

Minutes of Meeting
Special Meeting: Parks & Waterways
July 24, 2018
3:00 p.m.

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Pro Tem Chris Fillios and Commissioner Bob Bingham met to discuss the following agenda item. Also present were Parks & Waterways/Noxious Weeds Director Nick Snyder and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Chairman Marc Eberlein was excused.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Pro Tem Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda:** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business:**

Noxious Weed Spray Program Discussion (Action Item)

Parks & Waterways/Noxious Weeds Director Nick Snyder provided the Board with data on the Noxious Weed Cost Share Spray Program that includes the four highway districts and seven cities in the County. Mr. Snyder stated there is no existing MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) outlining responsibilities of the participants regarding the operation or administration of the program.

Mr. Snyder explained that the County Noxious Weeds Department is responsible for managing the program and it demands a great deal of time from his employees for administrative work. He added that the unreimbursed costs to the County were about \$40,719.40 in 2015, \$35,702.13 in 2016 and \$58,987.20 in 2017. Mr. Snyder remarked that, considering how lean and streamlined his own budget has become, he would prefer to use some of those funds to better carry out his department's mission. He said that Commissioner Bingham had inquired whether the participating agencies could be billed for the currently unreimbursed costs.

Mr. Snyder said Kootenai County is responsible for managing noxious weeds on properties it owns. He stated Idaho Code declares landowners are responsible for managing noxious weeds on their own properties; the County is responsible for enforcement of this. Mr. Snyder said he had discussed the issue with Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Jamila Holmes, who offered him as part of a legal opinion, that none of these additional duties are required of the County by statute.

Commissioner Bob Bingham said he had inquired about this program because he had become curious about why the County was covering expenses that might belong to other entities. He stated he felt the County should begin billing for the labor expended by the Noxious Weeds Department in this program. Commissioner Bingham suggested that the County also look at expenses incurred for the Good Land Steward Program, which reimburses landowners for elimination of Leafy Spurge on their properties.

Commissioner Bingham suggested that Mr. Snyder work with Ms. Holmes to create a letter informing the affected agencies that the County planned to begin billing for these services. Mr. Snyder suggested that he meet with representatives of the agencies first, to brief them and ask them to share any special concerns they had. Commissioner Bingham and Chairman Pro Tem Fillios agreed.

D. Public Comment: 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.

Chairman Pro Tem Fillios adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN PRO TEM

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk
