

MINUTES OF MEETING
Kootenai County Waterways Advisory Board
April 14, 2022
Kootenai County Search & Rescue Building
10865 N Ramsey Rd
Hayden, Idaho 83835

MEMBERS PRESENT: Troy Dixon, Doug Harris, Michael Pelissero, Casey Price, Gary Schmidt, Tom Torgerson, Don Warner

STAFF PRESENT: Nick Snyder, Director, Parks & Waterways; Sergeant Ryan Miller, Kootenai County Sheriff's Office; Ranell Schwartz, Recording Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT: Jim Stafford, Spokane River Association

Chairman Harris called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Advisory Board members declared no conflicts of interest.

The Chairman welcomed new board members Troy Dixon and Casey Price. Nick Snyder would like to present a program overview to the new members before the next meeting. All are welcome to attend. The Program PowerPoint will be presented one hour prior to the next Advisory board Meeting.

MOTION: Michael Pelissero moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion was seconded; all were in favor; the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

PROPOSED MOORING BUOYS ON HAYDEN LAKE:

Nick Snyder presented a proposal on behalf of Weldon Shannon. Mr. Shannon reached out to Mr. Snyder to request public mooring buoys on Hayden Lake so that boats have a safe place to tie up overnight. Currently, there are no mooring buoys on Hayden Lake. Discussion ensued. Mr. Snyder stated that the buoys would have a 48 hour stay limit, the buoys would be lit at night, and little maintenance would be required once the buoys are placed on the lake. Mr. Shannon proposed areas in bays that are not near a lot of homes. If a permit is submitted to Idaho Department of Lands, property owners near the proposed location will have an opportunity to comment on the buoys.

MOTION: Gary Schmidt made a motion to direct the Parks & Waterways Department and the Sheriff's Office to explore costs and location options and present them at the next meeting. The motion was seconded; all were in favor; the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

SLOW DOWN LAW ON WATERWAYS:

Sergeant Ryan Miller reported that this law has been passed by the Commissioners and is now in effect. It is much like the move over law on roadways. The Sheriff will post a press release closer to the boating season to make the public aware of the new rule.

Resolution 2022-19 *Approaching Emergency Vessels: All vessels approaching emergency vessels displaying flashing lights and/or law enforcement vessels displaying flashing lights shall reasonably and prudently operate at no wake speed, at a distance of not less than two hundred feet (200') from the emergency and/or law enforcement vessel when practicable, until completely past the emergency and/or law enforcement vessel.*

UPDATE: ANCHORING ON COUNTY WATERWAYS UPDATE:

Temporary anchoring is currently legal on all Idaho Waterways as long as the vessel is lit at night. More sailboats and houseboats are anchoring in bays and it has become a navigation hazard. The BOCC has been made aware of the issue. No action has been taken.

STAFF REPORTS

Nick Snyder reported that Parks & Waterways staff just wrapped up the Snowgroomer season. They completed 3000 miles of groomed snowmobile trails, and cut 2500 trees in the Coeur d'Alene National Forest. Staff is now moving to Parks & Waterways operations, repairing storm and ice damage to docks at Spokane Point, Harrison and Bell Bay. The CXT restroom for Fernan Park has been ordered. The new restroom will be placed closer to the parking lot than the current restroom location.

Mr. Snyder plans to write a Waterways Improvement Fund Grant to submit in January 2023 for poly-float concrete docks at Carlin Bay Park on Lake Coeur d'Alene. The docks will be U-Shaped to create a safe swim area.

Mr. Snyder is working with KCSO to post no-wake zone signs on the Highway 95 Bridge. Idaho Transportation Department has approved the permit for the signs. When the bridge signs are placed, the no-wake buoys in the water near the bridge will be moved to the front of the Coeur d'Alene Resort. An encroachment permit has been submitted for two no-wake buoys at the Twin Lake Channel. A replacement mooring buoy will be placed in Beauty Bay on Lake Coeur d'Alene.

Avista completed electrical service to the State Line Bridge. The next step is lighting the Centennial Trail Bridge.

The new workboat should be completed by June 2023.

Sergeant Ryan Miller from the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office reported that they have six Seasonal Marine Deputies. There will be three teams to cover the county waterways this summer. The wage for Marine Deputies increased by \$1 per hour. They will give overtime opportunities for patrol staff of help out. Reduced funding, rising gas prices and repair costs are budget concerns. The department has requested tax funded dollars from the Commissioners to assist with overtime pay.

The City of Hayden has agreed to contribute \$60,000 to build a dock for the Sheriff boat on Hayden Lake. The City will build it and the County will maintain it. Having a boat moored at Hayden Lake will cut marine response time significantly.

The department is waiting to hear if the Waterway Improvement Funds Grants they submitted to re-power the sonar boat and a marine truck have funded.

FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

5:00 review of the Parks & Waterways program at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Stafford-Spokane River Association: Mr. Stafford wanted this board to be aware of the new docks that were proposed at a recent Coeur d'Alene City Council meeting. He is opposed to the docks. He thinks this board should be concerned about the safety on the water that may be affected by these docks that will be placed near the Highway 95 Bridge, at the mouth of the Spokane River.

He would also like the Marine Deputies to be paid \$25 per hour. Sergeant Miller explained why that was not sustainable.

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ranell Schwartz

Recording Secretary