

Valley County Waterways Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes for August 5, 2025

Present: Committee Chairman Jally Zeydel, Jared Montague, Steven Hull (Fire Chief) , Phillip Moore, Kevin Copperi (VC Sheriff), Kevin Turner,(VCSO) Jordan Messner, Matt Linde, Dave Bingaman, Forrest Atkinson (Manager, City of McCall - in place of Kurt Wolfe, who is on vacation), Jason Dobis (BOR), Phoebe Wallace (Recreational Boating Program Manager – IDPR)

The meeting was called to order by Jally Zeydel at 9:00am. Explained function of the committee to those in attendance.

Jared Montague made a motion to approve the minutes from July 8, 2025. Steve Hull seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Jordan Messner – Idaho Fish & Game

- No motors allowed above the Fishing Bridge (North Fork Payette)) at this time – this discussion revolves around the possibility of moving that line north to be on a direct parallel of the S-bridge. The purpose would be to allow for fisherman to use their boats to go bass fishing during a relatively small window in the spring. Electric trolling motors only; 2.5 mph limit is the proposal.
- Jordan can come up with a specific proposal so that we can see details
- Jally will contact the BOR (Bureau of Reclamation)

Dave Bingaman – Valley County Director of Parks and Recreation

- Dave’s department has been tasked by VC commissioners to discuss ordinance 20-11, which is 5 years old and needs review.
- Western Whitewater Power Boat Association would like to see more opportunities for recreation on the North Fork – specifically, Smylie Bridge to Lardo Bridge.
- The idea is to “crack” the ordinance open and take public input on how the ordinance affects all the tributaries.
- Complaints by users and property owners along the lake – the ordinance needs to be revisited – noise is the largest complaint from the high-powered boats.
- Ideas to pursue: full closure; non-motorized days v motorized days, alternate days
 - VC Commissioners are generally not interested in any additional use
- Are the existing laws being followed? Enforcement by VCSO?
- County would probably have a public hearing some time in the fall of 2025 (October or November)

- Essentially, opening up County Water Ordinance (20-11) and determining what changes, if any, need to be made. This would include discussion regarding no-wake zones, etc.
- Waterways management is up for review, as well.
- A question was asked regarding “River Gaps” (keeping livestock in the appropriate area) and how that would work with water users.
- Some in attendance asked general questions – public input will come later.
- Noise on the water was discussed (88 decibels at idle is the threshold – state code)
- Environmental Impact Statement not required for changing this ordinance

Matt Linde

- Lost a dock chain at the end of the Peninsula Campground Loop. Will replace that before the weekend
- Would like to remove some abandoned docks
 - Kevin Turner offered his help from the VCSO
 - Jordan Messner offered his help, as well.

Forrest Atkinson – Manager, City of McCall (in place of Kurt Wolfe)

- Would advocate for the 500ft no wake zone

Jordan Messner

- Dock at Horsethief – Osprey Bay
 - Dock needs to be replaced – mostly used by fisherman and some motor boats. No overnight mooring at this dock.
 - Some campgrounds would be complimented by overnight mooring docks.

Kevin Turner

- 153 on-the-water inspections last week on Payette Lake by two deputies.
- Boats are running well; new boat has been through first maintenance period
- Custom Weld boat (with new motor) is running well.
- 5 deputies working right now – pull some out of the jail for patrol during busy times
- Marine Tactical Class (Cascade & McCall) held September 9-11, 2025

Jason Dobis – Bureau of Reclamation

- Started study to model the lake to see if operations (release water, etc.) affect the water quality of the lake. No significant changes in water quality. Study is available.
- EA for the marina project is moving forward

Next meeting September 2, 2025 9a @ EOC

Steven Hull motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jared Montague seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote, meeting adjourned at 10:02.