



SPOKANE AQUIFER JOINT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 18, 2021

SAJB Officers:

President Jeremy Jenkins, VP Shane Sheppard, Secretary Todd Henry, Treasurer Doug Greenlund

This meeting was recorded and can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/BRADownNhH4>

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Directors of the Spokane Aquifer Joint Board (SAJB) met in Regular Session in-person at Spokane County Water District #3, 1225 N. Yardley Road, Spokane, WA 99212 and via Zoom. A total of twenty-nine (29) attended the meeting including ten (10) SAJB voting representatives. Carnhope and Hutchinson manager gave his proxy to Rick Neal. Others in attendance included one (1) non-voting member, one (1) voting alternate, Program Manager Hanson, and sixteen (16) guests. The sign-in sheet of SAJB members and guests is available upon request. The meeting was called to order at 1:33 pm.

Consideration of Regular Meeting Minutes

President Jeremy Jenkins called for any additions, corrections, or deletions to the Minutes of October 28, 2021. Shane Sheppard moved to approve the October minutes and Doug Greenlund seconded the motion. President Jenkins called for a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Doug Greenlund presented the Bill Payment Summary for November.

Administration and WIP Bill Payment Summary

The **November Bill Payment Summary** totaled \$5,806.61 paid with checks numbered 2562-2564. The November summary detailed SAJB Administration bills of 0.00 and Wellhead Implementation Bills of \$498.75. The Program Manager Consulting Services including mileage and reimbursements for the month of November amounted to \$5,307.86.

Those present reviewed the bill payment summaries. Shane Sheppard moved to approve the November Bill Payment Summary as presented. Todd Henry seconded the motion. President Jenkins called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

SAJB Wellhead Implementation Plan (WIP) Funds

The SAJB Administrative checking balance for November, 2021 is \$3,593.09

The SAJB WIP checking balance for November, 2021 is \$66,975.10

The Spokane County Investment Pool (WIP) balance is \$47,479.72.

3. OLD BUSINESS

The **Ty Wick Defender of the Aquifer Award Sub-Committee** – Chair Kelly Williquette shared the draft video with Ty Wick's wife, Diane. She approves and appreciates the video and award honoring Ty. The [Nomination Form](#) can be accessed on the Award [Website](#). Production costs for the award plaque have been requested. Members viewed the Ty Wick [Award Spot](#) produced by KSPS. The following edits will be requested:

1. At 0:04 - Change the phrase " the original defender of the SVRA aquifer ..." to "an ardent defender ..." (*Ty was not the first.*)
2. At 0:10 - Replace 'his vision' with 'our vision' "He brought people together to work toward his vision..." "He brought people together to work toward our vision..." (*More inclusive*)
3. 0:24 - Edit the end visual and spoken script to "Ty Wick Award" (singular).
4. Add caption to invite nominations from both ID and WA at 0:26 add to the caption "Send ID and WA Nominations by Feb. 15, 2021"

The **Aggregate Quarry Committee** met on 11/3/21 at Consolidated Irrigation District and via Zoom. The committee reviewed the GSI Water Solutions Aggregate Quarry Risk Assessment and identified the essential elements and deliverables from Tasks 1 and 2 for a revised scope of work (SOW) from GSI. Dan Kegley and GSI provided a revised scope of work which was sent to the members to review on 11/15/21. Members reviewed the SOW and felt that it better represented the needed information and desired deliverables. Tim Murrell acknowledged GSI for developing the first SOW with little input from SAJB and appreciated their responsiveness to the sub-committee's recommendations. Next steps include passing the 2022 budget in December with the GSI SOW included and approving a Resolution – Contract in January 2022.

Source Water Protection (SWP) Grant – Deborah Johnson DOH explained the types of projects that are ineligible and eligible for SWP grant funding. For example, the grant cannot be used to purchase real property or anything involving construction. For more details refer to the [SWP Grant Guidelines](#). Deborah generously offered to work with the sub-committee to craft a SWP grant application. Matching funds are not required by the grant but are encouraged and can include in-kind items like staff time. Granted projects need to start within 60 days of approval and be completed in the time frame indicated by the applicant. Members agreed that SAJB should move forward with a SWP grant application to help fund the GSI Aggregate Quarry Risk Assessment.

4. NEW BUSINESS

[Airway Heights Water Rights Transfer SEPA and Mitigation Plan](#) – Dennis Fuller, P.E. Century West and Kevin Anderson, Airway Heights Public Works Director, described the intention of acquiring new water rights in the Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. Airway Heights has existing water rights in the Grand Ronde, Paleochannel, and Wanapum

aquifers. Those rights would be relinquished over a period of years as a mitigation to impairment of the Spokane River. Wells 1, 4, and 11 in the Paleochannel aquifer are polluted by PFOA and PFAS from Fairchild Airforce Base fire-fighting foam and are no longer in production. The water production of all three aquifers, prior to pollution, was in decline. An inter-tie with the city of Spokane is providing water to Airway Heights. If the Washington State Department of Ecology approves new water rights, a new well would be drilled in the SVRP aquifer. Six (6) miles of transmission main and a booster station to convey the water to Airway Heights will be needed. This is a \$25 million project and \$14.5 million has been obligated by the State of Washington. Even with a new water right in the SVRP aquifer Airway heights would still rely on the intertie with the city of Spokane to provide additional amounts of water needed.

SAJB members had many questions as several of them have long standing applications for new water rights that were denied by Ecology. A few of the questions are summarized below.

- New SVRP aquifer water rights would be junior to the Spokane river instream flow rule. Will DOH permit a municipal well that might be interruptible? How would Airway Heights supply water in times of curtailment?
- What studies have been or will be done to determine if pumping from the new well would impact river flows?
- In the GeoEngineers Alternative Groundwater Supply Assessment on page 1 it states that, "In a March 11, 2020, meeting with Ecology, personnel indicated that transfer of city rights to the SVRP Aquifer could potentially achieve regulatory approval." Does Airway Heights have this in writing? At what level were the personnel that made the statement?
- Given there is contamination of wells #1, #4, and #11 in the Paleochannel aquifer and that the paleochannel recharges the SVRP aquifer, are PFAS and PFOA being transported into the SVRP aquifer and river system? Is the Paleochannel recharge groundwater or surface water? The proposed new well is downgradient from the paleochannel recharge area, have wells in the area of been tested for PFAS?

For the full discussion please view the [meeting recording](#) from 35:49 to 1:09.

SEPA comments are due on December 1, 2021, by 4:30 pm.

Engagement Letter for Pro Bono Legal Services – President Jenkins introduced a draft engagement letter provided by Norm Semanko. The letter would establish client attorney privileges and includes the guarantee of pro bono services for all work done regarding the aggregate quarries. All other work will be done for fees at the direction and authorization of the SAJB board or pro bono at the discretion of Norm. Members will review the draft letter and a vote will be taken in December to accept or modify the engagement letter.

Washington State Ratings Bureau (WSRB) Review – Austin Morrell, Spokane Valley Fire Department, below is a copy of the request Austin emailed to members.



This coming February 2022, the Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau (WSRB) will be conducting a ratings review for our jurisdiction. The WSRB uses a Protection Class (PC) grading scale that represents the community-provided fire protection capabilities for given areas, with one as the best and ten as the lowest. These PC ratings contribute to the community’s fire insurance premiums. Water Supply is a critical part of their assessment, and every water purveyor in our jurisdiction contributes towards the WSRB ratings we have.

In preparation for this ratings review, our SVFD Fire Commissioners will be reaching out to each water purveyor with the goal of attending the various board meetings. Our commissioners would like to do a presentation about the WSRB process, detail how our working relationships impact our communities, and thank you all for the support that you provide us.

I have also attached the WSRB “Water Supply Pre Eval form”. If each water purveyor could complete this form and provide their 6-year comprehensive plan to SVFD, we gladly offer to collect this information and provide it to WSRB in advance of their visit to help streamline the review process. I’m happy to collect USB drives with electronic documents or we can accept paper documents and scan them at our Admin building as well; located at 2120 N. Wilbur Rd. **If we could receive this information no later than December 30th that would be wonderful.**

[Spokane County ARP Funding Survey](#) Matt Wright, Whitworth Water District, encouraged all members to respond to the survey and register your priorities for allocating \$101 million in American Recovery funds. Water and wastewater areas of interest can be found in 6 and 7 of the Broadband category.

The 2022 DRAFT Budget with November Actuals was shared by Tonilee Hanson. A vote will be taken on December 16, 2021, to adjust or accept the budget. Highlighted below are the proposed expenditures for 2022 budget consideration.

Ty Wick Defender of the Aquifer Award

- Media Promotion (Video, Digital Ads and Social Media) \$10,900
- Award Plaques purchased in bulk (estimated) \$ 2,500

2022 Aquifer Atlas

- Graphic Designer (Cost shared our part \$1,500) \$ 6,000
- Printing \$4,500 (In 2015 SAJB spent \$10,000 on printing)

Aggregate Quarry GSI Risk Evaluation SOW

- Regulatory Jurisdictions, Potential Hazards and Future Strategies \$24,300

5. WELLHEAD PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION PLAN - Program Manager's Report Education & Awareness / Media Campaign and Google Analytics

(Industry average click through rate is 0.05 - 0.12)

The **Teacher media campaign** aired in the months of February, March, May, and October at a cost of \$6,800 advertising with digital, social media and website retargeting. The campaign achieved an above industry average rate click through rate of 0.32%, which means people clicked to the Science Fair Extravaganza. Unfortunately google analytics show that 50% of those who came to the site left without exploring any of the activities. We need to re-think how we are targeting the audiences.

The **Water Conservation media campaign** aired in the months of June, July, and August at a cost of \$3,900 advertising with digital, social media, and website retargeting. The campaign achieved significantly above industry average rate click through rate of 0.56% which means people clicked to the SAJB conservation pages. Google analytics validated that visitors to the SAJB website accessed the water conservation videos and resources.

The **Backflow Protection** media campaign aired in the months of April (Spring start-up), July (Construction season fire hydrant backflow protection) and October (fall blow-out) at a cost of \$9,300 for video only advertising. The recommended video length is 15 seconds. Industry average for people watching the entire 15-30 second video is 50-70%. SAJB/IWAC videos aired were 30 seconds to 1:12 minutes in length and still achieved a strong 40.12% completion rate.

Business Assistance – EnviroCertified there are currently 96 certified businesses. 2020-2021 certification visits were interrupted by changing coronavirus mandates. In 2022, we plan to return to conducting field visits. Our goals are to recertify 20% of the certified businesses and add five (5) new businesses. In 2022, certifications will continue our primary focus on properly managing hazardous waste. Visits to the restaurant industry will also provide technical assistance on 1) food waste recovery, 2) proper handling of fats, oils, and greases, and 3) stormwater BMPs ensuring waste bins are covered or properly closed.

The next SAJB meeting will be held on **December 16, 2021**.

6. ADJOURN There being no further business this 18th day of November 2021, President Jeremy Jenkins adjourned the meeting at 3:26 PM.

President, Jeremy Jenkins

VP, Shane Sheppard