**Teton County Waterways Recreation Committee**

Date: Thursday April 18th, 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 work on a framework for a recreation management plan for the Teton River in Teton County, Idaho.

Committee Members: Joe McFarlane, Amy Verbeten, Renee Hiebert, Boots Allen, Kyle Ellison, Brett High, Charles Woodward, Will Stubblefield.

**Call to Order. (3:00pm)**

*motion: It is now 3:00 pm MDT; I call this special meeting of the Waterways Recreation Advisory Committee to Order.*

Motioner: JN

Seconder:CW

Vote:Unanimous

*Motion to add agenda item to discuss county Budget for Consulting to work on Management Planning.*

Motioner: WS

Second: MD

vote: Unanimous

Roll Call: Joe M, John N, Charlie W, Will S, Rob M, Brett H, Michael W, Renee

Absent members: Amy, Boots

## **ACTION ITEM: PREVIOUS MEETING March 07, 2024 MINUTES**

*motion: I move to approve the minutes of the March 7th, 2024 Waterways Recreation Advisory Committee Special Meeting.*

Motioner: MD

Seconder:JN

Vote: Unanamous

# **AGENDA ITEMS:**

## **DISCUSSION ITEM: Framework for Recreation Management Planning(3:10pm)**

SUMMARY: Based on other recreation management plans, the committee will discuss potential frameworks for a Teton River Recreation management plan

Discussion: key issues on recreation on the Teton River?

*Discussion of Recreation Management Plan.*

Starting with a list of Issues:

-Parking, Lack of enforcement, Camping at Big Eddy, Ramp etiquette, Group Size, Conflicts between user groups, MOU’s and Land owner agreements at Access Sites (Cache Bridge), Landowner/Recreationist Conflicts, Impacts to wildlife, dogs chasing wildlife and livestock, Ramp layout for different crafts, Local vs non-local recreation users, Unpermitted commercial use, trash, water quality impacts, busy river season and ordinance/management window, Role of river ambassador effectiveness, public safety, accommodating reasonable growth in Teton county, floating/recreating experience, rise of the DIY boater (inexperienced recreationists), alcohol and substance abuse on the river, tubing on river, noise impacts, ecosystem impacts (erosion of river beds, vegetation damage, macroinvertebrates), user efficiency and order could be a broad category, campfires,

JM gives some examples from the blackfoot river plan.

broad categories: Boat Ramps, Enforcement.

parking needs more definition to create organization

CW- discusses using Management Actions from the blackfoot river plan.

KE- note the importance of the data on river users to help with future grant funding and project development.

CW- clumps: Access sites, On river behavior, Group Size.

Chapter 5, Management issues and direction.

MW-The creation of the Management Plan will help to address the issues with funding and enforcement.

broad Categories:

Degraded river experience or **USER EXPERIENCE**: Group size, Conflicts between users, noise, trash, increase in DIY users and tubing, Human and dog waste, Ramp etiquette, uncontrolled pets, Public Safety

**Access Sites:** Site design, Ramp Layout for different users, Parking, Educational and regulatory information, Ramp Etiquette, user contact point, Campfires, pets off leash, Access point maintenance, Traffic flow, Facilities at site or facilities gaps,

**Camping at Big Eddy**: Fires, Group size, Noise, trash/refuse, Human and pet waste, Potential Fee needs, conflict with user groups, no trash cans

**Resource impacts**: impacts to wildlife, impacts to fishery, impacts to habitat, Impacts water quality, pets harassing wildlife, Landowner / user impacts, noise impacts, group size, Wildlife/visitor interactions, extended recreation season, trash/refuse, human and pet waste, Aquatic Invasive Species

KE-notes future changes with commercial rental operations

MD - \*local example for access points: redesign of Moose and Wilson Boat ramps

JM- an issue is the unique management situation of this river. IDFG has authority around access points, IOGLB manages fishing businesses, County becomes manager for Upper Teton River.

Discussion other issues: Administration (who manages what), Enforcement, Education -

BH-Administration are the sideboards that we have to work with, the issues are the areas that will require management actions.

Group is moving towards consensus that **Administration** is its own chapter and near the introduction.

**Enforcement**: Parking, Landowner/ user conflicts, Unpermitted commercial use, Alcohol, Noise, conflicts at access sites, Firearm regulations (too close to facilities), public safety, trash, stay limits for camping

How could the county use the river management plan? for informing future policy.

## **DISCUSSION ITEM: Funding for Recreation Management Planning(4:30pm)**

SUMMARY: Teton County has some funds available for Recreation Management Planning.

Discussion: What funds are available and how can these be allocated to support Recreation Management Planning?

 *minutes:*

*MW:* Discussed budget with county clerk and there is money in the vessel funds account with about $30K. Could dedicate $10-15K for consultant to guide this group in a management planning process.

CW thinks we could start within the group to get a rough outline for a management plan, then look for a consultant to start moving towards a final product.

JN- what would a consultant work on? the group suggests that the consultant could work on polishing the document, graphic design, and legal review.

JN- will work on drafting an outline for the River management Plan.

Next meeting: continue issues discussion, start administration and Jurisdiction?

Old Business:

Next meeting: Make an action Item for recommendations for amendments to ordinance.

progress report from RM, Campground host at Big Eddy is hired, IDFG IMN volunteers will collect user data, no applicants for the river ambassador program.

## **DISCUSSION ITEM: Public Comment (4:45pm)**

*Minutes*: None

**ADJOURN (5:00pm)**

*Suggest Motion: I motion to adjourn this meeting*

Motioner: WS

Seconder: MD

Vote: Unanimous