Regular Meeting Minutes

President Jenkins called for additions, corrections, or deletions to the Minutes of October 24, 2024. Hanson stated a correction is needed to the October bill payment summary total. The minutes state the total for October is \$11,175.70 but needs to be corrected to \$12,106.35. Bob Cunningham moved to approve the October meeting minutes with amendments; Terry Squibb seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Minutes approved as amended.

2. FINANCAL REPORT – Treasurer Doug Greenlund

Approve Bill Payments for November 2024

Treasurer Greenlund presented the Bill Payment Summary for November totaling \$6,578.95. The only payment from the Administration fund was paid with check #1044 for reimbursement to Jermy Jenkins for the Ty Wick award in the amount of \$124.69. The Wellhead Implementation Program (WIP) bills were paid with checks #2725-2728. Education and Awareness bills were \$2,200.10. Program Manager Hanson's Consulting Services, mileage, and reimbursements amounted to \$2,332.12. Program Manager Hayes's Consulting Services and mileage amounted to \$1,922.04. A motion was made by Scott Inch to approve the November bill payments; Terry Squibb seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Program Manager Hanson reported that the Ty Wick award has been being paid out of the administrative fund; however, it is a line item in the WIP budget. Discussion regarding this budget item should continue in the budget discussions.



3. OLD BUSINESS

MODFLOW Ground Water Model Grant Update

President Jenkins reported that the grant agreement with the Department of Health (DOH) has been successfully executed. President Jenkins has informed the consultant and the consultant team is effectively moving forward with information gathering to begin their modeling efforts.

IWAC Updates

Suzanne Scheidt attended the meeting virtually to report updates on behalf of Idaho Washington Aquifer Collaborative (IWAC). Suzanne reported that Shane Sheppard with Consolidated Irrigation District No. 19 is the new IWAC secretary and thanked him for his volunteerism. Suzanne reported that she is working with the Department of Environmental Quality, the Public Health District and Kootenai County Staff to coordinate an effort to use Modflow USG for future planning decisions. The next IWAC meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2024.

2025 Draft Budget Discussion

Program Managers Hanson and Hayes presented the draft 2025 budget.

Income:

Hanson reported a decrease in anticipated income from IWAC due to collaborative changes with Hanson's retirement. Additionally, the City of Spokane proposes to decrease their purveyor payment by \$10k, from \$50,000 to \$40,000. President Jenkins reported he intends to explore what the process is regarding members decreasing their assessment amount and shared that he is unsure if a district can do this without approval from the board. Additional information will be relayed to the board as it becomes available.

Conservation:

The \$5k in the draft 2025 budget for the Spokane River Forum is anticipated to support the annual conference and the Nerds outdoor watering campaign. Happy Avery did report that that the annual conference is tentatively scheduled for two days between April 21 – 23, 2025.

Education Committee:

Hanson requested clarification regarding whether or not the Ty Wick award line item should be removed. If removed, it would continue to be paid out of the Administration fund instead of the WIP fund. KSPS PBS requested a budget increase of \$5k to accommodate cost of living adjustments for Aquifer in a Cup Workshop presenter, Elizabeth Lancaster, increased advertising platforms through PBS application, and purchase and use of compostable cups in "Aquifer in a Cup" exercise. Additionally, SAJB previously contributed \$15,000 to the Nerds Media Campaign and IWAC contributed \$12k; however, IWAC may not contribute anything this year due to modeling expenses. SAJB will need to determine what to contribute to this to support ongoing media efforts. Additional changes: new social media campaign pilot program is proposed to increase outreach via social media platforms; and \$8k for promotional materials to restock supplies for upcoming years.



The final 2025 draft budget will be presented in December for final review and approval.

4. NEW BUSINESS

Spokane County Aquifer Protection Area

Ben Brattebo with Spokane County attended the meeting to discuss the Spokane County Aquifer Protection Area (APA). 2025 is the 40th year of the Spokane County Aquifer Protection Area assessment, and while there have been discussions about getting the assessment renewed, Brattebo reported that he is unsure if the APA may or may not get renewed for ongoing funding through property tax assessment. Millwood and Liberty Lake are currently supportive; however, Spokane Valley and the City of Spokane are necessary supporters for the County to confidently move forward. As income potentially decreases due to changes in funding sources, Brattebo reported that the APA will likely eliminate non-detect parameters from monitoring efforts. Reanette Boese shared her concerns about discontinuing monitoring for lead next to the river, given the possibility that something could change within Lake Coeur d’Alene that causes lead to begin moving down river. President Jenkins shared his desire to continue these discussions. Ben Brattebo stated he would happily bring more information to the next regular meeting.

5. WELLHEAD PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION PLAN – Program Manager Report

Tonilee Hanson reported on ongoing training efforts with incoming Program Manager Meagan Hayes. Hanson also reported on the training efforts with the new IWAC administrative assistant. Hanson reported that she attended the Refugee and Immigrant Community Spokane (RICS) Kids Connect Programs and played “Water Saver Bingo” with approximately 30 students between November 14 and November 20, 2024.

6. OPEN FORUM

Mr. Tim Norwick (Irvan Water District customer) attended the meeting to share grievances regarding the recent increase in water rates and decrease in water allotment. He informed the board that both the City and the State recommended he reach out to SAJB for assistance. President Jenkins informed Mr. Norwick that SAJB had no authority over the individual purveyors and that unfortunately, the City and/or State may not understand SAJB’s role.

7. ADJOURN

There being no further business, President Jenkins adjourned the meeting at 3:05 pm.

President, Jeremy Jenkins

Secretary, Todd Henry