

Waterways Advisory Committee Minutes

Thursday, July 17, 2025 @ 2:30 p.m.

Commissioners Conference Room – 3rd Floor

1500 Hwy 2, Ste. 338, Sandpoint, ID 83864

Members Present: Matt Zoeller, Molly McCahon (Zoom), Doug McGeachy, Ray Pipella, Win Taylor

Members Absent: Forrest Schuck, Commissioner Williams

Others Present: Kerry DeLair, Taylor Johnson (Albeni Falls), Tom Trulock, Peter (ID Parks & Rec)

Matt opened the meeting at 2:38 p.m.

Does anyone present need assistance to hear, see or participate in these proceedings?

Ray made a motion to approve the WWAB minutes from April 17, 2025 at the next meeting. Win seconded. All in favor, the motion carries.

Public Comment - None

Parks & Waterways Updates/Reports

A) Matt Zoeller, Director

- 1) Garfield Bay Grant – Picnic Tables/Benches – These were finished and look great, have received a lot of positive feedback.
- 2) Coolin Swim Beach – Lions Club
- 3) Narrows Buoys Installed – Discussed the buoys that have been recently installed. The new application is online and a few have been received. There was a lengthy discussion regarding buoys and where they should be placed on the river and at Priest Lake. There was a question about hazard buoys.

B) Lt. Doug McGeachy, Marine Division

Very busy summer so far, there have been a couple of boat accidents and 2 plane crashes (on the river), there was a fatality and a windstorm. They have the WIF grant finalized and need more staff. Brief discussion regarding the boat check stations.

Old Business: Action Items / Discussion / Decision / Recommendation

A) WIF Grant-Waterways Tow Vessel-awarded – This will help with efficiency for the crews, thanks to Ray for being a huge part of this and the other WIF members

B) ORFAC Grant-PL Navigation Lights/Granite Creek Dock-pending – Discussed the nav lights and the condition of the Granite Creek dock, this project is still in the works, waiting on the official agreement

New Business: Action Items / Discussion / Decision / Recommendation

A) Discussion/Action Item-Bonner Park West-current options being discussed

Matt gave a brief summary of the discussions of giving BPW to the City of Priest River and history of the

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park. He briefly discussed the proposed options: to give the park to the City, to lease the park to the City (if this is chosen then the funds could go toward other projects), and keep the park in the County. He discussed some of the complaints that the county has received regarding this park. Keeping this in the County ensures that the County always has that waterfront property and launch.

Ray – Asked if everyone was aware of the two rivers project that the City is doing, gave a brief summary of the project. He likes the project; it will create opportunities for people to stop in the City and be a source of revenue in fee-based launching. Not sure if the third option plays a part without a plan, if there is a lease, not sure if the board would like that plan

Win – Would like more information before making a decision, especially about the legalities, maybe we could do a workshop regarding this topic

Doug – from a public safety standpoint, the lack of County facilities on the water is a large concern, and this is one of the only access points for the County on the water; this should be a consideration

Molly – Agrees with having a workshop and that the public have a say

- 1) Give BPW to City of Priest River
- 2) Lease BPW to City of Priest River to fund P&W Department
- 3) Keep BPW as a Bonner County facility

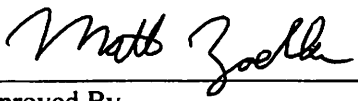
Miscellaneous Business: Action Items / Discussion / Decision / Recommendation

Taylor discussed the plans for Springy Point including staffing on a temporary basis for the season. There has not been a drawdown date for the dam, typically this is the third week of September.

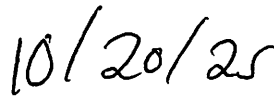
Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Next meeting: October 16, 2025 @ 2:30 PM

Deputy Clerk: *Alisa Schoeffel*



Approved By



Date