

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Fish and Game**  
**April 25, 2016**  
**2:30 p.m.**

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Dan Green, Commissioner Marc Eberlein, and Commissioner David Stewart met to discuss the following agenda item. Also present was Deputy Clerk Grace Blomgren. Also present were Idaho Fish & Game Commission member Brad Corkill, Biologist Kathy Cousins, Panhandle Regional Supervisor Charles “Chip” Corsi, and citizens Dean Johnson, Linda Littlejohn, John McFaddin, and Clarla and Verland Woempner.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Dan Green called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda:** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Old Business:** There was no old business discussed.
- D. New Business:**

**Fish and Game Land Acquisition Proposal**

Chairman Green said a letter of support for Fish and Game’s Land Acquisition Proposal had been on a prior meeting’s agenda, but the Board had determined that more information was needed. He added that Benewah County Commissioner Jack Buell had expressed concerns with the proposal.

Panhandle Regional Supervisor Charles “Chip” Corsi said that the property would remain on the tax rolls, but Fish and Game would make Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) at the classification rate the property was valued at the time of acquisition. Biologist Kathy Cousins explained that approximately 1,400 Benewah forested acres would be exchanged for approximately 1,000 acres of Kootenai agriculture land. She clarified that Fish and Game owned the land in Benewah and used it as habitat and for timber management.

Ms. Cousins explained that the property would be a value-for-value exchange based on Yellow Book Standards and would meet federal review standards. She said the property was attractive to Fish and Game because it had little heavy metal concentrations, no structures, and contained fresh water. Mr. Corsi said opposition to the proposal was regarding the loss of hunting access or converting agricultural land to wetlands. Ms. Cousins prefaced her statement by saying negotiations were ongoing, but that the intention was to allow for perpetual hunting access. Mr. Corsi confirmed that the agricultural land in question was privately owned. Ms. Cousins added that a portion of the property with heavy metal concentrations would be flooded to encourage swans to forage in safer territory. Mr. Corsi said that the land would not be easily developed for other uses.

- E. Public Comment:** This section is reserved for citizens wishing to address the Board regarding a County related issue. Idaho Law prohibits Board action on items brought under this section except in an emergency circumstance. Comments related to future public hearings should be held for that public hearing.

Citizens Mr. and Mrs. Woempner and Mr. Dean Johnson emphasized their desires for public access to the land after the exchange. Citizens John McFaddin and Linda Littlejohn spoke in support of the land exchange.

Chairman Green said he would support sending a letter of no objection, but would note that the County supported permanent access to the land. Commissioner Marc Eberlein said he was neutral to the proposal. Chairman Green amended his prior suggestion saying he would support a letter of no objection and offered to exclude language of supporting permanent access.

Commissioner David Stewart and Commissioner Eberlein agreed to a letter of no objection without the language supporting permanent access.

Chairman Green adjourned the meeting at 3:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

DANIEL H. GREEN, CHAIRMAN

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grace Blomgren, Deputy Clerk

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Alicia Lynch, Deputy Clerk