

Minutes of Meeting
Advisory Board Interview
January 28, 2022
2:30 p.m.

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Chris Fillios, Commissioner Leslie Duncan and Commissioner Bill Brooks met to discuss the following agenda items. Also present were Parks & Waterways (P&W)/Noxious Weeds/Snowgroomers Director Nick Snyder and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present was Kootenai County Resident Troy Dixon. Commissioner Brooks was present via teleconference.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business:**

Waterways Advisory Board Applicant Interview: Troy Dixon (Discussion)

Commissioner Leslie Duncan explained that the purpose of an Advisory Board was to examine issues that arise and inform the BOCC.

Commissioner Duncan: Why are you interested in becoming a member of this Board?

Kootenai County Resident Troy Dixon responded that he was retired and had a long background in various aspects of public service both in the military and as a civil servant. He said that this was an area of interest in which he felt he could make a contribution.

Chairman Fillios: Have you previously served on committees (either professionally or personally) where you had to deal with varied personalities?

Mr. Dixon said he had done so. He said he had been in active service in the Coast Guard, then in the Coast Guard Reserve for a total of 26 years. He described committees on which he had served and duties which involved contentious issues.

Chairman Fillios: How did you handle conflict among those board members?

He said his last federal position was as the civilian budget advisor to Fairchild Air Force Base. He described briefing the Base Commander and Group Commanders on budgetary issues. He remarked that he had experience participating in “respectful infighting.”

Commissioner Duncan remarked that the County also had a Natural Resources Advisory Board, which currently had two vacancies. She said that Mr. Dixon would be able to apply to serve on that board, since there were no rules against a person serving on two boards, if interested and qualified. She added that she would be willing to consider this a dual interview.

Mr. Dixon said he would be interested.

Commissioner Duncan: What do you think is the great challenge or issue this board may be involved with?

He responded that it would be advising on financial matters, public discussions on contentious issues and developing a plan for the future.

Chairman Fillios: Do you own a boat and recreate on County waterways?

He said he did.

Commissioner Duncan: Are you familiar with the locations and number of marine facilities and parks managed by Kootenai County?

Mr. Dixon said he had looked around a bit when he was searching for a marina, but did not feel he knew them well yet.

Chairman Fillios: Do you know how many registered boaters are in the County?

He said he did not. When Commissioner Duncan urged him to guess, he said 50,000.

Commissioner Duncan said there were 20,000.

Commissioner Duncan: Are you aware of the annual economic impact boating has in Kootenai County?

Mr. Dixon commented that he did not know the precise figures, but he assumed it would have to be somewhat substantial.

Commissioner Duncan announced that the economic impact in 2016 was \$89 million, considering both direct and indirect revenues.

Chairman Fillios remarked that Kootenai County leads the state in that regard.

Chairman Fillios: Do you support the implementation of user fees to help pay for costs associated with maintaining public recreation facilities?

He said he definitely did.

Commissioner Duncan: Do you support increasing the County Parks Levy Rate to assist with maintaining and improving local parks and marine facilities?

He said he did.

Chairman Fillios: What do you think the greatest challenge is facing Kootenai County in managing recreational boating?

Mr. Dixon commented that he felt it would be having the necessary staff to do the work across such a big county.

Commissioner Duncan: Are you familiar with County Waterways Ordinances and state boating laws?

He said he was somewhat familiar with state boating laws because he recreated on the water. He remarked that he would study them further if he was selected for the board. He added that much of his service had been related to different bodies of water.

Commissioner Duncan: Do you believe our local and state boating rules are adequate or are more rules needed?

Mr. Dixon indicated that he was not sufficiently familiar with them yet to offer an opinion.

Chairman Fillios: Do you believe there is adequate marine law enforcement presence on our waterways or is more law enforcement needed?

Mr. Dixon said that he had been on Lake Coeur d'Alene and had been aware of the presence of marine law enforcement. He commented that remaining in the public's eye was probably half the job; as long as people know that someone could pull up next to their boats at any time, they behave more carefully.

Commissioner Duncan asked Mr. Dixon to consider the balance of power between people who own property on the waterways and the public's right of use, as defined by the State. She asked which side he felt should receive more consideration or if it should be equal.

Mr. Dixon remarked that he had a friend who owned property on Lake Coeur d'Alene and had some idea of the sort of issues that might arise. He acknowledged that it was a complicated topic.

Commissioner Duncan told Mr. Dixon that they would notify him soon about the result of the interview. She added that an official announcement would be made on February 8, 2022.

Waterways Advisory Board Applicant Review

Commissioner Duncan moved that the Board enter Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code §74-206(1)(a). Commissioner Brooks seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Ginorio called the roll:

Commissioner Brooks: Aye

Commissioner Duncan: Aye

Chairman Fillios: Aye

The motion carried.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 2:56 p.m.

Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code §74-206(1)(a) to consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent. – BOCC Division (Closed Session – Discussion)

Decisions/Direction (Open Meeting – Action)

The Board exited Executive Session at 2:58 p.m.

Commissioner Duncan moved that the Board exit Executive Session. Commissioner Brooks seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Ginorio called the roll:

Commissioner Brooks: Aye

Commissioner Duncan: Aye

Chairman Fillios: Aye

The motion carried.

Commissioner Duncan moved that the Board appoint Troy Dixon to the Waterways Advisory Board. Commissioner Brooks seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Ginorio called the roll:

Commissioner Brooks: Aye

Commissioner Duncan: Aye

Chairman Fillios: Aye

The motion carried.

D. Public Comment: This section is reserved for citizens wishing to address the Board regarding a County related issue. Idaho Law prohibits Board action on items brought under this section except in an emergency circumstance. Comments related to future public hearings should be held for that public hearing. There were no public comments.

E. Adjournment (Action): Chairman Fillios adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

BOCC SIGNATURE

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk