

## Kootenai County Board of Natural Resource Advisory Board (KCNRAB)

Meeting Minutes: Thursday February 17, 2022

Committee Members Present: Jamie Strurgess, Richard Meyer, Wayne Wakkinen, Dave Brown, Chris Schnepf, Linda Rider

Public Present: Mary Ann Stoll representing Hayden Lake Watershed Improvement District, Robert Rider

A. **Call Meeting to Order:**

At 4:00 pm Committee Chair Jamie Sturgess called meeting to order.

B. **Approval of Minutes:**

Dec 9, 2021 meeting: Richard Meyer moved, Dave Brown seconded, minutes were approved.

C. **Business:**

Wake and sediment resuspension in Lake Coeur d'Alene (Discussion)

This was a continuation of a discussion led by Dr. Richard Meyer at the December meeting. The concern is the resuspension of sediments on the lakebed as a result of boat wakes. The situation has recently been magnified by boats designed specifically to produce large wakes. Of primary concern is the resuspension of phosphorus and heavy metals. Dr. Meyer discussed the issue with Jamie Brunner and Craig Cooper (DEQ), Bruce Cyr and Dr. Frank Wilhelm (Univ. of Idaho). Dr. Wilhelm expressed interest in the issue and has developed a draft study proposal. Some members of the KCNRA B will further discuss the proposal with Dr. Wilhelm.

The possibility of broadening the scope of the study to include other lakes in the county that have phosphorus issues and blue-green algae blooms was discussed. Mary Ann Stoll of the Hayden Lake Watershed Improvement District informed the KCNRA B that several bays in Hayden Lake currently are being monitored for water quality. This may be an excellent opportunity to take advantage of ongoing research.

The KCNRA B recognizes the need to focus on empirical data to quantify the issue. The Board will continue to investigate this issue. A Request for Proposal (RFP) may be developed and forwarded to the Kootenai County Commissioners as this issue progresses.

Noxious Weeds and Invasive Species Issues in Kootenai County (Discussion)

Linda Rider led a discussion on noxious weeds and invasive species. Weeds in Kootenai County have a wide range of negative impacts including increased fire danger, reduction in agricultural production, reduced value of livestock range, and compromised wildlife habitat. She had hoped to have a representative of the Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control Department attend this meeting, but no one was available.

Linda and Chris Schnepf will reach out to surrounding counties' Noxious Weed Control Departments prior to the April meeting and report back to the KCNRAB on their weed control activities. They will also contact Dr. Tim Prather (Univ of Idaho) to discuss what he views as current weed control issues and to help in the development of a list of priority weeds on which the county should focus.

2022 Federal Wilderness Designation Proposal for Inland and Western States (Discussion)

The KCNRAB discussed a proposed federal wilderness bill (HR1755). There appears to be no land within Kootenai County that is included in this proposed legislation. As such the group will decline comment on this issue.

Open Board Position for KCNRAB. Call for nominations/invitations for volunteers (Discussion)

The KCNRAB currently has one opening and is soliciting nominations to fill that position. The group discussed what discipline might benefit the board. Given issues in the west with fires in the urban interface, a person with a background in Fire Management would benefit the board and the County. The KCNRAB chair will review all applicants. Following is a link to a brief discussion of the role of the Advisory Boards. A link to Advisory Board applications is found at the bottom of this page:

<https://www.kcgov.us/334/Advisory-Boards>

Other Items: 2022 Forest Stewardship Program Calendar

Chris Schnepf handed out the 2022 Program Calendar from the Univ of Idaho Extension office. Below is a link to the programs that are offered in 2022.

<https://www.uidaho.edu/-/media/UIDaho-Responsive/Files/Extension/topic/forestry/cal-2022.pdf?la=en&hash=B7D8BFAF84519FFE0A3DA4186C7841FA38421CA0>

Change of April meeting date

The board discussed timing conflicts with the proposed April 21 meeting date. An alternate date of April 7 was discussed and approved. April 7 will be the meeting date, replacing the published April 21 date. The KCNRAB requests this change to be reflected in the posted meeting dates.

- D. Motion to adjourn meeting by Rich Meyer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave Brown. Meeting adjourned at 5:47 pm