

**Bonner County Natural Resources Committee
Meeting Minutes**

January 25, 2024 – 10:30 A.M.

**Bonner County Administration Building
1500 Hwy 2, Ste. 338, Sandpoint, ID 83864**

Members Present: Cornel Rasor, Jim McReynolds, Clay Nichols, Wayne Martin, Robert Clark, Luke Hixson & Alton Howell

Members Absent:

Others Present:

Commissioners Present: Commissioner Luke Omodt

- 1) Call Meeting to Order @ 10:30 a.m.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Approval of Minutes – 09/28/2023: Jim made a motion to approve the minutes from 9/28/24. Wayne seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion passed.
- 4) New Business

A. Expansion of Solar Energy – Cornel addressed solar projects within the State of Idaho, then discussed their duties as an advisory committee. Cornel read the article provided by Commissioner Omodt. Commissioner Omodt discussed the knowledge that he has regarding current solar energy projects including supplies needed and wear and tear on current infrastructure. More details of the Lava River project were discussed, including the fact that there are no multiple uses on lands once these turbines are placed. Environmental concerns were addressed. Alton stated that Farm Bureau is against this project.

B. Conservation Easements – Very brief discussion regarding these types of easements, larger conversation to be had at a later date.

C. Idaho Transportation Department/HWY 95 – Wayne martin voiced concerns over the HWY 95 project, including wetlands and wildlife. There was further discussion regarding the progress of this project and funding. Traffic accidents on 95 were mentioned.

5) Agency/Group Updates

A. USFS – Luke Hixson gave a brief USFS update including litigation regarding white bark pine and grizzly bears. Stated that the over the snow decision came out recently. Also discussed the wildfire crisis strategy and current projects in Idaho utilizing funding from this strategy. Gave an update on the chloride gold project. Discussed providing treatment on some of the islands at Priest Lake. Finished his update by touching on forest fires.

B. Panhandle Forest Collaborative – Jim McReynolds gave an update regarding activities of the PFC, over the snow travel plan has been completed, ended up being reasonable to both sides, gave a few details.

6) Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

