

MINUTES OF MEETING
Waterways Advisory Board –August 15, 2016
Room 1B - Kootenai County Administration Building
Coeur d’Alene, Idaho

MEMBERS PRESENT: Doug Allman, Jim Aucutt, Norm Blakney, Ray Bradley, John Condon, Brad Pendleton, Terry Werner.

STAFF PRESENT: Nick Snyder, Director, Parks & Waterways; Jake Strange, Supervisor, Parks & Waterways; Ranell Schwartz, Recording Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT: Jim Doty, Nancy Doty, John R Aukofer, Vern Lawrence, Bev Townsend, Clinton (Skip) Allert, Billie Jo Davis.

Chairman John Condon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. No conflicts of interest were declared by Advisory Board members.

MOTION: Terry Werner moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion was seconded; all were in favor; the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

REGULATORY MARKER PLACEMENT DISCUSSION

Nick Snyder highlighted the history and status of the regulatory buoys that are currently deployed, recognizing that many buoys on the water have been placed by private resident waterfront property owners without a permit. He presented the concept of removing all unauthorized buoys and the county placing a regulatory no-wake buoy at points and bays on the water as determined by need. Cost would be a significant factor if this was implemented. The current regulatory buoys cost \$2000-\$3500 each to purchase and deploy with lights and an anchor. There was much discussion concerning lack of enforcement by the Sheriff Marine division and Idaho Department of Lands due to lack of staffing. It was also suggested that all property owners be given a 30-day notice to remove the buoys and then let them apply for a permit in order for the county and state to regain control of their placement.

MOTION: Ray Bradley moved to advise the Board of County Commissioners that we believe there is a major problem on the waterways with illegal buoys and would like them to address the Department of Lands and the Sheriff’s Office to try to find a solution to take those off the water in Kootenai County. The motion was seconded; all were in favor; the motion carried.

The discussion continued regarding requiring boater safety education to operate a boat in Idaho.

MOTION: Brad Pendleton moved to advise the Board of County Commissioners to submit a letter to the Idaho Association of Counties in support of mandatory boater education. The motion was seconded; all were in favor; the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

SPOKANE RIVER WAKE BOAT DISCUSSION:

The board reviewed comments that were submitted by the public through email. Discussion ensued. Some of the solutions presented included limiting wake boarding and wake surfing to 500 feet from shore on the lakes and limit those activities on the rivers to specific times or permitting only waterfront property owners for those activities. Chairman Condon pointed out that any time you limit public access to the water it is not in the best public interest. There was more discussion about the lack of law enforcement as the biggest problem.

MOTION: Ray Bradley moved to advise the Board of County Commissioners to amend the current waterways ordinance to require any activity of wakeboarding and wake surfing to be done at least at least 500 feet from any shoreline in Kootenai County. After some discussion the motion was seconded; all were in favor except for Terry Werner; the motion carried.

This issued will be discussed with the Board of County Commissioners at the follow-up meeting on August 23 at 11:00. The public is encouraged to attend.

REGULATORY MARKER APPLICATION-DELANAN'S MARINA:

At the direction of the BOCC an educational buoy was splashed just west of Delavan's Marina. An application to permit a permanent no-wake buoy will be submitted to the Department of Lands by the Parks & Waterways department next week.

REGULATORY MARKER APPLICATION-JAMES DOTY:

Mr. Snyder reported that he is waiting for an evaluation of boating traffic in the requested area by the Marine division of the Sheriff's Office. A report will be made to the BOCC based on their recommendation.

FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

Wake restrictions
Parks & Waterways project update presentation

STAFF REPORTS

Jake Strange, Parks & Waterways: Staff has been focused on facility readiness. A new gangway was installed at Harlow Point. A contractor was able to refloat the detached section of the Harrison Breakwater which will keep it usable until it can be replaced.

Nick Snyder, Parks & Waterways: Mr. Snyder will meet the engineer for the Harrison Breakwater replacement project tomorrow. The Hauser Dock replacement project should be completed in October or November.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ranell Schwartz
Recording Secretary