



KOOTENAI COUNTY

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Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83816-9000

Minutes of Special Meeting
Natural Resource Advisory Board
February 27, 2020
4:00 p.m.

A. Opening Protocols

1. **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Jamie Sturgess

2. **Roll Call:**

Board members Jamie Sturgess, David Fortier, Wayne Wakkinen, and Todd Kiesbuy were present. Chris Schnepf and Linda Rider were absent. Also present Leslie Duncan, Kootenai County Commissioner, and Terry Harwood, Executive Director Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission.

3. **Introductions:**

Introductions of the members and visitors present were done by each individual.

Leslie Duncan gave an overview of the expectations of the Natural Resource Advisory Board and members. An applicant will be sent to Jamie to review and evaluate to fill the vacant position. All members will need Open Meeting Law training. (Leslie left about 4:30 during start of business discussions.)

4. **Bills:**

There were no bills to consider or discuss.

5. **Correspondence:**

There was no correspondence to consider or discuss.

B. Consent Calendar

1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Todd Kiesbuy moved to approve the meeting minutes from December 5, 2019. Wayne Wakkinen seconded the motion. The vote was taken. The motion carried.

C. Business

1. Update on Advisory Board Membership and Meeting Schedule for 2020
Jamie Sturgess

Leslie Duncan and Jamie gave an update of the Natural Resource Advisory Board membership. An applicant will be sent to Jamie to review and evaluate to fill the vacant position. Leslie said that the county is willing to give the board the Open Meeting Law training at a special meeting on a Saturday or with a regular board meeting. The present board members expressed that they would prefer with a regular meeting date, not on Saturday.

The 2020 meeting schedule for the advisory board has been sent out and posted in the courthouse. Jamie apologized for the confusion and short notices related to this meeting.

2. 2020 Update Recommendations from Executive Director and Discussion on BEIPC activities for 2020 affecting Kootenai County. Invited Speaker: Terry Harwood, Executive Director Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission

Three handouts were distributed which were those emailed to the board before the meeting also. Hand out were Basin Work Discussion by Executive Director; Lower Basin Remedies from BEIPC 2020 Work Plan; and Restoration Partnership from BEIPC 2020 Work Plan.

Terry gave an introduction about the Superfund (CERCLA) law and a history of his involvement and the Bunker Hill activities. The major Kootenai County actions concern the lower river and wetlands and the lake. The lake was separated out to be dealt with the State/Tribe lake management plan under the Clean Water authorities. The future of that plan is now being discussed because of questions as to its effectiveness.. The lower river major activity has been the agricultural land conversion to wetlands with the Schlepp wetlands restoration site and ongoing Greys Meadow effort by Idaho Fish and Game which marry the EPA and restoration trustee efforts. The Greys Meadow effort has been and continue to be supported by the board.

Terry is advocating better involvement with early input into EPA's work planning. Current major work planning involve the lower river issues and pilot projects and the lake management plan the nutrient issues. Some of the potential recommendation issues were discussed. The basin commission can be used to coordinate efforts with EPA. Wetlands and river work issues need to address were dredge/removal materials would be placed. Bank and river bed stabilization issues with rocking and fishery issues need to be better understood and discussed with Idaho Fish and Game. With the effectiveness and cost considerations, the use NRCS bank stabilization efforts should be continued and promoted. The lake issue of where the nutrients are coming needs to be further discussed and addressed. Another major study of the basin or lake like the NAS study is not desired with the potential suggestions of costly regulatory approaches like Lake Tahoe and Chesapeake Bay.

3. Recommendation from Kootenai County Natural Resource Advisory Committee to County Commissioners in Regards to Executive Director Harwood “White Paper” Jamie Sturgess

Upon review by the KCNRAB members the Board proposed to forward these recommendations to the Kootenai County Representative to the Basin Commission.

Priority recommendations for consideration in chronological order:

1. Consider some bank stabilization in areas along the River used for recreation utilizing the NRCS approach of riprap and plantings as an interim human health protection activity.

Example: Utilize the NRCS process for streambank stabilization wherever possible and acceptable. (This activity can be in advance of other riverbed cleanup or stabilization actions).

2. Support continued agriculture lands to wetland conversions where possible and practicable, only if these lands are protected from frequent flooding (and thus recontamination).

Example: the Grays Meadow Project.

3. Develop and implement a pilot project in 2020 in the Dudley Reach of the CDA River as noted in the Lower Basin Work Plan.

Other recommendations for longer term planning consideration:

Consider areas for additional repository capacity in the Lower Basin for potential dredging actions, (or other removal-action debris).

Get a better handle on the nutrient loading to CDA Lake.

Evaluate the relationship between lead/zinc control options and phosphorus response to those actions.

D. Public Comment (Discussion)

There was no public comment.

E. Adjourn

David moved to adjourn. Todd seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David Fortier – Acting Recording Secretary