

Minutes of Meeting
Department of Environmental Quality
April 5, 2019
9:00 a.m.

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Chris Fillios, Commissioner Leslie Duncan and Commissioner Bill Brooks met to discuss the following agenda items. Also present was Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present were Director for the Northern District of the University of Idaho Extension Office Chris Schenpf, Executive Director of the Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission (BEIPC) Terry Harwood and Kootenai County Natural Resources Advisory Board Members Jamie Sturgess and Todd Kiesbuy.

- A. **Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.
- B. **Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. **Business:**

Briefing by Basin Environmental Improvement Planning Commission (BEIPC) Executive Director Terry Harwood on BEIPC activities that will impact Kootenai County (Discussion)

Mr. Harwood reminded the Commissioners that his organization was not part of the State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality; it represented seven entities: the State of Idaho, the State of Washington, the Federal Government, Shoshone, Benewah and Kootenai Counties, and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. He provided the Commissioners with a condensed version of the BEIPC 2019 Lower Basin Work Plan and their 2018 annual report. He noted that all of the information pertaining to the Basin Commission, the seven governmental entities and twenty-three agencies involved in performing environmental restoration was available on the www.basincommission.com webpage.

Mr. Harwood said they hoped to complete cleanup procedures on about twenty properties in 2019 and sample about ten more properties. He noted that they had remediated over seven thousand residential and commercial properties in the Basin so far. He estimated that 2019 might be the last year they would need to perform those services, unless they received a specific request from a property owner in the future.

Mr. Harwood informed the Commissioners that Panhandle Health District would continue to offer free blood lead screenings to residents living within the Bunker Hill Superfund Site boundaries. He said that a \$30 incentive was offered to parents to bring their children between the ages of six months and six years in to be tested.

He stated that another issue of importance to Kootenai County involved the recreational areas. He told the Board that the banks of the Spokane River were highly contaminated in many places. Mr. Harwood said that areas that were cleaned up were often recontaminated during high water periods.

Mr. Harwood listed the different projects being pursued in the upper Basin and lower Basin. He said projects included developing clean wetlands, developing repositories for contaminated material, increasing scientific understanding of the Basin contaminants, reduction of nutrient loading into the waters, and increasing public awareness of the different issues. He described various challenges they faced in these projects and the different agencies that were joining in the efforts.

Commissioner Bill Brooks exited the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Harwood expressed his concerns about the developments around Coeur d'Alene Lake. He questioned whether there were adequate sewage disposal systems included with the homes. He commented that Priest Lake had previously had similar issues, until sewer lines had to be installed in the area. He asked that the Commissioners remain aware of the problems and offer their support should he need it.

Kootenai County Natural Resources Advisory Board Member Todd Kiesbuy exited the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

Mr. Harwood noted that there might be financial problems in the future if the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) were to cut funding and the other stakeholders were unable to raise enough money to cover costs.

- D. Public Comment (Discussion):** This section is reserved for citizens wishing to address the Board regarding a County-related issue. Idaho Law prohibits Board action on items brought under this section except in an emergency circumstance. Comments related to future public hearings should be held for that public hearing.

Natural Resource Advisory Board Member Jamie Sturgess voiced his concern regarding claims that nutrient loading of the waters was being caused primarily by logging. Mr. Harwood commented that inappropriate activity related to recreational use might be causing a great deal of the problem, but that he believed logging also contributed.

Director for the Northern District of the University of Idaho Extension Office Chris Schenpf remarked that he had written three applications as a private citizen to the Restoration Partnership, asking for action to be taken. He stated he hoped the requests would also receive County support. He said one was a safety concern: that there were still logs that pop up along the bottom of the river and the Lake that posed a threat to boaters. He suggested that a couple of safe areas be provided at the Cataldo and Rose Lake boat ramps to provide safe places for kids to swim. He said his third suggestion was to take some rock from the Latour Creek drainage that could be used in different places to cover up and insulate the contaminated sediments. Mr. Schenpf stated he felt this would also provide habitat opportunities.

E. Adjournment (Action): Chairman Fillios adjourned the meeting at 10:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk
