

Minutes of Meeting
Vintage Hydroplane Event
March 2, 2021
10:00 a.m.

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Chris Fillios, Commissioner Leslie Duncan and Commissioner Bill Brooks met to discuss the following agenda item. Also present were KCSO Captain Stuart Miller, Parks & Waterways/Noxious Weeds/Snowgroomers Director Nick Snyder, Community Development Director David Callahan and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present were Parks & Waterways Advisory Board Vice Chair Doug Harris, Coeur d'Alene Press Reporter Madison Hardy and Kootenai County Residents Brad Hooper, Steve Bilde, Doug Miller, Steve Shepperd and Keith Kroetch.

- A. **Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.
- B. **Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. **Business (Action):**

Presentation by Doug Miller Regarding Hydroplane Event on Coeur d'Alene Lake in September 2021

Kootenai County Resident Doug Miller said that Keith Kroetch would actually make the presentation.

Keith Kroetch, President of the Coeur d'Alene Hydromaniacs, explained that the event would be an exhibition, rather than a race. He remarked that they had the support of the Hydroplane and Race Boat Museum in Seattle.

Mr. Kroetch stated that his group had spoken with KCSO Sheriff Robert Norris, who suggested he come to the Board of County Commissioners to discuss the proposal. He said the site they had chosen was Higgins Point on Lake Coeur d'Alene, on Labor Day Weekend, and that the event would be free to the general public.

Mr. Kroetch assured the Board that they did not intend to hold the event unless they were able to enlist enough sponsors to pay for all the expenses ahead of time, including insurance, fire and emergency services, permits, and security. He stated that this would be an APBA (American Powerboat Association) sanctioned event, so they would also need to satisfy that organization's strict requirements.

Mr. Kroetch went on to describe the attributes of the hydroplanes that would participate and some of the features they hoped to offer at the event.

In response to a question from Commissioner Bill Brooks, Mr. Kroetch confirmed that appropriate insurance coverage was required by the APBA. He added that security on land and in the water would also be provided.

Kootenai County Resident Steve Shepperd provided an overview of similar gatherings held in this area in the past. He remarked that he had written a book on this topic, "Hydromania," which was available at the Museum of North Idaho.

Mr. Kroetch reported that his group had already gathered enough sponsors to proceed, but would seek approvals from all entities involved before actually collecting the money. He remarked that they could have the required funds in hand within a week or so of receiving final approvals.

Community Development Director David Callahan stated that the 2013 race held at Lake Coeur d'Alene had caused the County to change its regulations and create a new category for special events. He explained this category would apply any time there were 500 or more participants on a given property. He cautioned that a CUP (Conditional Use Permit) could take up to six months to process and listed some of the requirements that would have to be satisfied for a permit to be approved.

In response to a question from Commissioner Leslie Duncan, Mr. Callahan confirmed that the group could request permits for two dates, one this year and one next, in case arrangements could not be completed in time to hold the 2020 event.

KCSO Captain Stuart Miller stated that the position KCSO would take was that the event had to receive support from the general public and that all expenses must be paid ahead of time. He described the demands that would have to be met for a Marine Event Permit to be approved by the Sheriff. He noted that Labor Day Weekend was a very busy time for KCSO and they could have some difficulty in arranging the extra staff required.

Captain Miller pointed out that Higgins Point was owned by Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, so their permitting processes would have to be followed as well.

Parks & Waterways/Noxious Weeds/Snowgroomers Director Nick Snyder voiced agreement with the points brought up by Captain Miller and Mr. Callahan. He stressed the fact that Higgins Point was a major ingress and egress point for boaters and the impact of an event there on Labor Day Weekend needed to be considered carefully.

Commissioner Duncan said she felt it was acceptable for the group to begin the application process for the various permits needed.

Commissioner Brooks stated that the event sounded fun and exciting but that he felt some concern about the negative impact on the rest of the boating public on Labor Day Weekend.

Chairman Fillios said he would support the group starting on the process. He remarked that, even if the event could not be offered this year, it might be set up for 2022.

No vote was required at this time.

- 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 10:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk
