

**Minutes of Meeting  
Commissioners' Status Update  
February 24, 2020  
11:00 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 were Treasurer Steve Matheson, Parks & Waterways (P&W)/Noxious Weeds/Snowgroomers Director Nick Snyder, Finance Director Dena Darrow, Staff Accountant – Budget Michelle Chiamonte, BOCC Administrative Supervisor Leighanna Keiser, BOCC Senior Business Analyst Nanci Plouffe and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present were Fair Board Member Linda Rider, Kootenai County Residents Jim Stafford, John Grimm and Penelope Morris and Coeur d'Alene Press Reporter Jennifer Passaro.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business:**

**Urban Renewal District (URD) Advisory Vote (Action)**

Commissioner Leslie Duncan said she felt it was appropriate to use Treasurer Matheson's proposed language regarding an advisory vote on the upcoming ballot regarding URDs (Urban Renewal Districts). She read Treasurer Matheson's proposed statement into the record:

"Do you support the City of Coeur d'Alene Council Bill Number 19-1018, an ordinance approving Urban Renewal Plans for the Health Corridor Urban Renewal Project, which plan includes revenue allocation financing provisions."

Commissioner Bill Brooks said he agreed with Idaho State Senator Mary Souza, that the proposed advisory vote "didn't mean anything," so he saw no harm in having one. He stated the important thing was to stress to the public that this would not undo what the City of Coeur d'Alene had done. He remarked that he would prefer more general language to be used and was not comfortable singling out one in particular. Commissioner Brooks pointed out that people should address their concerns about URDs to the city councils, not the BOCC.

Commissioner Duncan remarked that people outside a city were not necessarily aware of actions being taken that would still affect them and their taxes. She said she felt the proposal would increase the public's awareness.

Chairman Fillios reported that he had sent an email to one of the County attorneys with different suggested language. He remarked that he would prefer to have very broad language and avoid naming specific projects. He suggested it say something like: "An advisory vote should be required on the part of the residents of Kootenai County ahead of any proposed URD, anywhere in the County."

Chairman Fillios noted that the Coeur d'Alene City Council had acted within their statutory authority on the Heath Corridor URD. He said there was no indication that any violation of due process had taken place and noted that the question of the duration of a URD's term really rested with the State Legislature.

Commissioner Brooks stated he would not vote on the proposal without a clear approval from Legal on the wording.

There followed a vigorous discussion covering a number of aspects of the proposed advisory vote.

Chairman Fillios moved that the Board of County Commissioners of Kootenai County recommend that an advisory vote be held ahead of any formal vote on an URD, pending the proper language and approval of the Legal Department. Commissioner Brooks seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Ginorio called the roll:

Commissioner Brooks: Aye

Commissioner Duncan: Aye

Chairman Fillios: Aye

The motion carried.

Treasurer Matheson and Kootenai County Residents John Grimm and Penelope Morris exited the meeting at 11:23 a.m.

#### **Parks & Waterways, Noxious Weeds, Snowgroomer Update (Discussion)**

Parks & Waterways (P&W)/Noxious Weeds/Snowgroomer Director Nick Snyder reported that he had received an under-budget proposal for the Breakwater Project. He predicted that a contract would be presented to the Commissioners during the month of March 2020.

He said he had received a legal opinion on the wake issues proposed by KCSO. He noted that a legal opinion could not be discussed in an open meeting asked that the Commissioners approve him arranging an Executive Session to include himself, KCSO, Legal and the BOCC. The Commissioners voiced agreement.

Mr. Snyder reminded the Board that Craig Ely had proposed a Honeysuckle Bay no-wake zone in 2019 and that they had been waiting for a response from the Hayden Lake Watershed District. He suggested that all involved parties be invited to meet before they moved forward on the project.

Chairman Fillios agreed and asked Mr. Snyder to arrange the meeting.

Mr. Snyder also reminded the Board that a Spirit Lake no-wake zone ordinance had been passed. He reported that now a resident was contesting the presence of the buoys on the grounds that they would cause more wakes and interfere with aircraft landing in that strip of water. He predicted he might have to attend a hearing on this and said he would keep the Board informed.

Mr. Snyder said his staff had prepared all of the Spokane River buoys for placement. He remarked that a contract for their deployment before June 1, 2020 would come from North Idaho Maritime soon.

Mr. Snyder and the Commissioners agreed that if increased enforcement and the new buoys did not solve the wake problem on the Spokane River, other measures would be considered.

Mr. Snyder reported that the Noxious Weeds Office Remodel Project was nearly completed and should come in on or under budget.

Mr. Snyder said the letter the Board had sent to IDPR (Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation) regarding the 30% cap on funding should arrive today or tomorrow. He added that Bonner County had submitted a similar letter to IDPR and told the Board he would provide additional information as he received it.

Mr. Snyder said that there were ongoing issues regarding a resident's ingress/egress at the Greensferry Boat Launch. He said he had spoken to the person on a couple of occasions, but the resident had refused any continued contact. He asked the Commissioners to approve scheduling an Executive Session to consider the problem. There was general agreement voiced.

Mr. Snyder thanked the Commissioners for appointing him to head Snowgroomers. He stated he would bring the Board a full assessment of the program once he assembled the needed information. He said he would be speaking with Finance Director Dena Darrow about budget this week. He predicted there would be deficiencies that needed to be corrected in the program in the near future.

Chairman Fillios inquired whether any decisions made about wakes would cover all County waterways or just the Spokane River.

Mr. Snyder said he felt that consistency across all the waterways would be advisable. He added that he thought KCSO would agree, since they would have to enforce the rules.

Commissioner Brooks asked Kootenai County Resident Jim Stafford if he had any comment.

Mr. Stafford expressed his dissatisfaction with the progress made on the wake issue. He asked about the proposal that had been made to the State Legislature. He remarked that he had heard the original proposal had been withdrawn, but would be resubmitted. He asked how the Board felt about having the State regulations control County waterways.

Commissioner Duncan replied that she had spoken to Representative Jim Addis, the sponsor of the bill, on Thursday, February 20, 2020 and had not received any indication that the bill was going to be reintroduced.

Commissioner Duncan assured Mr. Stafford that, if the bill were reintroduced, the Commissioners could submit letters to the House members to express their concerns.

Mr. Stafford objected to the proposed Executive Session.

Commissioner Duncan explained that the Executive Session would be held to discuss the recommendation from the County's attorney, as was appropriate. She said an open meeting would be held afterward to keep the public informed.

Mr. Snyder exited the meeting 11:42 a.m.

**Pending Items Status Review List – Attached (Discussion)**

Romer Building: Chairman Fillios reported that he had met with Julienne Dance and the negotiations continued. Commissioner Brooks suggested that the deadline of March 31, 2020 for a final decision on the Romer Building be extended by 90 days to allow Ms. Dance and her group enough time to arrange their financing. There was general agreement.

Mr. Stafford exited the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Herd District: Commissioner Brooks said there had been no developments on this. He added that he would continue to try to contact the resident who had originally brought the problem to the Board.

Fire station at the Fairgrounds: There were no developments on this topic, per Chairman Fillios.

Campus Auction MOU (Memorandum of Understanding): Chairman Fillios said they needed to wait for Contractor Shawn Riley to return before they could proceed.

State of the County Address: Commissioner Duncan commented that she had decided on the topics she would cover. Chairman Fillios and Commissioner Brooks acknowledged that they needed to decide on theirs within the next seven to ten days.

3<sup>rd</sup> Street Meeting Room Use: Chairman Fillios said he had nothing further to report. He said he did view the room and storage of Extension materials remained an issue.

Pending Legislation: Commissioner Duncan confirmed that Representative Addis's bill had been withdrawn. She said she was hearing that House Bill 409, the one that would freeze the property tax portion of the County Budget to the FY2020 level, would probably not pass the Senate or the Governor, but that it was likely something restrictive on local taxing agencies would be passed.

Body Scanner: Commissioner Brooks said that KCSO Captain John Holecek was still working on this and he expected to have something in writing from him next week.

Wellness Application Request: Commissioner Brooks reported that he would be attending the webinar and would report on it.

FY21 Budget Process: Ms. Darrow confirmed that her staff had sent out some preliminary dates for meetings. She asked that the Commissioners review them.

Spokane River Wake Concerns: Chairman Fillios noted this topic had already been addressed.

Wage Project: Commissioner Duncan said an update was planned for March 18, 2020.

Facilities Expansion: Commissioner Duncan confirmed she met with all the Elected Officials. She pointed out that final decisions were being held until they knew what action the legislature was going to take.

Elmore County support request: Chairman Fillios said he was not pursuing this further. Commissioner Duncan said that the issue did not come up at IAC (Idaho Association of Counties) or the other meetings she recently attended in Boise.

PAC Airport Lease: Commissioner Duncan stated she was working on a resolution that would complete all the details required by the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration). She said it would result in the properties being released by the FAA and brought under County control. She predicted the resolution would be presented within the next two weeks. She added that the Armory would be offered for sale and the rest of the properties would remain with the County.

- 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. There was no public comment.
  
- E. Adjournment (Action):** Chairman Fillios adjourned the meeting at 11:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk

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