

FINAL – Teton County Wildlife Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – March 1, 2023

Committee Members in Attendance: Jeff Klausmann, Kathy O’Neil, Renee Seidler, Tamara Sperber, Mike Lien, Wray Landon, Linda Unland

Board of County Commissioners in Attendance: Michael Whitfield

1. Minutes of February 1 committee meeting approved with one change to remove “adjacent to” in #3, second sentence.
2. The intent of this meeting was another work session to continue the review and revision process of the Wildlife Habitat Analysis Policy, as it is currently titled. The committee either revised the following sections; is requiring further editing from designated committee members; or further action is required as indicated in italics:

1. Section 1. This policy applies to proposed land division or development within Teton County Idaho on sites that are wholly or partially within areas on Teton County’s Natural Resource Overlay map.

*Is this a policy or code amendment?*

*Are there exemptions?*

*Jeff and Mike Whitfield to consult with County Planner on this*

2. Section 2. In addition, this County is recognized as a vital component of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE), which supports the largest concentration of wildlife in the lower 48 states.

*Jeff Klausmann to confirm this and cite source.*

3. Section 3 A. Teton County will objectively select, on a rotating basis, a Consultant from a County-maintained list of pre-qualified Consultants.

*Do we need policy specifics as to how this works?*

*Is it a policy or a code amendment?*

*Jeff K and Mike W to discuss with County Planner*

4. Section 3 A. How do the consultants charge? Should we develop sideboards as to what costs are? Important to make sure that county has the ability to reject an application because of inadequacy of information. Consultants should be subject to periodic performance review.

*Add more details to qualifying and working with consultants. Check with County Planner.*

5. Section 3 E. The committee agreed that the Conservation Plan is part of the completed WHA. "Conservation Plan" was deleted in this section.
6. Section 4. V. IDFG checklist. The objective is to engage IDFG in this process in a way that will make it more streamlined for both Teton County and IDFG.

*Include coverage of seasonal habitats or seasonal use of a given property in the checklist.*

*Renee to add verbiage to checklist recognizing that this is a review of property resources in advance of fully developed development concepts.*

*Does a timeline for IDFG need to be included?*

*Checklist to be discussed with County Planner.*

*Commissioner Whitfield and fellow Commissioners to make a formal request to IDFG to determine if the checklist developed by this committee is workable.*

7. Section 4 B II. "Abstract part" was deleted. Committee acknowledged that this Executive Summary may be the only thing that the public may read, further underlining its significance, which the committee agreed to be properly reflected in the description.
8. Section 4 IV b 1. It was agreed to change to: all waterways that flow for more than one month to two weeks.
9. Section 4 IV b 11. The committee agreed that adding examples will prove helpful to applicant and consultant. The Bitch Creek example was revised.
10. Section 4 IV c. Property Description.

*Tamara will provide wording for this section.*

11. Section 4 V 1. a. Map 1.

*Jeff and Renee need to continue working on this classification list of vegetation and habitat types using Wyoming's list*

12. Section 4 V c. Connectivity.

*Add example of connectivity*

13. Section 4 VI a. Priority Habitat and Species Mapping. Map 3.

*It was suggested that there needs to be a process to bring in non traditional data sources to the NRO, such as citizen science data.*

*Include language on how wildlife information gets updated (this might fit into an Annual Updates section to NRO in code)*

14. Section 5 B. Consultant Application. It was agreed that the committee should provide a sample application for county to review.

*Wray to write up application.*

15. The committee discussed next steps:

- Kathy will prepare a clean copy of today's revisions of the WHA Policy document to be sent to committee members for further comments/revisions
- The current document to be submitted to County Planner by Jeff
- All To Do items (in italics above and shown on document) to be submitted to Kathy by Wednesday, March 8.
- Kathy will make these revisions
- A meeting will be scheduled before April committee meeting for further review of document
- Document to be submitted to Teton County Planning and Zoning Committee for their vetting
- Add Finalization of document to April Committee meeting agenda

Meeting was adjourned at 5 pm