

Valley County Recreation Advisory Council

Regular Meeting Minutes — August 25, 2025

Time: 5:30–6:30 PM

Called to Order By: Emily (Chair)

Attendance

Council: Emily, Drew, Jeff, John Holland, Erik: Staff, Dave

Guests: Alex Watts (NSF-funded recreation researcher; staying at MOSS)

Quorum: Yes

1) Approval of Minutes

- July 2025 minutes — Approved unanimously.

2) Guest Presentation — Alex Watts (Recreation Conflict & Management Research)

- Alex is conducting NSF-supported research on recreation growth and user-group conflict.
- Objective: clarify what users want, identify where/why conflicts arise, and propose paths forward.
- Value to VCRAC: independent analysis with no local stake; will share insights at project end.
- **Council action:** Provided introductions and highlighted local pain points for his awareness. Council members are meeting with him individually.

3) Program / Project Updates

Horsethief Reservoir

- No new operational updates; MOU development in progress.
- Awaiting Wednesday decision on seasonal employee request; aspiration to expand to full-time.
- Ongoing work on **reservation system** and related operations planning.

Recreation Strategic Plan

- Jeff reviewed edits from last meeting (primarily moving items from Focus Area 4 → Focus Area 2).
- Reaffirmed that plan emphasis is **recreation management**, not environmental monitoring.
- **Next steps & owners:**
 - Update the document with agreed edits and print a clean version. (*Owner: Jeff*)
 - Coordinate with McKenzie to keep process moving. (*Owner: Dave*)
 - **Goal:** finalize and approve **by end of fall 2025**.

Capital / Infrastructure & Operations

- **Samson Trail:** Contract nearly complete; construction to begin this year and may carry into spring.
- **Snowmobile Parking Lots:** Exploring reconfiguration to increase capacity; coordination meeting **Thursday**.
- **Turkey Track Parking Area:** Candidate **priority project for next year**.
- **Boulder Meadows:** Long-term parking solutions for Louie Lake & Boulder Lake trailheads.
- **Wellington:** Add toilets to **next-year project list**.

Leases

- **IDL Lease (United Payette):** Review on **September 3**; lease covers three parking lots and trail grooming.

Personnel

- **Recreation Planner:** Interviews begin **Tuesday**; top four candidates are from McCall; interviews run all week.

Budget

- **FY26 working budget:** approximately **\$400,000**.

Policy & Public Process — Mini Jetboats / Wake Boats

- Mini-jetboat meeting drew ~40 attendees; advisory committee did not take a position.

- **Process:** Recreation will host a **public hearing**; County Commissioners will decide ultimately.

Events

- **NF Championships:** Returning; **Wellington** planned as base. Event slated **Tue–Thu** during the **first two weeks of June** (exact dates TBD).

4) Items for Next Meeting

- **Set five (5) priority projects for next year.**
 - **All members:** bring proposals and rationale.

Motions & Decisions Summary

- July minutes approved — **Unanimous**.
- Directional approvals only; no additional formal motions recorded.

Adjournment

- **Time:** 6:30 PM