

Minutes of Meeting
Restoration Partnership
May 6, 2019
10:30 a.m.

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chair Pro Tem Leslie Duncan and Commissioner Bill Brooks met to discuss the following agenda item. Also present was Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present were David Leptich and Chip Corsi from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and Kajsa VandeRiet and Dan Redline from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. Chairman Chris Fillios was excused.

- A. Call to Order:** Chair Pro Tem Leslie Duncan called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business:**

Overview of Restoration Partnership Activities and Projects (Discussion)

Idaho Department of Fish and Game Representative Chip Corsi told the Board that the Restoration Partnership was first formed under a consent decree in 2011 or 2012. He explained they operated using funds from NRDA (Natural Resource Damage Assessment) lawsuits related mostly to damage from mining activities in the Silver Valley. He listed the trustees of the fund: the State of Idaho represented by the Department of Fish and Game and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, US Department of the Interior represented by BLM (Bureau of Land Management) and the US Department of Fish and Game, and the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) Forest Service.

Ms. Corsi stated one of their primary concerns was to keep the three affected counties aware of their plans. He remarked that they had already been working on their plans and establishing procedures for about six years. He said that they had gotten their general plan approved about a year ago and were now able to begin implementation. He explained that they had begun by reviewing some projects that had been proposed by the trustees, and then sought suggestions from the public. Mr. Corsi said they had been screening the proposals and had met with their advisory panel.

Mr. Corsi noted that they must check proposed projects to be sure they fall within the restoration criteria, not under the category of remediation. He said they do want to maintain good communications with the entities performing remediation, to improve overall planning and execution.

Mr. Corsi said that there had been about eleven lawsuits settled, which had yielded about 140 million dollars for the Restoration Partnership's use. He stressed that they wanted to make that money stretch as far as they possibly could. He described the geographic area their group had under consideration and the criteria used to evaluate potential projects.

Idaho Department of Fish and Game Representative David Leptich remarked that their group had worked out the funding for projects put forward by the trustees, totaling about 3 million dollars, last year. He added that they had received about forty-four additional project ideas from which to select.

Mr. Corsi commented that they would be asking the public for additional project ideas in the future.

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): Chair Pro Tem Duncan adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

LESLIE DUNCAN, CHAIR PRO TEM

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk
