Teton Waterways Recreation Advisory Committee

 Thursday December 14st  3:00 – 5:00pm

Commissioners Room – Teton County Courthouse

**Agenda- 12.14.23**

Welcome:(3:00-3:10) Attendance: Amy V, Rob M, Renee H, Joe M, Will S, Charles W, Boots, Brett High, Michael W.

Absent: Kyle E,

 New committee members: (3:10-3:25)

Intros, potential candidates, stakeholder gaps, next steps.

John Norton – Present, Representing community resident who has an interest in conservation and wildlife. Also representing the Idaho Master Naturalist Program in Teton Valley.

David Breckenridge has been mentioned by Renee as an interested landowner

Updates from committee members (3:25-3:35)

 Recreation Management Plan: contacts, consultants, etc.

* Joe and Renee contacted Monica Zimmerman. The BLM/south fork created a recreation management plan in-house. But we have also used consultants for other issues. Has used U of I for social science issues. And others for NEPA. Joe and the FS use Utah State for contracting.
* Rob mentions recreational economic impact study from circa 2017.
* Brett mentions data collection that indicated carrying capacity of the river. Take-away from the study was that size of access sites increased the carrying capacity of the river, or number of people using the river.
* Amy asks if Brett knows of anyone who studies carrying capacity for recreation from the perspective of Wildlife impacts. Brett is not aware of any F&G focus studies on this area. One study that Brett is aware of a study on MF salmon and Rogue to assess impact of floaters on spawning salmon/steelhead.
* Rob has some studies on outdoor recreation's impact on wildlife.
* Joe mentions FS biologists that are looking at recreation impacts of wildlife in site specific examples.
* Amy is willing to look into past contacts to ask about studying recreation impacts on wildlife on the Teton.
* Rob mentions next step of creating more comprehensive list of goals for wildlife studies, budgets, potential contractors to create foundation for grant applications.
* Dave Bingaman from Valley county is a possible contact to influence our planning next steps.
* Renee attended LWCF stateside webinar- Training indicated that this program was not a good fit for Chache bridge access improvement/ expansion. This might be a good fit for city/county to purchase land for a rec center or something like that.

Discussion: Recreation Management Plan (3:35 - 4:00)

 Teton County next steps or needs -

* Joe thinks that we need a rec management plan and the first step is to really think through the process in getting there.
* Rob – some work that needs to be done is to talk to folks who have created river management plans to better understand what next steps are needed.
* Will – should this committee work to prioritize rec management planning as the primary focus?
* Rob brings up the Fee system and how does this priority fit?
* Joe thinks we can continue working on river management planning while concurrently working on Fee system.
* Amy likes the idea of creating a longer term plan so that things feel more consistent
* Renee suggests assign each member research specific river management plan.
* Joe likes the idea of focusing on river management plan to help give a foundation for all other decisions.
* Consensus that this process will be challenging.
* Charlie mentions boundary conditions, what is end goal, what is legal authority, what is current and future budget.
* Rob has an understanding of jurisdiction based on past experience. Rob also has understanding of County budget that has been allocated in the recent past. 15K river ambassador, 5K maybe in other funds now. Guess is that 50K would be a good starting budget.
* Rob's FAQ document has been updated and would also be a good resource.
* Rob mentions the ROK fee kiosk- Rob think we need South Bates, Bates Road, Rainey, and Cache. Installation is ~$6K each, $2K/year fee, Cellular connection fee, maintenance fee. Rob thinks first year cost ~40k for 4 kiosks. SaniStar is vendor. Per year cost to run is 10K for the 4 kiosks. How long do they last? could be about 5 year replacement schedule.
* Boots’ suggest that the fee tube system may be more economical installation.
* Rob says Monica Zimmerman recommended against the fee tube because of the Staff time involved in
* Joe mentions kiosk systems going to QR code system because of ease of use and low cost. Potentially would work because all access points in Teton valley have cell access.

 Next steps for this committee -

* ? Are we in consensus that the river management plan is the main priority? Rob thinks that other things will come up.
* Renee thinks that ordinance review will also be need to included in annual committee work
* Michael expresses the BOCC wanting the committee to maintain flexibility to respond to the ordinance and on the ground management needs as issues arise.
* Annual Ordinance review on the calendar. Rob mentions that this should be annual so that there are not random changes.
* Also scheduling annual status update from the committee to the BOCC. Could be an annual thing towards the end of the busy season.

Recommendation: (4:00-4:20)

Prioritized work plan for 2024 -

 **Recreation Management Plan** - sub-committee, research assignments, contractors, and funding

**Fundraising** - Teton River Recreation Fund, Committee discretion to allocate funds, improving fundraising capacity in 2024

**Fee System** - fee infrastructure, County Staff Capacity, Access point MOU's

**Ordinance** **Update -**review ordinance and make recommendation for changes

* Joe asks how can we prioritize recreation planning and still tackle things that come up?
* Rob mentions other scheduling issues like county budgeting.
* Amy suggests just start calendaring out the work objectives now to ensure that things are in the right place with other county needs like budgets.
* Michael suggest organizing in a way so that we are not just having discussions. Have an understanding of what is priority and being able to make work assignments for future meetings.
* Update on river rental – regional supervisor may want to cap TR supply current level of use.
* Amy mentions using discretion to make some changes on ordinance in the moment and other issues may be appropriate to incorporate into river management plan.
* The first step in management plan could be outlining the parts of a management plan and then planning the meeting around that structure.
* Joe mentions the involvement of town hall meetings and public process and how that influences the process.
* Renee suggests the Ordinance review could be a starting point for the creation of a management plan.
* Michael mentions other line items that county has more budget for river management planning than originally known. This needs to be considered
* Michael suggests, ability to tackle the river management plan in chunks and hiring consultants along the way to create the pieces.
* Rob will create a google drive for the resources and planning documents. Then Rob will share with the committee for folks to contribute.

Discussion: Old Business (4:20-4:40)

* IDPR Grant Priorities (Commissioner Whitfield)

Michael talked with Brett, understands the concerns about facility work without a plan. Valt toilet at Fox East and parking at Teton Creek are F&G properties and County will coordinate with F&G. Michael thinks the Cutthroat plate fund is a priority to pursue for these two locations.

* Brett agrees with Michael and F&G would be the appropriate grant applicant.
* Michael with work with Brett and committee on next steps.
* Did not find any sources for planning grants

Priorities for future work -

Public Comment (4:40-5:00)

Adjourn

Upcoming Meetings: *Thursdays, 3:00-5:00p*

Jan 25th - River ordinance review, get ready to outline a river management plan.

Mar 7th - River management Plan Outline, next step

April18th-

May 30th-

July 11th

Aug 22nd

Oct 3rd

Nov 14th