

GREENFERRY WATER DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
September 8, 2020 3:00 PM, District Office, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
And Via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairman Stephen Tanner opened the meeting at 3:00 PM via Zoom. A roll call confirmed that Ron Utz, Rex Grace, Bob Stiger and Carol Rassier, Vice Chairperson (via Zoom) were also present. Staff included John Austin, Manager and Bob and Ian Kuchenski, Water Operators and Roger Glessner, Engineer (all via Zoom).

OLD BUSINESS

The Board then reviewed a letter (attached) from Chairman Tanner, with assistance from Mr. Stiger and Susan Stiger to DEQ. After discussion, the Board unanimously approved sending the letter to DEQ, following a motion by Mr. Grace and second by Ms. Rassier.

ADJOURN

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM following a motion by Ms. Rassier and second by Mr. Stiger.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen Tanner, Chairman

John Austin, Manager

**Greenferry Water and Sewer District
9191 Michael Way
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814**

September 8, 2020

Mr. Matt Plaisted P.E.
Engineering Section Manager
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
2110 Ironwood Parkway, Suite 100
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814

RE: Bay Shore Estates Preliminary Plat

Dear Mr. Plaisted:

On Thursday, September 10th at 6:00 pm, there will be a virtual public hearing before the Kootenai County Commissioners regarding the request for preliminary plat approval for the Bayshore Estates development within the Greenferry Water and Sewer District. The development of 57 lots on 28 acres proposes to use individual septic tanks and drainfields. The development is in an unincorporated part of Kootenai County adjacent to the Spokane River where there is no central sewer system available. The site is also shown to be over the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer, according to the latest USGS boundary map.

The Greenferry Water and Sewer District Board will be asking the commissioners to require as a condition of approval, that a nutrient -pathogen evaluation be completed on the impact to the groundwater and evaluated by the IDEQ in accordance with the Idaho Groundwater Quality Rule. We request that IDEQ support the District in this request by notifying Kootenai County Community Development so they will have this information before the public hearing. The Greenferry Water and Sewer District has voiced their concerns to both the county and Panhandle Health District, and both pointed to IDEQ as the appropriate source for such a recommendation.

The basis for our request is:

- The Greenferry Water and Sewer District wells are very near the proposed development (see map). The water table is relatively shallow and completed in an alluvial fan at the mouth of Cedar Creek where it joins the Spokane River. Drainage from Cedar Creek provides a significant hydrodynamic head much of the year to drive shallow groundwater and any contaminants toward the Greenferry wells and the Spokane River. Water moves rapidly through this drainage.
- The Water District's well logs confirm that the alluvium is sand and gravel. The transmissivity is high, with the potential that drainfields could cause fouling of our

drinking water source. This risk increases with a higher density of drainfields which is already a concern in this area.

- The District has required the developer, as a condition of service, to provide a third well site for the Water District, likely within the development, and we are concerned about the future impact of these septic systems on the groundwater quality and this third well.
- The District has applied for additional water rights to greatly increase the pumping capacity of our two existing wells. We are concerned about the impact this may have on drawing contaminants from these septic systems into the wells.
- The Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer has been designated by the state of Idaho as a sensitive resource aquifer. The original boundary of this aquifer in this area has been updated or in the process of being completed by the Idaho Department of Water Resources. This study shows that the Bayshore Estates plat and the Greenferry water wells are over the SV-RP aquifer water table.

Dr. Robert Stiger, a member of our board, has been reviewing the available information for us. He has a PhD in Mechanical Engineering and is a registered engineer in California. He is a retired college professor with extensive experience in fluid dynamics and has been involved in testing a number of wells. Also supporting this review is Susan Stiger, a licensed Civil Engineer in Idaho with a background in hydrology and an environmental engineering career focused on groundwater contaminant transport.

We urge IDEQ to require the requested testing and modeling to assure that the potable water supply, the Spokane River, and the aquifer are not adversely impacted by this increase in high density housing and the associated sewage disposal into the groundwater. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephen Tanner - Chairman

Carol Rassier - Vice-Chairman

Robert Stiger - Director

Rex Grace - Director

Ron Utz - Director

cc: John Austin, Manager, Greenferry Water and Sewer District
David Callahan, Kootenai County Community Development

Vlad Finkel, Kootenai County Community Development