

**Minutes of Meeting
Parks & Waterways
April 26, 2022
1:30 p.m.**

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chair Pro Tem 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, BOCC Communications Coordinator Jonathan Gillham and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present were Parks & Waterways Advisory Board Chair Doug Harris and Kootenai County Resident Jack Clark. Chairman Chris Fillios was excused.

- A. Call to Order:** Chair Pro Tem Leslie Duncan called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business:**

Chairman Chris Fillios entered the meeting at 1:36 p.m.

Cataldo Properties Day Use Resolution (Action)

Parks & Waterways (P&W)/Noxious Weeds/Snowgroomers Director Nick Snyder reminded the Commissioners about past requests for commercial or event use of certain properties in Cataldo. He stated that the properties had originally been residential homes, had been destroyed in the floods and then purchased by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency). He said that the properties were later put into the hands of Kootenai County, to manage in perpetuity. He pointed out that there were still inhabited residential homes in that same area.

Mr. Snyder explained that there were challenges in allowing these properties to be used for commercial or recreational use. He said many of the neighbors were not in favor of such use and had made complaints about people camping next to their homes, late night noise and other problems. He remarked that these properties were never intended for such use; they were not parks, had no restrooms, ADA (American Disabilities Act) parking, pathways or any of the other amenities found in local parks.

Mr. Snyder added that the properties were also located 40 miles away from the P&W office, so it was not reasonable for his staff to manage events or check on events for compliance. He suggested that a Resolution be developed to apply to the Cataldo Flood Mitigation Properties, to include: no overnight camping, no overnight parking, no fires, no commercial use or events.

Commissioner Duncan said she felt this was reasonable, based on the location and potential for inappropriate use. Chairman Fillios and Commissioner Bill Brooks agreed.

KCSO Captain Brett Nelson entered the meeting at 1:39 p.m.

Mr. Snyder said he would speak with Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Jamila Holmes and draft a resolution to bring to the Board at a later date. In response to a question from Commissioner Duncan, he said that signs would be posted with the necessary information at the site.

Hayden Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Training Area: Ramsey/Wyoming (Action)

Mr. Snyder stated that the Airport owned a section of property indicated in the maps he provided that he had been urging be used for a kids' off road training area.

Mr. Snyder reported that Airport Director Steven Kjergaard had agreed to his request. He noted that there would be no fees charged for the use of the land by the Airport and the parents would not be charged to bring their children there. He said that they would make an effort to limit park-goers to Kootenai County residents and that limits would be placed regarding engine size and age of children. He noted that, once a month or so, it could be made available to KCSO or Search & Rescue to train their new staff to drive ATVs.

In response to a question from Commissioner Duncan, Mr. Snyder said he did not expect to need any MOUs (Memoranda of Understanding) to set this in motion, unless the Board felt it was advisable. He said he would request Board authorization to use the fund balance of \$7,266 in the ORV (Off Road Vehicle) account for the project.

All three Commissioners indicated their approval for Mr. Snyder to proceed as outlined.

Hayden Lake Buoys (Action)

Mr. Snyder reminded the Commissioners that there had been an initial MOU with the Hayden Lake Watershed Improvement District for the placement of fourteen buoys. He stated that Steve Meyer from the Association had recently requested the number to be increased to thirty-one.

Solid Waste (SW) Director John (JP) Phillips entered the meeting at 1:44 p.m.

Mr. Snyder said he had explained to Mr. Meyer that the District qualified as a pseudo-governmental entity and could make application directly to the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) on their own. He indicated that this new request would almost make more buoys on that one body of water than all the County's other lakes and rivers combined. He said he was also concerned that the number would increase in the future.

Mr. Snyder explained that, as things stood now, P&W would be responsible for making sure all the buoys were in the right locations, properly anchored and lit, which was becoming unmanageable. He recommended that the Board transfer the encroachment permit, terminate the current MOU with Hayden Lake Watershed Improvement District and allow them to take over. He stated that Mr. Meyer had understood that 31 buoys was more than P&W could manage. He suggested that the Board might also consider making a comment to IDL regarding the number of buoys requested and the impact on the appearance of the lake, if the number continued to grow.

Adult Misdemeanor Probation (AMP) Director Keith Hutcheson entered the meeting at 1:46 p.m.

In response to a question from Commissioner Duncan, Mr. Snyder confirmed that KCSO had not asked for any additional buoys.

Court Services Manager Kally Young entered the meeting at 1:49 p.m.

All three Commissioners indicated their agreement with Mr. Snyder's proposal.

Lake Coeur d'Alene Annual Clean-Up (Discussion)

Mr. Snyder reported that he had met with IDL and several marine contractors regarding storage in Cougar Bay and other bays on Lake Coeur d'Alene. He said he and members of KCSO became concerned that, if marine contractors were barred from using these bays for some type of agreed storage, there would be an adverse effect on the County's ability to use those same bays for its own infrastructure needs.

KCSO Sheriff Robert Norris entered the meeting at 1:52 p.m.

He described past situations in which private marine contractors had responded to the County's request for assistance. He said he had become concerned that there was a growing movement to make the barges "go away."

Mr. Snyder remarked that no one was officially responsible for clean up on any of the lakes. He suggested getting private businesses and public entities to contribute to a fund annually to pay for a yearly cleanup and a storage area in Cougar Bay which would allow the marine contractors designated areas for their needs. He said that the idea had been well-received.

Mr. Snyder said his recommendation to the Board would be to consider creating an MOU in which the County would set aside an annual amount, in partnership with other interested entities. He asked the Board's direction to begin work on the idea.

Community Development Director David Callahan entered the meeting at 1:56 p.m.

Mr. Snyder suggested that each entity contribute about \$2,500 to get things started, if the Board agreed.

Commissioner Duncan said she would support the idea, if there were enough groups interested in participating to make it work.

Commissioner Brooks commented on the necessity of having the barges available, in case of emergencies.

Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney R. David Ferguson, Finance Director Dena Darrow, Staff Accountant – Brandi Falcon and BOCC Senior Business Analyst Nanci Plouffe entered the meeting at 1:57 p.m.

- 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.

Kootenai County Resident Jack Clark asked that the Commissioners reconsider their decision about the Cataldo properties. He pointed out that, if the properties were used, the County would receive rental fees. He suggested placing heavy restrictions on the properties and allowing their use under those conditions.

E. Adjournment (Action): Chairman Fillios adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

BOCC SIGNATURE

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk