Teton Waterways Recreation Advisory Committee

Thursday September 21st  4:00 – 5:30

Commissioners Room – Teton County Courthouse

* **Minutes- 11.02.23**
* Welcome:(4:00-4:10)
* Attendance: Amy V., Rob M., Joe M., Charlie W., Commissioner W., Will S., Boots A., Brett H.
* Update: (4:10-4:20)

Planner/Recreation position update(Rob M., Commissioner Whitfield) :

* + Teton County lost associate planner position, so the new job position is on the back burner now. There is now a planning associate position in front of the senior planner position for hiring.

Commissioner Whitfield – Grants update- Commissioner Whitfield attended the IDPR Grant Opportunities workshop.

* + An entity can apply to multiple grant programs at one time.
  + Largest $ is in Recreation Vehicles Program- not for suitable our recreation needs
  + Waterways Improvement Fund – Priority to motorized programs
  + Recreational Trails Program – Fed program, motorized and non-motorized – Takes lot of preparation to apply and is highly competitive.
  + Cutthroat license plate fund – Funds for non-motorized access for anglers, possibly partner with IDFG and focus on angler access points.
    - Brett says these funds have been used in the past for vault toilets at access points. This could be a need for Teton access points, ex. Fox Creek East.
  + Boots asks if the application could be written to benefit anglers but also benefit the larger recreational community? Consensus is yes.
  + State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)- can be used for planning funds
  + Land and Water Conservation Fund Plan- Could be targeted for Cache access. Need a willing landowner and %50 match.
    - 15th of November webinar is coming up, Renee is available to attend
  + One of the key next steps is to get clear on our projects and start coordinating with grant administrators to develop applications.
  + Grants may be allocated towards access improvement but we still need to be working on strategies for managing recreational use.
  + Joe mentions S Bates as a good option for the Cutthroat fund to start improving the flow of traffic and safety of this site. This would be a focused benefit for anglers that use this site and are often in conflict with other users to access river.
  + Dialogue around setting priorities and knowing what we want to fund is critical.

What's the big picture goal for getting a handle on the level of river use.

* + How can we control the level of use and how can we enforce it?
  + In the past we were envisioning increasing the efficiency of access points and also pairing that with a fee program. We are now in a place where there are short-term barriers to this plan. (Access improvements and fee system)
  + Blackfoot River management plan is a good example of setting the desired use for different river reaches and access points.
  + Brett says that starting with planning would work well to better understand the specific backgrounds of different IDFG parcels and working to accommodate for those nuances in future planning.
* Discussion: Next steps for Recreation Advisory Committee (4:20-5:10)
  + Teton River Recreation Management plan, Sub-committee?
    - Rob has sent out potential templates of other river management plans. Blackfoot, Yampa, and Valley County waterways rec management plan.
    - Could a sub-committee start by reviewing these management plans as a starting point?
    - Michael – Regarding the Wildlife Committee, this committee has been successful in working alongside county staff to developing policy for the county to implement.
    - SCORP funding would be best fit to support planning in near future, in the meantime identify other small projects infrastructure projects that will have direct benefit to users. Ex. Pit toilet or traffic flow at S. bates.
    - Planning could include the different options that the committee has been working on and prioritization of these tasks.
    - Priority could be getting funding to support the recreation management plan development.
    - Seeking more volunteers for this Committee that may have more capacity to do work.
    - May be an incremental process, but this committee will need to provide the parts.
    - Need to expand this committee and include more perspectives so that we can hold a broad perspective that could be passed off to a consultant.
    - Could start working on a quote to help understand the scope of the recreation planning process and budget.
    - Could start with a sub-Committee that would start building an outline of the a river management plan. exploring consultants with quotes and timelines.
    - Rob will be starting outreach for camp host, river ambassador, and data collector for the 2024 summer
    - Thinking about going towards hiring two part-time people to cover more ground during a busy day/weekend
    - Idaho Master Naturalists – could be good option to support data collection and maybe river ambassadors.
    - Could the Ambassador supervise data collectiors and /or volunteer ambassadors.
  + Expanding the Committee -
    - Committee needs Ag Land Owner, Rec Floater, Teton River Guide/Outfitter, Landowner who is not a rancher/farmer, Wildlife advocate.
    - Would Jamie S be interested in Joining Committee?
    - Need some more volunteers who have ability for putting in some work.
    - Potentially someone who can act as scribe to compile information, Ask Cathy O’neil who would be a good fit for this committee.
    - Let Michael know what needs for committee recruitment and the County will Advertise.
    - First step is working on building out this committee to then move on to the next step of working on recreation management planning.
    - Michael suggests vetting individuals withing the committee group to ensure that the committee is getting the right fit for the committee.
  + River Ordinance review and amendments.
    - Moved to future meeting. And will be in conjunction with planning for future river management. Committee Members should review the Ordinance before the next meeting.

* Discussion: Future Meetings (5:10-5:20)
  + What is appropriate meeting schedule moving forward?
    - Amy asks is the committee can move earlier to finish @ 5p?
    - If move after work, move to actually later after work. Like 6:00p
    - Joe recommends changing start time to 3:00pm and go to a maximum of 5:00, or 4:30.
  + Action item: set meeting schedule for next year.
    - Move to 3:00 PM and keep every six week frequency
* Action Items for Committee Members:
  + Renee attends Land and Water Conservation Fund Webinar on 15th
  + Michael will be working to write grants that seem like good options
  + Everyone, working to spread the work about committee membership
  + Need an idea of quote and product for a Recreation management plan.
    - Reference river management plans, need to find our what kind of consultants do this work. Does Teton County Wyoming have a reference for Wilson tp south park
  + Joe will reach out to Monica from BLM, Rob will Reach out to Warm Springs, Boots will talk to Snake River Fund
  + ? What is the size of awards for SCORP?
  + Everyone, Review river ordinance in preparation for next meeting.
* Public Comment (5:20-5:30)
* Adjourn