

Waterways Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 19, 2018 - 9:00 a.m.

Priest Lake Elementary School

27732 HWY 57, Priest Lake

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

Members Present: Ed Jochum, Ray Pipella, Keith Sheckler, Jim Thorpe, Doug Cossette, Forrest Schuck & Molly McCahon

Commissioners: Commissioner Dan McDonald

Staff: James Shannon, Jennifer Ralls

Others:

At 9:00 a.m. Doug Cosette opened the meeting and asked if anyone present needed assistance to hear, see or participate in these proceedings.

*Jim Thorpe made a motion to move public comment to the end of this meeting. Ray Pipella seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion passed.

I. Public Comment

Adoption of Meeting Minutes May 17, 2018

*Ed Jochum made a motion to adopt the meeting minutes from May 17, 2018. Ray Pipella seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion passed.

II. Old Business

A. Maintenance Report – Rob Stepp + Jim Aney – Parks

James Shannon stated the maintenance varied between the different waterways. There was flooding and debris cleanup, placement of new buoys in the Pend Oreille River and Priest Lake, fixed navigation lights, repaired a pump out station, repaired a dock in Hope, and worked on damage to pilings in Lakeview.

Ray Pipella asked about the status of the buoys, James Shannon stated they are waiting on the permitting from IDL and shipment.

Molly McCahon asked for clarification on what pump out station and which docks were worked on.

B. Priest Lake Update – James Shannon

1. Approved Buoys at Priest Lake

James Shannon stated there are 8 approved buoys, same shipment that they are waiting on as previously discussed. Currently putting in older ones until new ones are delivered.

2. Action Item: Discussion Decision Regarding Adding One Buoy & Hazard Buoy at Priest Lake & Removal of Two Buoys Slated for Grandview

-Doug Cossette spoke of a rock that has been hit multiple times that should have a hazard buoy. He wishes to have extra, permanent buoys to encourage slowing down in that area.

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- James Shannon stated they would need a new permit from IDL to move buoys because it is a new location.
- Ed Jochum asked about timelines of getting permits.
- Trevor Anderson from IDL spoke about a possible temporary permit.
- Public Comment from Richard Webb (Reeder Bay) – Requested a no wake buoy near shore by Elkins and, people cut the corner and there is a lot of day park traffic.
- Trevor from IDL asked about timeline, until Labor Day.
- James Shannon stated he feels we should just move forward with what is permitted now and evaluate from there.
- Commissioner McDonald stated we need to expedite the hazard buoys as soon as possible for boating safety.

C. Sub-Committee Update

1. James Shannon to update on meeting with BOCC

- James Shannon suggested revisiting the fix-it ticket when summer winds down, boater education, but there is not much to report in this area because timeliness and priority.
- Commissioner McDonald stated that the BOCC can't necessarily make any changes, it needs to go to the State, but they can provide their support.

D. Action Item: Discussion/Decision Blue Diamond Marina – 300 ft. Wake Zone Request

- James Shannon stated with the office tasks associated, a 300 foot wake proposal takes a lot of time and would not be implemented this year. There are current construction obligations.
- Discussion about moving buoys. Commissioner McDonald spoke of how much effort it would take to move all the buoys in Bonner County and just because it changes from 200 to 300 feet doesn't mean people will follow it (just like speed limits).
- Molly McCahon asked about recommendations that haven't gone to Commissioners.
- James Shannon mentioned emphasis patrol, Ed Jochum talked of low profile patrol that the Marine Division is now implementing, he wished for more staffing, and that they have added more emphasis on river patrol. Ed stated they have given 10 to 12 no wake violations in the last 10 or 12 days.
- James spoke of "Ride the Core" boated education. Commissioner McDonald spoke of the budget and how some items, such as this, may not have the funding this year. Discussion of the amount of people that come to boat from out of town, and possibly signage at the boat ramps could be beneficial regarding wake ordinances. Molly McCahon wanted to add language about no wake zones on encroachment permits. Trevor from IDL said they can't make any changes to the permits unless Bonner County adopts something.
- *Molly McCahon made a motion to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners of adding language to the IDL encroachment permits that states no wake ordinances. Ray Pipella seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion passed.

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-Molly McCahon requests 300' wake zones still go in front of BOCC and hopefully be implemented next year. Ray Pipella mentioned it did go before the Commissioners. Commissioner McDonald said it was heard at a regular business meeting from James Shannon, on behalf of the Waterways Committee. Also stated enforcement is a better place to put money into, too expensive to change all signage and buoys, we did make fines stiffer in order to discourage no wake zone violators.

-Molly McCahon supports Blue Diamond and feels all marinas should have a 300' no wake zone and that it would be a good first step to potentially changing all of the county to 300' no wake. Ray Pipella asked what the difference is between case by case versus county wide. Commissioner McDonald said it would be a legal issue involving exercise of utility. Jim Thorpe asked for clarification.

-Carolyn from Blue Diamond stated she has 4 buoys, requests one at 250', 300', 300' and 250', 60 boaters are currently being effected. Commissioner McDonald stated wake science showed no change from 300' to 200', we have to look at science instead of guessing which just ends up costing the taxpayer's money.

*Molly McCahon made a motion to recommend the 300' no wake zone extension for all marinas, at the cost of the marina. Jim Thorpe seconded the motion. Ed Jochum and Ray Pipella oppose. The motion passed.

-Discussion about some boats have control over wake. Public Comment – member of the audience stated that a lake in Oregon outlawed wake board boats.

-Discussion amongst Molly McCahon and James Shannon about who incurs the cost for permit. James stated the person applying for the permit pays for that but Bonner County always will have the cost of moving the buoys, there would need to be an auditing and legal review, and if there is a change to an ordinance there would also have to be a public hearing.

III. New Business

A. Action Item: Discussion/Decision Regarding Wendle Marina Request – No Wake Buoys

-James Shannon said Wendle Marina requested 6 buoys, the BOCC has been provided maps of where the buoys would be placed, this will not happen until next year. Ray Pipella feels that 6 buoys sounds excessive. Trevor from IDL stated there is no limit as far as amount of buoys.

* Ed Jochum made a motion to table this issue until there is a representative from Wendle Marina present. Molly McCahon seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion passe.

B. Action Item: Discussion/Decision Election of New Chairman

-Jim Thorpe nominated Keith Sheckler

-Molly McCahon nominated Doug Cossette

*Ed Jochum made a motion to cease nominations. Ray Pipella seconded. All in favor. The motion passed.

-Doug Cossette requested to remove his name because he doesn't live locally and he owns a business that takes up 60 hours a week of his time. With no other nominations, Keith Sheckler remains Chairman.

Vice Chairman:

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-Ray Pipella nominated Forrest Schuck
With no other nominations, Forrest Schuck was named new Vice-Chairman.

C. Construction Priorities Discussion

-James Shannon spoke of current priorities.

-Discussion between Ed & James about replacement of lights at Priest Lake and ramp at Hope Basin (only winter moorage option, should be a priority and potentially a grant proposal).

IV. Miscellaneous Business

A. Albeni Falls Dam Update – No comment.

-Public Comment:

Bill McInerney spoke of the Outlet Bay launch ramp and how there is a submerged lease. Trevor from IDL stated that they are currently working with the HOA and that you can renew a lease without having ownership of the ramp itself. Bonner County owns easement. Peter Bock from the audience stated the ramp is in poor condition.

Donna Herak asked whether or not the Waterways Committee supports the proposal from the Kalispel Tribe Agreement. Donna stated she is vehemently opposed. Molly McCahon stated it is currently in the assessment period and no decisions have been made.

V. Adjournment

*Forrest Schuck made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:48 a.m. Doug Cossette seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion passed.

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