Waterways Advisory Committee Minutes

Thursday, December 11, 2025 @ 11:00 AM

Commissioners Conference Room – 3rd Floor

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

Members Present: Matt Zoeller, Doug McGeachy, Mark Knapp, Molly McCahon, Ray Pipella, Jennifer Arn; Zoom: Forrest Schuck, Win Taylor
Members Absent:
Others Present: Oldtown Mayor, Lonnie Orr

Matt opened the meeting at 11:04 a.m.

Matt introduced the process regarding WIF Grants and why it is helpful for all entities in the County work together as the funds available are by County.

Public Comment - None

Introduction & Discussion/Decision Regarding WIF Grant Proposals

Lonnie Orr, Oldtown Mayor

- Discussed the boat ramp and docks installed in 1997. There is a lot of damage on these and they are not safe. The ramp and docks get a lot of use, and in the long run it would be better to replace these as opposed to fixing them. They would like to do this in a two phase project. The ramp needs to be extended due to the proximity to Albeni Dam, and the docks are too far from the ramp area. He also discussed the breakwater that is there and how the water conditions depend on the dam. This is the only ramp/dam on this side of the dam, and it gets a lot of public use. The first year they would like to get the docks replaced and the second year they would fix the ramp.
- Estimate for the docks/Phase 1: $141k with a match of $
- The City of Oldtown owns and manages the property. They also would like to put in a space for kayaks.

Alicia Ehrmantrout, City of Oldtown

- Presented the proposed layout in comparison to the current layout

In support of Oldtown's proposal.

Matt discussed the request for Sam Owen Fire Dept., requesting $20k to upgrade their equipment with a 50% match. There was a discussion regarding their proposal.

In support of Sam Owen's proposal.

Matt noted that the City of Sandpoint is not putting in a WIF Grant proposal this year.

Doug McGeachy, BCSO Marine

- Two of their boats getting close to 4k hours, they maintain their equipment and run them as long as they can. The two larger vessels have about one more season left. One request is to repower

these vessels, the boats are in great condition, just need the engines repowered.

- Requesting $65k with a match of $25k for this project.
- Garfield Bay is one of the busier launches in the County and the only County dock facility that can be used in the winter. They have to pay to park a vessel at a private marine to cover this end of the lake. Most of the work done in the winter is medical aid in conjunction with EMS. They try to keep boats there for bad weather conditions. The dock here is in a good location, but the boats are not usable in the winter months due to the weather conditions and the damage this causes the boats. They would like to build a breakwater to protect the dock.
- Requesting $90k for the breakwater alone
- Or $126k with 10-15% match and they can deck the breakwater for use at high pool and build a floating dock to the breakwater which would provide more usable dock space for the public.

In support of the Marine Department's proposal.

These three proposals will be action items for the January meeting. The applications are due January 31, 2026.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Next meeting: January 16, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

Deputy Clerk: Alisa Schoeffel

Matt Zaller — 1/9/26

Approved By — Date

Any person needing **special accommodations** to participate in the above-mentioned meeting should contact the Commissioner's Office 48 hours prior to the meeting by calling (208)265-1438.