

Valley County Waterways Advisory Committee Meeting
Information Minutes for March 7, 2023
Location 108 Spring Street, Cascade, ID.

Present: Committee members Chairman Jally Zeydel, Jared Montague and David Parrish. Agency personnel: Kevin Turner (VCSO), Matt Linde (IDPR), Blake Packer (IDPR), Zack Grogan (IDPR) and Jordan Messner (IDFG)

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 am by Chairman Zeydel.

A motion was made by Jared Montague to approve the January Board minutes with the addition of “Little” before the work “Payette”. The motion was seconded by David Parrish and the minutes were unanimously approved by the Board.

Agency Updates:

Matt Linde – IDPR Ponderosa Park – The Ponderosa Park may have options for two deputy camping spots with no utilities for the 2023 season. Kokanee Cove, where the deputy camping has occurred in the past, won’t have construction completed until 2026. Additional sewer hook-ups for non-camp activities are currently limited due to sewer service capacity. A project to make the docks at the main Park ramp Americans with Disability Act (ADA) compliant has been placed on-hold due to cost. They will be reconfiguring the docks from two independent lines to a single dock with a “tee” configuration to reduce the “foot-print” and maintenance costs. IDFG will be placing a traffic counter on the main Ponderosa ramp in 2023 to quantify usage. The July 4th alcohol ban at North Beach will remain in effect for the 2023 period.

Blake Packer – IDPR Cascade Park Unit – Most of the construction at Blue Heron and Crown Point has been completed or will be completed by the end of April 2023. Park personnel have been assisting the Valley County Soil and Water Conservation District with an erosion control project on the North Fork Payette River near Kelly’s Whitewater Park. Park staff have also been looking at options to extend the boat ramps at Boulder Creek and Buttercup so they can be used later into the boating season.

Kevin Turner – Deputy, Valley County Sheriff’s Office – Still looking to fill staff for the 2023 boating season. They have received several applications for the Marine Deputy positions and will be starting the evaluation process, shortly. Kevin will be working on specifications for a replacement boat and will be ready for the 2024 IDPR grant period. He also mentioned that they are considering contracting buoy placement and management as an option to increase manpower efficiency.

Jordan Messner – IDFG Regional Fishery Manager – Jordan reported Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) is no longer allowing Valley County to plow a parking area for Cascade Reservoir ice fishermen at the 90° turn on West Mountain Road. With the assistance of IDPR and Valley County, he will continue working to resolve this issue for future years. He also mentioned that IDFG engineers are looking at roadway improvements along the west side of Horsethief Reservoir. With year-around use of this waterbody increasing, upgrades in the road are needed.

Bylaw Updates:

Purpose: There was discussion on the focus of the Valley County Waterways Advisory Committee (VCWAC) and whether our work pertained only to waters where registered boats are used in the County. This is an issue because funds available for improvements only come from the registration fees from boats. The chairman will seek guidance from our Valley County Commission liason.

Membership: The group asked to add a reference to “distributing VCWAC membership throughout the County” rather than having all members from McCall or Cascade.

David Parrish moved to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Jared Montague. The motion carried with a unanimous vote and the meeting adjourned at 10:33 am.