

MINUTES OF MEETING
Kootenai County Waterways Advisory Board
March 20, 2025
Kootenai County Search & Rescue Building
10865 N Ramsey Rd
Hayden, Idaho 83835

MEMBERS PRESENT: Doug Harris, Michael Pelissero, Casey Price, Jeff Stagner, Tom Torgerson, Don Warner

STAFF PRESENT: Director Nick Snyder, Kootenai County Parks & Waterways; Sergeant Ryan Miller, Deputy Jonathan Traw, Deputy Elliott, Deputy Mohawk, Kootenai County Sheriff's Office; Ranell Schwartz, Recording Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT: Rick Carlson, Frank Seatz, Tim King, 11th Street Marina

Chairman Harris called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Advisory Board members declared no conflicts of interest.

MOTION: Michael Pelissero moved to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2024 meeting. The motion was seconded; all were in favor; the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

MOTION: Michael Pelissero made a motion to nominate Doug Harris as Chairman. The motion was seconded; all were in favor; the motion carried.

MOTION: Doug Harris made a motion to nominate Michael Pelissero as Vice-Chairman. The motion was seconded; all were in favor; the motion carried.

B. 11TH STREET MARINA-REQUEST FOR BUOYS

Rick Carlson presented a request for buoys on Lake Coeur d'Alene at 11th Street Marina. See attached. The public is welcome to use the pump-out station at the docks and there are more than 25 boat slips, but there is not a public restroom, public access to the dock and no support from the Sheriff's Office. The 11th Street Dock Owners Association just wanted to point out the safety issues and get ahead of the game. Sergeant Ryan Miller encouraged them to notify the Sheriff's Office by email at marine@kcgov.us if they have issues so they can patrol the area.

MOTION: Michael Pelissero moved to decline the request. The motion was seconded.

There was discussion about the definition of "public". Director Nick Snyder stated that the spirit of the rule is moorage, fuel and other services.

Chairman Harris call for a vote. All were in favor; the motion carried.

C. ABANDONED BOATS-RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES AND FUNDING

Sergeant Miller stated that the Sheriff's Office will tow smaller boats that are abandoned on the lakes, but larger boats present a significant cost. They currently have no funding to remove a large vessel. He requested a county policy with a funding plan for dealing with abandoned vessels on Kootenai County Waterways. The State boating and environmental agencies say they have no funding. He would like to see a joint agreement with Parks & Waterways, the Sheriff and the County. Donations could also be accepted for this need. Director Snyder recommended a motion to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners to establish a fund for the removal of abandoned or derelict vessels from county boating facilities. There was some discussion.

MOTION: Tom Torgerson moved to direct Director Snyder and Sergeant Miller to reach out to the Idaho State Parks North Region Boating Director for assistance, and to recommend that the County Commissioners consider

codification for a future fund to deal with abandoned vessels. The motion was seconded; all were in favor; the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

Chairman Harris asked for approval from the board for the letters of appreciation (see attached).

MOTION: Michael Pelissero moved to approve the letters as presented. The motion was seconded.

The letters will be presented to Director Nick Snyder and Sergeant Ryan Miller at the follow-up meeting with the Board of County Commissioners.

All were in favor; the motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS

Sergeant Ryan Miller, from the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office stated that they did not get many candidates for the summer season marine deputies. They will be supplementing again with patrol and jail staff and have 8-10 marine officers for the summer season. The department vessels have been maintained with no major issues. A truck was rebuilt. Some personnel changes include Jonathan Traw moving to Patrol, Deputies Mohawk and O'Neill will be in Rec Safety; Sergeant Miller is likely moving to Patrol. Diving teams currently have fewer volunteers than in previous years. They do have sonar equipment issues and will be requesting funding to replace it. The next budget request will include a robot, and they may submit a Waterways Improvement Fund (WIF) Grant for more equipment next year.

Director Nick Snyder reported that the Parks & Waterways Department submitted a WIF Grant for a replacement boathouse. The permitting for the project has been submitted to the Idaho Department of Lands and the grant committee is meeting today in Boise. If funded, it will be the largest grant in the state's history. Blackrock Boat Launch will be refurbished thanks to a donation from a citizen. The county will contribute \$5000 to that project. Mica Bay will also be re-done by the Parks & Waterways staff this fall. At the Upper Twin Boat Launch the floating dock will be replaced with a fixed pier to accommodate for all the ice that accumulates on the lake during the winter. The department is asking for an additional Parks Ranger in the FY26 budget. This is the first request for an additional employee in Director Snyder's career at the county. The department also submitted a Recreational Trails Grant to resurface a portion of the Centennial Trail from Stateline to Beck Road. The Mahogany Boat Association and Stancraft Marine funded the replacement of mooring buoys in Beauty Bay and Loff's Bay on Lake Coeur d'Alene. The county recently purchased, from the Airport, the land that the Parks & Waterways office sits on, as well as an additional shop. This will end the lease payments they have been making to the Airport. The payments were expected to increase from \$8000 to \$73,000 per year so this will be very beneficial. Director Snyder recognized the Post Falls Highway District for their assistance with the seal coat of the Hauser Parking lot. The county only paid for the oil and saved money for the boaters. Director Snyder presented a brief background of the Bayview Boat Launch and dock. He will update this board as more information is available.

FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rarell Schwartz

Recording Secretary

March 13, 2025

To: Kootenai County Parks and Waterways,

From: Eleventh St. Dockowners Association Board of Directors,

We are here today to bring attention to what we consider a rising life safety issue at and around the 11th St. Marina. Our marina is a privately owned 113-slip marina. We do have a marina provided public pump out station for boaters to use.

We also have adjoining to the marina on the west side between Tubbs Hill and the 11th St. Marina, what is locally known as “Dog Beach”. Dog beach is a City of Coeur d’Alene endorsed launch area for kayakers, paddleboarders, rafters, etc.

This launch is heavily used during the summer months.

Also, to the west, in close proximity of the marina is Tubbs Hill, and as everyone knows it is a hugely popular hiking and swimming destination. On the east side of the marina lies the Sanders Beach public beach area. It is one of only a handful of swimming areas open to the public that is located right in downtown Coeur d’Alene.

And because of that fact, it is heavily used by recreational swimmers, triathlon training swimmers, paddleboarders, kayakers, canoes, electric foil type surfboards, and all types of blow-up toys.

The Sanders Beach location is very well known to Triathlon athletes throughout the northwest as a safe swimming area due to the fact that there are buoys fronting the beach discouraging boats from accessing the beach area. Many swim parallel to the beach in a safe swim zone to the Hagadone Event Center, but many also venture out into the open water to simulate race conditions.

Sanders Beach is also the starting point for lots of swimmers who swim around Tubbs Hill on an almost daily basis during the summer months. Many of these swimmers are also Kroc Center Master Swimmers. These

groups sometimes number 30 or more participants, all starting at the 12th St. seawall opening. They typically navigate somewhere near the marina's easternmost dock, with some swimming on the marina side of the breakwater while others swim on the lake side. Once they exit the marina area, they are completely exposed to boat traffic, which would include powerboats, wave runners, electrically powered water toys, etc.

But in truth, as soon as the swimmers pass the buoys fronting Sanders Beach, they are exposed to all of the same marine traffic as noted above. Anyone swimming, floating, paddleboarding, kayaking etc. in the Sanders Beach area who ventures out past the currently 'in- place' buoys are exposed to the same marine traffic.

The area in its entirety, which would include the Dog Beach launch area, the Sanders Beach public swim area, the 11th St Marina, the eastern shoreline of Tubbs Hill, is becoming increasingly congested.

As active members of the marina, many in the marina watch or witness daily the many violations of Kootenai County Boating Regulations.

From traveling way too fast and way too close to our docks and breakwater, to people pulling surf-type boards, also way too close to fixed objects, marina docks, or other boaters.

The marina has placed signs in key areas along our docks facing outward toward the lake notifying boaters of the rules currently in place, stating "Stay Back 200", "Slow to no wake", etc. The signs seem to be mostly ignored.

What we would look like to create with the placement of new buoys is a safety zone that transitions from the currently in-place buoys fronting Sanders Beach and then turning out towards the open lake paralleling our eastern dock and then also along and parallel to our breakwater.

This would create a safe area to recreate without dangerous and high-speed boat traffic nearby.

This would also create a no wake area for boaters accessing the Marina provided 'boat pump out station'.

It would also help push high speed boat traffic a little further away from the marina.

The marina members are pretty well conditioned to watch out for swimmers, paddleboards, kayakers, etc. when they are entering or exiting the marina and are already travelling at 'no wake' speed per Kootenai County regulations as well as the 11th St. Marina rules and regulations.

During the height of summer when it is consistently hot, just about anything that floats will be used at the Sanders Beach swim area. Families recreating at the beach might not even realize the dangers that may exist out past the buoys while swimming, paddleboarding, kayaking, or floating on many types of 'blow up' toys. Many may be out-of-town guests who are unfamiliar with where it is safe to swim and where it might not be so safe.

The 11th St Marina would purchase and maintain the buoys in perpetuity if this is approved as we feel it will enhance the marina experience as well as provide a safe harbor for all lake users.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this endeavor.

The Board of Directors,
Eleventh Street Dockowners Association

Howard Burns
502 S. Rocky Point Court
Post Falls, ID 83854
Email: noturnswim@yahoo.com
208-457-3890

March 4, 2025

Kootenai County Parks and Waterways
10905 N Ramsey Road
Hayden, ID 83835

Dear Members of the KCP&W Team:

I am writing as a member of the Kroc Masters Swim Team and as the Event Director of the Kroc Master Lake CDA Open Water swim event "AROUND TUBBS HILL". We wish to express our agreement with the 11th Street Marina Mgt. Team that some strategically placed 'No Wake' buoys would be beneficial for everyone near the boundaries of the 11th Street Marina. Perhaps you could even consider something to keep larger motorized boats from close proximity to the cliffs of Tubbs Hill but recognize that sometimes too much regulation becomes ineffective, so four 'no wake' buoys makes good sense in that regard.

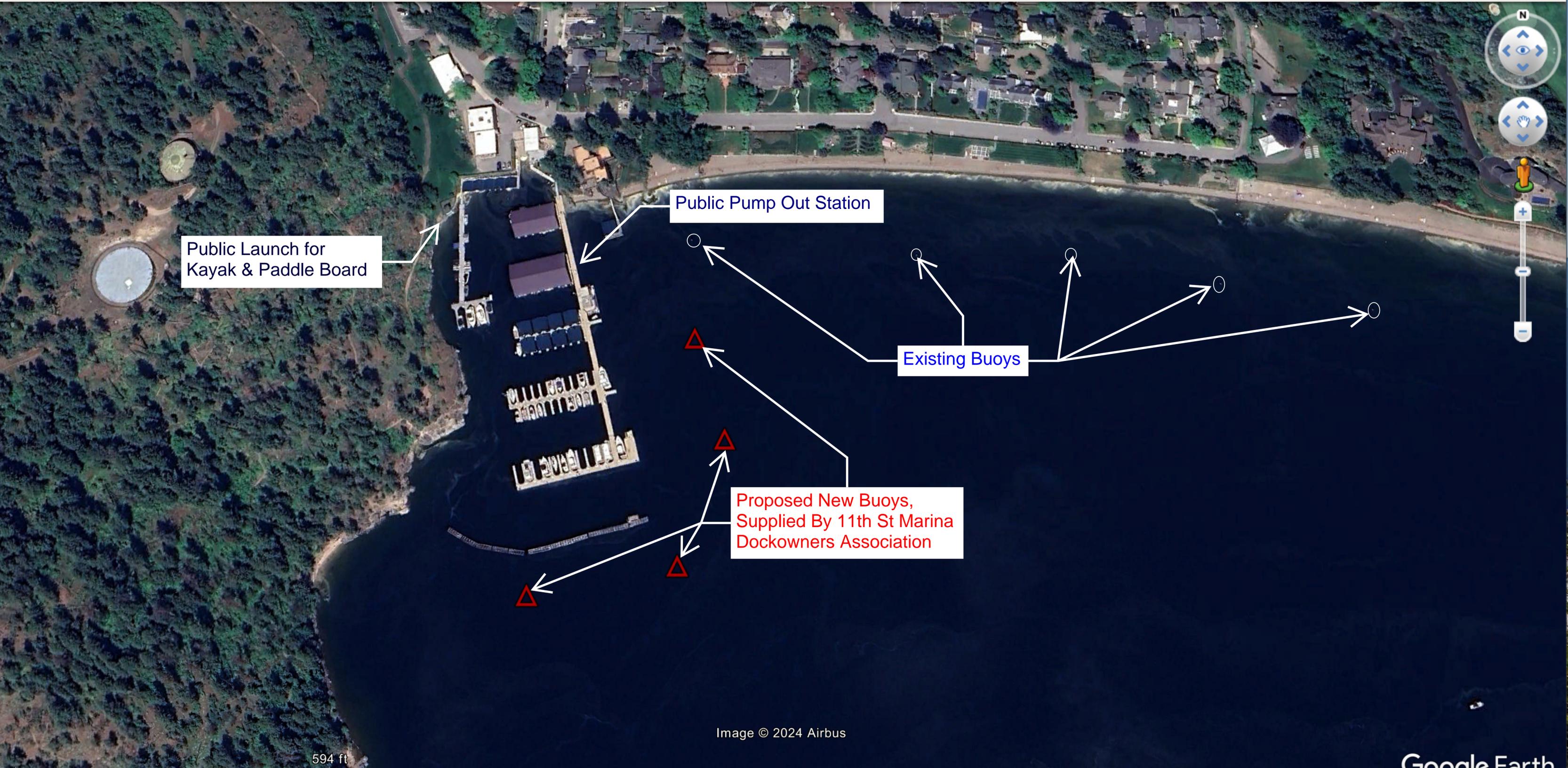
I do wonder how 'no wake' buoys provide assistance from speeding marine 'vehicles' that have little or no wake though? With the advent of battery powered 35+mph hyperboards, battery powered paddleboards and a rumor of hydrofoil jet skis (?), maybe No Wake **and 5 mph speed limit** would be feasible although perhaps too much info on a buoy?

Thank you for your consideration of the 11th Street Marina request. We hope you approve it.

Sincerely,

Howard W Burns

Howard Burns
Member Kroc Masters/ CDA Lake open water group



Public Launch for Kayak & Paddle Board

Public Pump Out Station

Existing Buoys

Proposed New Buoys,
Supplied By 11th St Marina
Dockowners Association

Image © 2024 Airbus

594 ft



KOOTENAI COUNTY

PARKS & WATERWAYS ADVISORY BOARD

20 March 2025

Director Nick Snyder
Kootenai County Parks and Waterways Department
10905 N Ramsey Road
Hayden, ID 83835

Dear Director Snyder,

On behalf of the Members of the Kootenai County Parks and Waterways Advisory Board, please accept our sincere appreciation for the extraordinary job you and the Kootenai County Parks and Waterways staff have done for the residents and our many visitors who use the public facilities in our County.

It is an enormous undertaking, considering the sheer size and scope of your area of responsibility. Kootenai County is comprised of many miles of trails, parks and a large number of waterway accesses, including the building, maintenance and servicing of public boat docks and launches across our many lakes rivers and other waterways.

You have been able to successfully serve the needs of the recreational public while keeping the taxpayer cost down through effective management and your outstanding ability to obtain grants and other sources of funding to enhance the budget for the capital improvements and procurements to your area of responsibility.

The Advisory Board unanimously agreed that your team's performance and the outcome we as a community have received and enjoy is a direct result of your leadership, inspiring and motivating your staff to efficiently and professionally service our community.

Thanks to your leadership and dedication, combined with your staff's teamwork and energy, the citizens of Kootenai County have benefited from the result of your efforts. You and your staff should take great pride in this accomplishment.

Please accept my gratitude and that of the Members of the Kootenai County Parks and Waterways Advisory Board for a job well done.

Sincerely,

Doug Harris, Chairman
Kootenai County Parks and Waterways Advisory Board

CC: Kootenai County Board of County Commissioners



KOOTENAI COUNTY

PARKS & WATERWAYS ADVISORY BOARD

20 March 2025

Sergeant Ryan Miller
Kootenai County Sheriff Office
2451 W. Dakota Ave
Hayden, ID 83835

Dear Sergeant Miller,

On behalf of the Members of the Kootenai County Parks and Waterways Advisory Board, please accept our sincere appreciation for the excellent job you and the KCSO Recreation Safety and seasonal staff have done over the past several seasons in patrolling our vast waterways and ensuring the safety of the boating public in Kootenai County.

It is an enormous undertaking, considering the sheer size and scope of your area of responsibility as Kootenai County has 18 lakes, two rivers and approximately 54 miles of navigable waterways encompassing a little over 7.5% of Idaho's recreational water. You have been able to service this area with only 2 full-time and, depending on the time of year, a varying number of seasonal deputies.

The Advisory Board unanimously agreed that your team's performance and the outcome we as a community have received and enjoy is a direct result of your leadership, inspiring and motivating your permanent and ever-changing seasonal staff to efficiently and professionally service our community.

Thanks to your leadership and dedication, combined with your staff's teamwork and energy, the citizens of Kootenai County have benefited from the result of your efforts. You and your staff should take great pride in this accomplishment.

Please accept my gratitude and that of the Members of the Kootenai County Parks and Waterways Advisory Board for a job well done.

Sincerely,

Doug Harris, Chairman
Kootenai County Parks and Waterways Advisory Board

CC: Kootenai County Board of County Commissioners
Sherrif Robert Norris, KCSO
Undersheriff Brett Nelson, KCSO