

**BONNER COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 4, 2025**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Eric Hidden called the Bonner County Planning Commission meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Conference Room, of the Bonner County Administration Building, 1500 Highway 2, Sandpoint, Idaho, via Zoom webinar, and YouTube live streaming.

**PRESENT:** Chair Eric Hidden, Commissioner Dave Bowman, Commissioner Don Davis, Commissioner Larry Madoski

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Peter Taylor, Commissioner Erik Leavitt, Commissioner Brendan Mooney

**ALSO PRESENT:** Interim Planning Director Alex Feyen

**CHANGES IN AGENDA:** The Commission chose to start the meeting with Public Comments.

**COMMISSIONER & STAFF UPDATES:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The Planning Commission reviewed and approved, the minutes for October 21, 2025, as amended.

---

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** The Following people provided public comment:

Molly McCahon: Emphasized the importance of protecting ground water.

**PUBLIC MEETING ACTION ITEMS:**

Southside Water employee Jack Howard stated to the Commission that the creation of a ground water technical committee would cost approximately thirty-seven thousand dollars (\$37,000). as consulting fees for Flint Hall and Travis Haller.

Flint Hall explained the advantages a ground water technical committee would provide the county.

The Commission stated there could be potential legal issues in regard to funding the ground water committee and stated their intent to have the Bonner County Legal Department review the potential issues funding for the committee.

Flint Hall stated collaboration with the Department of Environmental Quality and other state and local agencies may reduce the cost of the committee and boost its efficiency.

The Commission requested a line by line break down of the costs associated with the creation of a ground water committee.

The Commission asked Interim Planning Director Alex Feyen if the ground water committee costs presented by Jack Howard were within the Bonner County's Budget.

Alex Feyen stated the proposed fees were not within the County's current allotted budget and if the Planning Commission wished to access the funds the matter would have to be presented to the Bonner County Commissioners in order to create a budgetary amendment.

Kathryn Kohlberg an employee of Panhandle Health District recommended the Commission coordinate with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality as they may provide funding and in support of the ground water committee.

Molly McCahon and the Commission discussed the possibility of using other potential grants to pay for the ground water subcommittee.

The Commission discussed amongst themselves which agencies and trackable statistics would potentially be important for the ground water subcommittee.

The Commission asked Jack Howard why the compilation of ground water quality information of Bonner County's ground water is an issue addressed by the Bonner County Planning Commission and not Idaho's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Jack Howard agreed the compilation of this information is important for land use decisions.

Travis Haller with 7B Engineering stated that DEQ can only make recommendations to the Planning Commission, as Bonner County Code and the Planning Commission are the factors which affect land use decisions/ordinance in Bonner County and not DEQ.

Kathryn Kohlberg stated that Panhandle Health District issues all septic permits as long as the permits follow all codes and regulations regardless of density. Kohlberg stated that creating septic rules based on septic density at the county level must be created by the county.

**CREATION OF A PRIORITY LIST OF PROJECTS FOR THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND AN ESTIMATED SCHEDULE, TO BE APPROVED BY THE BOCC:**

The commission created a list to prioritize projects that they have been tasked with. The Commission stated the importance of reviewing Title 12, Chapters 3 and 4 first, followed by Title 11. Chair Hidden stated that he would finalize the list and present it to the Commission at the following meeting.

**REVIEW AND MODIFICATION OF PLANNING COMMISSION BY-LAWS:**

The Commission reviewed the current by-laws of the Planning Commission. After discussion, the Commission decided that edits to the by-laws were not necessary at this time.

**DISCUSSION**

Discussion/Decision: November 18, 2025, Agenda Items.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Hidden declared the meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m. until 4:30 p.m., November 4, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Alex Feyen', written over a horizontal line.

Alex Feyen, Interim Planning Director

The above Minutes are hereby approved this 20th day of November 2025.

Bonner County Planning Commission

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Eric Hidden', written above a horizontal line.

---

Eric Hidden, Chair