

MINUTES OF MEETING
Kootenai County Waterways Advisory Board Workshop
January 7, 2020
Kootenai County Search & Rescue Building
10865 N Ramsey Rd
Hayden, Idaho 83835

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Foley, Doug Harris, Ed Peletski, Mike Pelissero, Tom Torgerson, Terry Werner

STAFF PRESENT: Nick Snyder, Director, Parks & Waterways; Jake Strange, Operations Manager, Parks & Waterways; Sergeant Will Klinkefus, Sheriff Recreation Division; Sheriff Ben Wolfinger; Deputy Justin Arts, Sheriff Recreation Division; Ranell Schwartz, Recording Secretary

WORKSHOP COMMITTEE: Chris Leslie, Susan Stiger, Paul Watson, Greg Delavan, Craig Brosenne, John Magnuson, Gary Schmidt, Mark Dillion, Geoff Harvey, Kelly Gwinn'duby, Dominic Komareddy.

OTHERS PRESENT: Ken Stauffer, Will Neal, Jim Stafford, Paul Watson.

Chairman Werner called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Advisory Board members declared no conflicts of interest.

NEW BUSINESS

BRAINSTORM IDEAS TO PRESENT TO THE BOCC OF SOLUTIONS THAT WORK FOR SHORELINE PROPERTY OWNERS AND RECREATIONAL USERS ON THE AREA WATERWAYS

Parks & Waterways Director, Nick Snyder began with an historical overview of the topic of discussion.

Members of the committee stated their position:

Paul Watson- would like to move a boat check station to Stateline but found it was not logistically feasible. He would like to see a roving check station positioned at the most popular boat launches in order to prevent invasive species in local waterways. He stated that these stations are also educational and inform the out of state boaters of the local laws, which can improve boater compliance of the existing boating laws.

John Magnuson- Coeur d'Alene Lake shore property owner and co-owner of two local marinas. He supports a wake height regulation and standard buffer zone, which should be consistent on all county waterways, to avoid confusion.

Geoff Harvey-President of the Hayden Lake Watershed Association. This group includes both lakefront property owners and boaters. Excessive boat wakes are the main issue they deal with, from both sides. He would support a negotiated rule making process. He stated that wake heights are subjective and thinks that not all lakes can absorb every use in every place. The north end of Hayden Lake is a good example. They are deploying more regulatory buoys on Hayden Lake. They support a 500 ft. rule for wake boats.

Susan Stiger-River Friends and Spokane River Association. Recent surveys revealed that large wakes on the river is the predominate issue they would like to see addressed; specifically surf boats. River Friends propose defining enhanced wakes as "wakes in excess of 24 inches from trough to crest, no matter how they are created." It is not boat specific. They would like to see a 500 ft. buffer for excessive wake on all county waterways. They consider it a significant safety issue.

Craig Brosenne- Hagadone Marine Group, WSIA, and National Marine Association. He was also on the Waterways Advisory Board for ten years. The Marine Group owns significant waterfront development. It will impact the community to do away with wake activity. It's not just wake boats. The number one thing to do is mandatory boater education. He supports a 300 ft. rule at the state level. Moving violations on the water should result in boater safety education. Most of these ideas have already been recommended to the Board of County Commissioners with no result. He stated that the spring lake draw down on the

Spokane River causes erosion more than summer wake activity. More presence and enforcement by the Sheriff's Office is critical no matter what rules are instated.

Kelly Gwinn'duby- Templin's Marina. Any change in rules would affect their business of recreational tourism. Many of their customers use the Spokane River for large boats and wake boats. The business has historically been authorized to have large boats on the river. They are not against more rules and regulations but are concerned about enforcement of the rules. More Sheriffs presence is needed. They also have issues with boaters not respecting the no-wake zone around their docks and would like more buoys deployed.

Mark Dillion- Spokane River Property Owner since 2011. He wake surfs but limits it to early morning or during the week when the activity on the river is less. Just regulating his style of boat is taking away his rights. He thinks jet skis are a bigger problem. He would like to see more Sheriff's boats on the river.

Chris Leslie- Family property on the Spokane River since the 1950's. He would like the board to consider how future generations will be affected by any decisions that are made now. He agrees that drawing down the river and flooding causes erosion. They raised their dock 18 inches to prevent damage. He thinks 5 feet is an excessive wake; supports boater education and more Sheriff's boats on the river. He encourages property owners to maintain their property. He remembers the logs from the mills causing more damage than the wakes. It's always something. He supports the 24 ft. excessive wake definition.

Greg Delavan- Delavan's Marina, Coeur d'Alene Lakeshore Property Owners Association. He supports the 500 ft. excessive wake rule because it is definable and enforceable. He encourages citizens to help supplement the Sheriff's efforts by taking pictures of offenders. The sheriff likes a picture when you complain. He stated that boaters should be responsible and behavior has to change over time for safety issues.

Gary Schmidt- ambassador for pragmatic, rational thinking citizens of Kootenai County. Would like to consider what is the greater good, for the greatest amount of people, for the greatest amount of time. He focused on safety, long-term erosion, better education and enforcement. The irresponsible few ruin it for others.

The Advisory Board Members discussed these recommendations.

Mike Foley- Rules change. Boaters must adjust and accept the changes. He supports the two-foot wake rule.

Tom Torgerson- It will be a legal challenge if specific boats are targeted. He supports wake size rules, on all waterways equally. He also supports more law enforcement.

There was a discussion about Sheriff Marine deputies hiring challenges and funding of those positions.

Mike Pelissero- There will never be enough law enforcement on the water. There is mixed use on the water so everyone needs to find a happy medium. It is important to have enhanced wake rules that are not confusing.

There was a discussion about Buoy locations on the Spokane River.

Doug Harris- This is Idaho. A right to die state with few rules. That's why we live here. He supports mandatory boater education at the state level.

Ed Harris- Smaller boats are swamped by the excessive wakes. That is a safety issue. He supports boater education and enforcement.

There was more discussion about funding for the Marine Division of the Sheriff's Office.

Chairman Werner summarized the important issues:

- Boater education
- More law enforcement
- Excessive wake definition- 24"

Please visit the [County Agenda Center](#) for a recording of this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

WATERWAYS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING TIMES:

The Search and Rescue Building is not available for the regular meeting of this board on Tuesday evenings. Sergeant Klinkefus confirmed that the second Thursday is available in the evening.

MOTION: Doug Harris moved to schedule regular meetings on the second Thursday of every other month, beginning on February 13 at 6:00 pm. The motion was seconded; all were in favor; the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rarell Schwartz

Recording Secretary