Teton Waterways Recreation Advisory Committee

Thursday, April 6th– 4:00-5:30pm

Commissioners Room – Teton County Courthouse

**Minutes- 04.06.23**

**Attendance:**

Joe, Renee, Charlie, Will, Kyle, Boots, Amy, Brett

* Review Teton County, Idaho Waterway Ordinance and Discuss (4:00-4:30)
  + Rob opened the discussion on Ordinance.
  + Renee lists two items: 1) section 4 of ordinance will inform river ambassadors' job 2) special use permits and process
  + Kyle: Under enforcement section. “Fine is not to exceed 300$”, what should be the appropriate fine?
  + Brett: is the fine per person or for the group ? One item from Brett: direction from sheriff on how to communicate infractions from ambassadors to sheriffs.
  + Prioritization: River ambassadors are top priority of to prepare for summer 2023, what are the grey areas of education vs enforcement for the ambassadors as they are getting going?
  + Amy: Special use permits are a priority. What is process of special use permits, who reviews permits, what is criteria or guidance to apply for the special use permit?
  + Joe: this is what we would like to see as approved special uses – defined already in the waterways ordinance, the Ordinance should act as the backbone of how permits are evaluated.
  + Kyle: is there a maximum amount of special use permits in a year?
  + Joe: two things in the ordinance problematic for hunter and anglers 1)statement of users should not harass wildlife. -problematic for hunters and trappers 2) 10 HP motors could be problematic for mud motors used by hunters.
  + Boots: possibly define dates during hunting season when larger motors are acceptable.
  + Brett: hunting- other hunting seasons that use dogs, not only waterfowl
  + Possible create a running list of amendments to adjust language
  + Parking Pass/fundraising
  + Defining sensitive areas on the river?
  + Amy: range of firearms on the river? This issue came up in charettes and Brett had a couple incidents come to their office. There may be an updated regulation on firearms from the Fish and Game commission
  + Kyle: parking Passes – does not seem like this will be a money maker, could there be other benefits of organization, possibly re-structure the why behind parking permits?
  + Time to dive deeper into the challenging concepts, plan out topics by priority overcoming years.
  + Fees seem to be the biggest challenge on the horizon.
  + 1. recreation use and oversight, 2. Ordinance enforcement, 3. paid parking admin and enforcement 4. special use permit. 5 appointing a liaison with IOGLB/fishing outfitters.
  + Outfitter coming from Boise area interested in Outfitting on the Teton River. Reinforces the importance of county liaison.
  + Snowpack in 2023- what bearing does this have on river ranger position
  + MOU between the sheriff's office and ambassadors, within MOU what is timeline for enforcement on Ordinance from the sheriff's office
  + Charlie brings up the nuances of Ambassador, Ranger, and Sheriff presence
  + Amy: River Ambassador is primarily there for educational purposes, however by being out in the field they may interact with illegal activity, emergency situations etc.. This is the reason that there needs to be a clear agreement in how to interact with the Sheriff’s office.
  + What is the process for getting feedback from commissioners on the advisory committee. Charlie would like to know what has Rob passed up to the commissioners
  + Special user permits need to be exceptional
  + Special use on river access sites. Fish and Game does have process for special use, and it would be appropriate for IDFG and Teton County to collaborate on Teton river properties
  + Turn potential requests to the ordinance to get an idea of responsible recreation,
* Develop Recreation Advisory Committee 12-Month Program of Work (4:30-5:20)
  + Action Item – Recommendation to County Commissioners

**Recommendation from Committee**

The Teton Waterways Recreation Advisory Committee makes the following recommendations to Teton County, Idaho, to be considered, prioritized and either approved or amended to create the scope of work for this committee over the next year.

The Committee requests a response from Teton County Commissioners by May, 18th 2023.

The Committee has agreed upon the following areas of work to support Teton County, Idaho in Recreation Management for the Teton River.

* Guidance for successful collaboration between Teton County River Ambassador and Teton County Sheriff's office. To be created before summer 2023.
* Special Use Permits- clarity on process for public interested in special use permits, criteria for evaluation of special use permits.
* Parking fee or parking pass structure. Waterways Ordinance lists summer 2024 as the beginning of paid parking.
* IOGLB and guided outfitters collaboration with Teton County, ID.
* Future Funding- what is the funding mechanism for long term Teton River management.
* Long term infrastructure plan for river access points.
* County Structure to support recreation management, recreation manager hire?