

Waterways Advisory Committee Special Meeting Minutes

Thursday August 15, 2024 @ 8:00 a.m.

Commissioners Conference Room – 3rd Floor

1500 Hwy 2, Ste. 338, Sandpoint, ID 83864

Members Present: Ray Pipella, Tom Trulock, Doug McGeachy, Jim Brausen - Zoom

Members Absent: Forrest Schuck, Molly McCahon

Others Present: Kerry DeLair, Asia Williams, Phoebe Wallace, ID State Parks - Zoom

Does anyone present need assistance to hear, see or participate in these proceedings?

- 1) Approval of Minutes from last two meeting minutes, April 18, 2024, and July 18, 2024
This will be done at the next meeting as they want time to review the minutes prior to approval
- 2) Public Comment - none
- 3) Parks and Waterways Status Report – County Staff
 - A. Introduction: New Parks and Waterways Director
Matthew Zoeller, start date is Monday, August 19, 2024
 - B. Commissioner Williams
Provided update regarding the new Director, brief discussion on the vision of the board going forward, brief discussion on proposed out of state fees
 - C. Kerry – Budget
Discussed dock repair, budget transfers done 08/13, discussed vandalized/missing buoys – Ray brought up the cost of Kootenai County buoys, discussed their program, Commissioner Williams would like to see a strategic 5-year plan
 - D. Maintenance/Field Crew
Mowing, patching up Lakeview, investing what they have for docks at Lakeview due to safety
 - E. Marine Division
Discussed Staffing – 11 people, only 10 out in the field, 2 are out, so 7 people for patrol, made an offer yesterday, will need more staffing, discussed struggles with recruitment

Discussion regarding Lakeview dock: what are the safety concerns, closure, maintenance, cost

- 4) Business – Action Item - Decision/Discussion
 - A. Update: County Registration Flyers
Molly dropped off some flyers and distributed them to the County, inspection stations, and Priest Lake area. Ray discusses out of state boaters and how to get them to register in Bonner County, believes this is a 2+ year campaign. Commissioner Williams discussed a recreation sticker vs registration
Phoebe Wallace discussed that they should register their boats in Idaho if that is the main are of use, another revenue source could be the sticker, which would need to be done legislatively, launch fees are another potential revenue source

Further discussion regarding the difficulties in boat registration in Idaho, launch fees.
Will bring back to next meeting.

New Buoy Application – Kerry *This has not been vetted by Legal at this time.*

Per Ray, Molly thinks this should wait on the new Director. Jim thinks it looks fine, keep having meetings but nothing moves forward. Discussion on buoy requests and how to proceed.

B. WIF Grant – Is County applying?

The new Director has experience in grant writing, this is due in December, and plans to have the new Director apply. Doug will apply on the Marine side as well.

C. Launch Fee Process

Commissioner Williams thinks this can be tabled and given to the Director to go through the process and create a plan. Discussion on moving this item forward with expectation and a plan.

Jim discussed the need for a hazardous buoy at Huckleberry, wants it on the list for next year. Commissioner Williams suggested making a plan for buoy placement and a plan for action. Further discussion on buoy location and what items to bring to the new Director.

5) Miscellaneous Business

A. Agency Reports - none

B. Next Meeting – October 17, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m.

6) Adjournment at 9:15 a.m.

Deputy Clerk: Alisa Schoeffel



Approved By



Date