

Teton County Waterways and Recreation Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting

Date: Thursday March 7th, 2024

Start Time: 3:00pm

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 Waterways and Recreation Advisory Committee during an improperly noticed meeting and to establish next steps in

Recreation Management Planning.

Committee Members: Joe McFarlane, Amy Verbeten, Renee Hiebert, Boots Allen, Kyle Ellison, Brett

High, Charles Woodward, Will Stubblefield.

Call to Order. (3:00pm)

Suggested motion: It is now 3:00 pm MST; I call this special meeting of the Waterways Recreation

Advisory Committee to Order.

Motioner: Joe Macfarlane

Secunder: Will

Vote : Unanimous

Present members: Charlie Woodward, Joe McFarlane, Brett High, Renee Hiebert, Boots Allen, Dan Reyes, Michael Whitfield, Rob Marin.

Absent members: Amy Verbeten, Kyle Ellison

ACTION ITEM: PREVIOUS MEETING JANUARY 29, 2024 MINUTES

Suggested motion: I move to approve the minutes of the January 25th, 2024 Waterways and Recreation Advisory Committee Special Meeting.

Motioner: Joe

Secunder: Brett

Vote: Unanimous

AGENDA ITEMS:

1) DISCUSSION ITEM: STRUCTURE AND SCOPE OF THE COMMITTEE (3:10pm)

SUMMARY: The Waterways Advisory Committee was formed by the Board of County Commissioners and

tasked with the following Duties:

1) Recommend and/or cooperatively conduct surveys of Teton County waterway recreation users.

2) Recommend waterway recreation management guidelines, practices, goals, and policies.

- 3) Recommend regulations and resolutions that promote public safety, recreation enjoyment, and natural resource conservation and otherwise provide information for the purposes of waterways recreation management in the County.
- 4) Recommend methods and procedures necessary to best manage waterway access properties under the ownership or control of the County or a Cooperating Agency as needed to meet recreation management objectives.
- 5) Recommend to the Board of County Commissioners, within the limits of its funding, the employment of or the contracting with other parties for the services of technical experts or other persons as it deems necessary to carry on the functions of the Advisory Committee.
- 6) Make recommendations in the planning processes undertaken by the county, the cities, the state, or the federal government and the agencies of these entities.
- 7) Promote and conduct an educational and interpretive program designed to promote a waterway recreation ethic in the County that is compatible with waterway recreation management objectives.
- 8) Advisory Committee members, employees or agents of the Advisory Committee may enter private property in the performance of its official duties only with the express consent of the owner thereof.
- 9) The Advisory Committee shall have no authority over water uses for irrigation or other recognized beneficial water uses.

-Discussion: Improperly noticed meetings, actions to "Cure", next steps in Committee structure moving forward.

minutes:

Commissioner Whitfield reviews the structure and duties of this committee as stated in the summary above.

CW adds: The Committee should move away from holding votes, this gives the impression that we are taking action. We should work through discussion to arrive at consensus, and then moving to recommendations to be presented to the BOCC.

Dan Reyes recommends there should be no deliberation or decision making in email exchanges. Sharing information is ok, but any decision should be held during the noticed meeting.

Joe clarifies that members may be working in small groups via email when there is not a quorum established.

2) ACTION ITEM: COMMITTEE OFFICERS (3:30pm)

SUMMARY: June 28th 2022, the Waterways Recreation 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.

Suggested motion: boots moves to elect Joe mcfarlane as chair

Second: renee

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Renee moves to approve will as secretary/vice chair

Secondary: Brett

Vote: Unanimous

3) DISCUSSION ITEM: COMMITTEE PROJECTS (3:40pm)

SUMMARY: The Waterways Advisory Committee is currently engaged in supporting development of a waterways recreation management plan

-what are the roles of this committee and next steps in recreation management plan Development?

minutes:

Rob Marin with update for summer 2024: County plans to have a camp host at Rainey, recreation data collection will be done by Idaho master Naturalists.

Rob is thinking of hiring 2-4 people to work part time as river ambassadors.

Brett appreciated the County hiring a camp host at Rainey. Brett is curious about the ability to staff multiple individuals on part time staff for river ambassadors. Rob is uncertain but hopeful that more people working part time will be more reasonable than one person full time.

Is there the capacity for the county to manage many people? One of the ambassadors may have more responsibility and could supervise the other ambassadors.

Are there other departments at the county that could offer other work opportunities when the work on the river is slow due to weather.

Boots mentions that there was overwhelmingly positive feedback on the informal ambassador program in the snake.

Discussion of waterways recreation management planning.

Charlie W.

Blackfoot management plan is a good example of starting with the least restrictive measures at the beginning.

Yampa river management plan has a self registration system to gain more user data.

This Advisory Group also has a good experience.

Recommendation to BOCC and accompanied with a narrative about how the process was undertaken.

Planning is to hire a senior level planner that will be a staff liaison to the waterways committee.

Michael thinks the committee could start with a framework for a management plan.

Brett clarifies what is the scope of this planning, are we starting with a outline or a plan.

Joe recommends the Blackfoot River plan as a starting point.

How much to involve the public is a good question? At some point, needing to involve the public through a public hearing or asking for public involvement along the way.

Day Reyes says social media and town halls are the key ways to get the public involved.

Could you have publicly noticed working sessions along the way where the public is invited to give input. Avoid the potential to re-visit the items addressed in the public charettes.

At the next meeting we should have more information about the county budget at the next meeting.

What would be an appropriate timeline for the management plan to be addressed.

Can you write into the plan a schedule for adjustment that will allow you to update the management plan to

Process: give the committee some homework then compile during the meetings.
Pull from Charettes, Ordinance, FTR/TRLT materials

Old Business:

Brett did not get any traction in getting grant funding for fox creek east, But he then got some funding. IDFG is scheduled to install a vault toilet at Fox Creek East.

4) DISCUSSION ITEM: Public Comment (4:33pm)

John Norton: John brings up using a college student/university partner to work on recreation management planning.

ADJOURN (5:00pm)

Suggest Motion: motion to adjourn

Motioner: Brett High

Secunder: Boots Allen

Vote: unanimous.