

Valley County Waterways Advisory Committee Meeting
Draft Minutes for March 5, 2024
Location 108 Spring Street, Cascade, ID.

Present: Committee members Chairman Jally Zeydel, Jared Montague, Steve Hull and David Parrish. Agency personnel: Kevin Turner (Valley Co. Sheriff's Office), Kurt Wolf (City of McCall), Steve Anderson (Valley County Weed Control), Commission Neil Thompson

Meeting called to order at 9:03 am

David Parrish moved to approve the meeting minutes from February 6, 2024 of the Valley County Waterways Advisory Committee. Jared Montague seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve the minutes as presented.

Old Business – Discussion on next steps to prevent quagga mussels from establishing in Valley County waters

The Board and agency staff discussed steps we can encourage Valley County Commissioners to take to prevent the introduction of invasive quagga mussels into Valley County waters. The group agreed that educational measures such as signage, public outreach, educating Marine deputies to be on the look-out for mussels, have an educational booth at the Valley County fair, contact boat/watercraft rental businesses with educational material and encouraging Idaho Dept. of Agriculture to conduct random check-stations in Valley County were some of the measures we encourage.

David Parrish was asked to contact Pam Pace at the Valley County Soil and Water Conservation District to discuss administration of a check-station program – if funds were to become available through Idaho Dept. of Agriculture. David was also asked to see if he could get a copy of the Power Point presentation given to the Waterways Advisory Committee at our February meeting.

Agency Updates:

Steve Anderson – Valley County Weed Department Supervisor – Steven told the group that he was working with Dept. of Agriculture on invasive species activities in Valley County including eradication of Eurasian milfoil in Payette Lake. He is also aware of the Mid-Snake River quagga mussel treatment history. Valley County will be holding an invasive species training seminar for staff on May 19, 2024.

Kurt Wolf – City of McCall – Kurt discussed the progress on the Mile High Marina expansion and asked the Advisory Group if they would provide a letter of support. This was not advertised as an action item on the agenda so no official action could be taken. Kurt is holding a workshop with the McCall City Council on March 21st at 5:30 pm to educate them on the potential threat of invasive mussels in Payette Lake.

Commissioner Neil Thompson – the Commissioner expressed his appreciation for the group's efforts to protect Valley County waters and said, "he'd like us to update the Commission at least once a quarter during the year." He also stated, "the Commission appreciated the presentation from the Committee on the threat of quagga mussel introduction at the February 19, 2024 meeting."

Kevin Turner – Marine Deputy, Valley County Sheriff’s Office – Kevin has two credentialed Marine deputies lined-up for 2024 and has 8 applications he’s currently reviewing. The deputy’s ability to focus on quagga mussel education is limited by funding and manpower. Valley County has received \$54,000 in recreational boating and safety funds associated with navigable waters in Valley County. The money comes from the Corps of Engineers navigable waterways funds. They are ready to install enforcement/communications equipment in the new vehicle received in 2023 at a cost of roughly \$20,000.

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 11:10 am.