

Waterways Advisory Committee Minutes
Thursday, April 17, 2025, 2:30 PM
Commissioners Conference Room – 3rd Floor
1500 Hwy 2, Ste. 338, Sandpoint, ID 83864

Members Present: Matt Zoeller, Tom Trulock, Win Taylor, Molly McCahon, Ray Pipella, Forrest Schuck

Members Absent: Jim Brausen, Doug McGeachy

Others Present:

Matt opened the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Win made a motion to approve the WWAB minutes from January 23, 2025. Tom seconded. All in favor, the motion carries.

Public Comment - None

Parks & Waterways Updates/Reports

A) Matt Zoeller, Director

1) Garfield Bay Grant -Picnic Tables and Benches –

Hoping to be done by mid-May, pouring concrete, do not need to do the fence

Ray asked if this park would ever be increased in size with increased parking, discussion followed regarding the County's role as a caretaker and the park is owned by F&G

2) Coolin Swim Beach – Lions Club

Project is on schedule, has been funded, waiting on the weather

B) Lt. Doug McGeachy, Marine Division

Old Business: Action Items / Discussion / Decision / Recommendation

A) WIF Grant-Waterways Tow Vessel

Will know something in mid-May, sounds positive at this time

B) ORFAC Grant-PL Navigation Lights/Granite Creek Dock

So far still on schedule

Brief discussion regarding when the lights would be installed

Hoping to have all lights at Priest Lake done in one summer

C) Buoy Process-Still finalizing with legal

Great input in January, still working with legal

Win asked if there was an estimated time until this is finished

Brief discussion regarding current buoy projects

Brief discussion regarding a buoy on the river and where this request is at, no application has been submitted at this time, one will need to be submitted

New Business:

A) Discussion-Thama Boat Launch

Matt brought up the old 5-year plan and the ranking/priority list, general goals in this plan. This launch ranked above Granite Creek, which is a safety issue, as well as Nav Lights in the old plan.

Discussed what current projects are and what is left on this list, and where Thama is currently on the list, which is not at the top of the list at this time. Brought up that a lot of ramps are difficult

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in the County during low water. Not against this project, but if using County dollars, will this be available for use by the public and will there be adequate turnaround space for trailers. Matt reached out to the property owners near Thama and (Rapid View Estates) to get their thoughts. Their concerns are about the public using their private docks and whether they would be interested in selling space for parking if a grant could be obtained. They will discuss it at the next HOA meeting. There was discussion on how to come up with the funding to assist in facilitating a WIF grant and if this neighborhood would be interested in this project.

Ray commented that this ramp is similar to Berry Lane and the County did that in-house several years ago and was \$15-20k. This project could be done in-house as well. There is not a lot of public access on that side of the river.

Discussion followed regarding advertising about registrations at the public launches. Further discussion followed regarding this proposed project. Priorities need to be safety and year-round access. Discussion regarding out of state/county boats and funds/stickers including who will do the work involved in campaigning for this project and how it was handled previously. Ray proposed how this could work and how to educate the public.

Molly will send out an email regarding how to prioritize projects

Miscellaneous Business: Action Items / Discussion / Decision / Recommendation

A) None

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Next meeting: July 17, 2025 @ 2:31 p.m.

Deputy Clerk: *Alisa Schoeffel*

Matt Zoeller
Approved By

10/20/25
Date