

## Teton County Wildlife Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes, October 11, 2023

Members Present: Jeff Klausmann, Kathy O'Neil, Mike Lien, Tamara Sperber, Linda Unland

Staff Present: Jade Krueger

1. Minutes from September 6 approved.
2. Debrief of the Consultant Forum. Jade Krueger, County Planner joined this portion of the meeting. Background: A Forum was held on zoom on September 26, to introduce potential consultants, who would be working with clients and the county, to the Wildlife Habitat Assessment(WHA) process. Jade Krueger, Kathy O'Neil from the Wildlife Advisory Committee and Eric Anderson of Idaho Department of Fish and Game lead the discussion and answered questions.

Jade attended this committee meeting to debrief the Forum. She shared that the consultants seemed excited to have this roadmap to use in the development approval process when a particular project falls within a Wildlife Overlay. To be determined is the exact role that Fish and Game(IDFG) will have in this process, as they do not want a direct role in the approval process. A question was posed about requiring consultants to use the IFWIS database as an additional source in completing the WHA? The committee would need to determine the viability of using this as a tool. Jade would like assistance from the Wildlife Committee in reviewing consultants and other administrative tasks to help alleviate the workload of a one-person office. It was discussed that the Committee may need to enlist the additional volunteer services of professionals from the county in these efforts.

**Next steps: Rework IDFG checklist in WHA; check out viability of IDWIS data base**

Bear Conflict. Addressing bear conflict currently is an ordinance in Teton County, and it was agreed that this ordinance needs to be updated. Additionally, the bear conflict map should be updated and merged into the Wildlife Overlay Map and the County Code. If bear habitat were a trigger in the WHA process, it is felt by Fish and Game that this would bring avoidance much sooner in the planning process.

**Next steps: Compile bear data for map and ordinance updating**

Wetlands Regulations. New changes in Wetlands regulations are in the process of being specified by the EPA, and it is understood that the Army Corps of Engineers will issue any permits within Wetlands. As Mike Lien pointed out, the definition of "Wetlands" has not changed, but we will need to expand our definition of Wetlands in our ordinance in the code under "Wetlands Setbacks." At present, the Army Corps is awaiting training on all of this. Important to our county at this juncture is to determine how many wetlands of significance we have(priority wetlands). Jackson, WY and Blaine County reportedly have good ordinances for us to review in addition to the 1987 Wetlands Manual.

**Next steps: Look at other Wetlands ordinances; present to Commissioner Whitfield**

3. Dry Creek and Darby Creek. Mike Lien shared with the committee that at the time of our meeting, both Darby and Dry Creeks were actively in the process of being masticated and dredged by an individual property owner(Darby) and masticated extensively by the Grand Teton Canal Company(Dry). Efforts were being made to obtain Cease and Desist orders for both waterways.

**To Do:** Committee was asked to think of additional WAC members; By end of November, activate consultant pre-qualification list. (To date, the county planning office has received one application).

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 Pm.