

Teton County Wildlife Committee Special Meeting

Minutes

Date: Tuesday February 20, 2024

Start Time: 3:30pm

Location: **Zoom and In-person**

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81854768477>

Location: Commissioners' Room

Meeting note: The purpose of this meeting is to “cure” actions taken by the Wildlife Advisory Committee during an improperly noticed meeting.

Committee Members: Jeff Klausmann, Kathleen O’Neil, Linda Unland, Renee Seidler, Mike Lien, Tamara Sperber, Allison Michalski, Wray Landon

Call to Order. (3:32 pm)

Motion: *It is now 3:32 pm MST; I call this special meeting of the Wildlife Advisory Committee to Order.*

Motioner: Kathy O’Neil

Secunder: Tamara Sperber

Vote: Unanimous

Roll Call: Jeff Klausmann, Kathy O’Neil, Linda Unland, Renee Seidler, Mike Lien, Tamara Sperber, Allison Michalski, Wray Landon

Staff: Rob Marin, Dan Reyes, Commissioner Whitfield

Absent members:

ACTION ITEM: PREVIOUS MEETING JANUARY 29, 2024 MINUTES

Motion: *I move to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2024 Wildlife Advisory Committee Special Meeting.*

Motioner: Kathy O’Neil

Secunder: Wray Landon

Vote: unanimous

AGENDA ITEMS:

1) DISCUSSION ITEM: STRUCTURE AND SCOPE OF THE COMMITTEE

SUMMARY: The Wildlife Committee was formed by Resolution 2022-059B (which can be found on the committee's departmental website):

<https://www.tetoncountyidaho.gov/additionalInfo.php?deptID=40&pkTopics=1085>).

Minutes:

Chairman Klausmann explained that this meeting will involve some backtracking because previous meetings had been improperly notified to the public. Commissioner Whitfield provided background on the formation of this committee, stating that it was initially formed as an informal ad hoc committee. Once the Board of County Commissioners passed the Resolution 2022-0509B for the Creation of Teton County Wildlife Advisory Committee, the Committee was no longer considered informal. Further, Commissioner Whitfield explained that the Wildlife Advisory Committee (WAC) would follow open meeting laws; committee members would not be decision makers and were tasked with creating recommendations only. He explained that within the Resolution are the roles of the committee and actions it was to take.

Commissioner Whitfield expressed one of his desires for the formalization of the WAC included having the committee review updated data from the April, 2022 Idaho Fish and Game Summary Report and updated data from the Teton Regional Land Trust and other credible sources in order to inform discussions around the existing Natural Resource Overlay map (NRO). The Committee's task is to develop an updated overlay map with suggested edits, using the identified updated data. He also wants the group to help create a policy for wildlife technical analyses within the NRO.

2) ACTION ITEM: COMMITTEE OFFICERS

SUMMARY: August 6, 2022, the Wildlife Advisory Committee picked its initial Committee Officers. In order to cure the open meeting law violation of improper noticing, action will be retaken to ensure compliance with Idaho Statute.

Motion: I move to approve Jeff Klausmann

as Chairperson, Kathy O'Neil as Vice-Chairperson, and Linda Unland as Secretary of the Teton County Wildlife Advisory Committee.

Motioner: Renee Seidler

Secunder: Wray Landon

Vote: Unanimous

3) DISCUSSION ITEM: COMMITTEE PROJECTS

SUMMARY: The Wildlife Advisory Committee, in order to meet the mandate of Resolution 2022-059B, Commissioner Whitfield identified the following initial projects:

- Natural Resource Overlay Revision
- Process for performance of Natural resource Overlay Analysis

Minutes:

Natural Resource Overlay Revision:

Revisions to the existing Natural Resource Overlay map to be reflective of new data provided in the Idaho Fish and Game's April, 2022: A Summary of Fish and Wildlife Resources in Teton County, ID in addition to updated data obtained by the Teton Regional Land Trust on Sandhill Cranes and other waterbirds, and other credible data.

Committee will work with Rob Marin, Teton County GIS specialist, to develop an updated overlay map with suggested edits based on supporting data.

It was noted that the Natural Resource Overlay was last updated in 2006 and that the IDFG Summary had not been updated for 10 years. It was further clarified that the charge of the committee is to pull in all of those data sources, to note comments from the public and to revise the old Natural Resource Overlay. It was also noted that while the WAC meetings are open to the public, the Committee does not do public hearings. The Committee's recommendations will go to the Planning and Zoning Commission at their May meeting, where public comments can be heard. Planning and Zoning will make their recommendation on the Natural Resource Overlay update to the Board of County Commissioners.

Process for Performance of Natural Resource Analysis:

Committee is also tasked with creating a draft policy for performance of Natural Resource Technical Analysis within the NRO.

4) **Public Comments**

Ida Hansen stated that the NRO created an additional barrier to building by increasing costs

Dee Gustafson asked for clarification about the cost of assessments that builders/ developers would have to perform as a result of the NRO

Penny Vasquez stated that she thought increasing the NRO might have a detrimental effect wildlife

ADJOURN (4:25 pm)

Motion: *I motion to adjourn this meeting*

Motioner: Renee Seidler

Secunder: Wray Landon

Vote: Unanimous