Teton Waterways Recreation Advisory Committee

August 9th 6 – 7:30

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82550042360?pwd=dkl6dlpvNjRDcjNsb25yUERZZHNhUT09>

**Agenda- 8.9.22**

* Review Zoom Meeting Functions - Will Stubblefield 10 minutes
* Introduction of Issue for Discussion – Rob Marin 20 Minutes
  + General Expectations of Advisory Committee
  + Issue Background and Desired Product
* Discussion: Issue #3 45 Minutes
  + Future of County waterway recreation management
  + Staffing for oversight of river recreation
  + F/T position with grant-writing responsibilities? Partially or largely self-funding?
* Discussion Wrap Up 10 Minutes
* Introduction of Next Meeting’s Topic 5 Minutes

**Meeting Notes – 8.9.22**

Attendance: Joe M, Will S, Rob M, Renee H, Boots, Jeff K, Kyle E, Michael W

Absent : Amy V, Brett H

* Review Zoom Meeting Functions - Will Stubblefield
* Introduction of Issue for Discussion – Rob Marin
  + General Expectations of Advisory Committee -
    - Expectation: committee make recommendations so that responsibility does not fall on County staff members. The committee is charged with representing the recreation community and needs to speak up to make specific recommendations. This is an Advisory recommendations.
    - Joe M asks for some specific questions or prompts from the County on what to advise on.
    - Broad participation and and attendance is necessary.
    - Kyle suggests a public facing outlet to let the community know that this committee is meeting and possibly a way to email or communicate concerns to the committee.
    - Dan Reys may have created or have the ability to create a webpage for this committee.
    - Boots brings up the possibility of inviting the public to comment during TCWRC meetings.
  + Issue Background and Desired Product
    - Staffing is an issue for the County for a variety of reasons
    - Enforcement: Rec dept? Code enforcement officer (also a need for land development code)? Seasonal river staff could work under the code enforcement officer. Not within Rob’s bandwidth to continue overseeing overall river management and River enforcement. Sherriff's Dept add staff (most expensive option)
    - Is is possible to add complementary seasonal staff that also works for trailhead enforcement in the winter.
    - 2023 Teton County budget does have $ to hire a compliance officer, two quasi-river ranger positions also in the budget. Fall county will start recruiting compliance officer.
  + Discussion: Issue #3
    - Would IDFG or any other agency be open to assisting funding. Other funding sources are state vessle funds, County Recreation Fund Sicker
    - What are other options for funding?
      * Concessionaire. 3rd party to collect fees and agreement divides funds to different areas. This is the service that USFS contracts to collects fees
      * Grant writing by county
      * What are #’s needed to fund seasonal position?
      * What are projected #’s that could be collected through paid parking? Can we enforce paid parking?
      * Non-profits: Astoria Hotsprings and Snake River Fund? Was this the Trust for Public Lands? Western River Conservancy?
      * Joe – need for Education, Who can take on education now? FTR and Teton County Intern are taking some role in education this summer.
      * Parking issues, Buxton/Rainey are much bigger than South Bates and Harrops. Challenge to enforce parking b/c Sherriff’s office is understaffed.
      * Is there an option for Teton County to dedicate any land in town and run a shuttle from town to alleviate parking issues and create more efficiency in shuttles/numbers. Teton County runs a public shuttle system in the busy months. shuttle system in tandem with paid parking could be effecting
      * Two cruxes for 1. presence on river (river ranger) 2. parking enforcement.
      * Different stretches need to be treated differently. Long term push more use towards bates to big eddy
      * More investment in barriers to restrict parking?
      * There have been a couple days when Wai Mauna could not get inot Bates access. Majority of plates were from out of county. These are outliers.
      * County is currently not able to staff any presence at river.
      * Reservation system, thinking about high use days. Example, out of county plates on weekends in July need to reserve a spot.
      * County needs to evaluate the signage, need for more signs for parking.
      * TCWRC, could make recommendation for specific signs location.
      * ROB and County need to get a Budget for TCWRC to make recommendations
      * And, TWRC needs to work on producing ball park for needed budget.
      * What is needed beyond compliance officers for next year? This can inform next steps in planning budget.
      * County needs to identify a leader for this effort at the county. Is Rob’s part-time position adequate?
      * County does not have the funding to address these issues. We need to identify leadership at the county to dire
      * Does the County have the Parks and Rec department. Valley County in McCall could be an example. During booms county falls behind. County budget will can only raise taxes by 3%, can't tax short term rentals.
      * River Clean up and opportunity for TCWRC to get out on river
    - Recommendations:
      * County needs to identify the leader of this effort, recreation manager
      * Need a funding source to bridge gap before parking fees
      * Monitor effectiveness of the ordinance
      * Group Size:
      * Parking:
      * Advisory committee needs to look closely at outside funding, Broad search – nationally
      * Grant writer? Full Time Staff
      * Parking alternative, Need enforcement on parking issue
      * Need staffing that is not rob, or a Qualified leader for waterway
      * Make recommendations for code enforcement officer and river ambassador in 2023
    - Future Structure:
      * Set agenda with Rob, setting focused issue for the meeting a timeline for decision

Ideally, Recreation Manager, compliance officer, two seasonal recreation staff.