

Minutes of Meeting
Natural Resources Advisory Board
August 12, 2022
1:00 p.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 BOCC Senior Business Analyst Nanci Plouffe and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present were Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission (BEIPC) Executive Director Terry Harwood, Natural Resources Advisory Board Chair Jamie Sturgess, Board Member Rich Meyer, Coeur d'Alene Press Reporter Kaye Thornbrugh and Kootenai County Resident Art Collins.

- A. **Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.
- B. **Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. **Business:**

Presentation by Jamie Sturgess Regarding Natural Resource Advisory Board Recommendation on Lake CDA Metals Study (Action)

Natural Resources Advisory Board Chair Jamie Sturgess introduced Richard Meyer, who was also a Board Member and a member of the Coeur d'Alene Lakeshore Property Owners Association, and Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission (BEIPC) Executive Director Terry Harwood.

Mr. Sturgess said the University of Idaho had a research grant to study the movement of sediments and to increase knowledge on nutrient sources within the Lake itself. He described the scope of the study, as outlined by Frank Wilhelm, Ph.D. at the University and added that he had suggested the inclusion of heavy metals to the study. He provided history on the project and described the remedies that were being considered. He encouraged the Commissioners to participate in the efforts to clear up the Lake's problems.

Mr. Sturgess said that the University of Idaho study participants were willing to extend their efforts to include heavy metal analysis, but an extension of the study would have to be funded. He urged the Board to consider providing funding in the amount of about \$63,000. He called the Commissioners' attention to the letter provided by the Natural Resources Advisory Board outlining their request.

Mr. Harwood voiced his encouragement and asked to Board to engage in the project. He provided further information about actions taken in the past by the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) and other agencies. He described the sources of the contamination in the Lake and efforts that had been considered to try to remediate the Lake and River banks and bottom.

Mr. Sturgess confirmed that they were looking for \$63,000 in FY22 or \$52,500 in FY23. He added that the Natural Resource Advisory Board had unanimously recommended the request be approved.

Commissioner Bill Brooks remarked that he would be willing to consider the request for the FY23 Budget, but not this year's.

Commissioner Leslie Duncan said that the Board would know how much would be returned to the County from the FY22 Budget by about September 15, 2022. She said she would be willing to consider the request when those year-end projections were received. She added that, if lakeshore property owners also provided some financial support, this would encourage the Board to participate as well.

Mr. Sturgess asked the Commissioners to reply to Dr. Wilhelm's letter.

Chairman Fillios agreed. He indicated that they would include the information which had been discussed in this meeting.

There was general agreement that the County would make some level of contribution, once the amount that would return to the General Fund was known.

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 Art Collins reviewed his previous proposal for the County to apply for a grant to assist in the restoration and preservation of the Lake. He described some of his efforts and the people he had contacted.

E. Adjournment (Action): Chairman Fillios adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

BOCC SIGNATURE

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk