

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Senator Jim Risch**  
**July 28, 2016**  
**1:30 p.m.**

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Pro Tem Marc Eberlein and Commissioner David Stewart met to discuss the following agenda item. Also present were Chief Deputy Treasurer Laurie Thomas and Deputy Clerk Randi Davis. Also present were United States Senator for Idaho Jim Risch, Office of Senator Jim Risch Chief of Staff John Sandy, Coeur d'Alene Office Regional Director Sid Smith, and citizens Verland and Carla Woempner. Chairman Dan Green was excused.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Pro Tem Marc Eberlein called the meeting to order at 1:45 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:**

**Meeting with Senator Jim Risch regarding forest health and other issues of interest**

Chairman Pro Tem Eberlein opened discussion stating the County's health care costs had increased significantly for the current year. United States Senator Jim Risch asked the percentage increase. Chairman Pro Tem Eberlein replied it was over ten percent.

Office of Senator Jim Risch Chief of Staff John Sandy exited the meeting at 1:49 p.m.

Chairman Pro Tem Eberlein discussed the effects of pollution from the Silver Valley mines on forest health and Coeur d'Alene Lake. He stated the lake's water quality had deteriorated by 20% over the years. Senator Risch said his extensive forestry background allowed him to understand the County's concerns. He agreed that Idaho's forests and lakes needed to be managed and protected properly.

Mr. Sandy re-entered the meeting at 1:52 p.m.

Chairman Pro Tem Eberlein discussed the agreement between Avista and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe concerning water levels of the lake. He encouraged Senator Risch to continue to work toward implementing new legislature that would protect the forests and water sources of Idaho. Senator Risch was optimistic that improvements could be made.

- 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.

Citizen Carla Woempner stated she was concerned at the rate Indian tribes in the United States were gaining Sovereign Nation status and that it could lead to problems in the future. She asked Senator Risch what he would do to protect Idahoans' water and property rights from tribal control. Senator Risch responded there were treaties in place between the State and the tribes that outlined the extent of control tribes had.

Chairman Pro Tem Eberlein adjourned the meeting at 2:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

MARC EBERLEIN, CHAIRMAN PRO TEM

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Randi Davis, Deputy Clerk

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