



Bear Lake Regional Commission

69 N. Paradise Parkway, P.O. Box 472, Garden City UT 84028 • (435) 946-2198 • Fax (435) 946-2205



Minutes

Bear Lake Regional Commission Garden City, UT January 25, 2023

Those in attendance:

Sim Weston - Board Chairman, Rich County
Commissioner
Burdette Weston - Mayor of Laketown
Roy Bunderson- Mayor of Bloomington-Via phone
Ken Brown - Rich County at Large
Albert Johnson - Bear Lake County at Large
Mitch Poulsen - Executive Director- Bear Lake
Regional Commission
Christy Jensen - Bear Lake Regional Commission
Tami Leonhardt - B L Convention & Visitors Bureau

Also in attendance:

Rowdy Jensen - Forestry, Fire & State Lands
Dave & Claudia Cottle - Bear Lake Watch
Lewis Chandler - Bear Lake Watch
Krystal Tucker - DNR, Division of Wildlife
Resources - AIS Operations Sergeant
Josh Wright - DNR, DWR-Invasive Interdiction
Specialist
Bruce Johnson-DNR, Division of Wildlife
Resources - Operations Lieutenant
Nic Zurfluh – Idaho Dept. of Ag-Section Manager,
Invasive Species – Via phone

Excused: Bradley Jensen - Board Vice Chairman, Bear Lake County Commissioner
Ron Jensen - Recreation
Mike Leonhardt - Mayor of Garden City
Dan Fisher - Board Secretary, City Council of Montpelier

Chairman Sim Weston conducted the January 25, 2023, meeting of the Bear Lake Regional Commission, the meeting started at 7:21pm.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Weston asked for an approval of the agenda, The agenda was reviewed, and approved, with the amendment of the AIS Contract between BLRC and Utah. Although the contract was not sent in time to have it signed at this meeting the Chairman opted to leave it on the agenda for discussion.

- **Ken Brown motioned to approve the agenda with the amendment of the AIS Contract between BLRC and Utah.**

Albert Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Krystal Tucker/ DNR, Division of Wildlife Resources - AIS Operations Sergeant

Krystal Tucker gave an update on the Utah Aquatic Invasive Species program in the Bear Lake area. This program receives financial input from Idaho Department of Ag, which helps to protect the lake without duplicating efforts. Last summer presented challenges in hiring seasonal employees and obtaining vehicles to transport employees and run the program. The check Station at the overlook in Logan canyon was staffed, however the south end of the lake at Sage Creek Junction did not have a check station. Bear Lake State Parks at the Marina, along with the Wyoming Game and Fish at the I80 Port of Entry assisted more this year to help. The Garden City Fire Station allows the AIS employees

from the overlook station to fill up their tanks from their firehose. The Overlook check station was staffed from 6:00 am to 9:00 pm on weekdays, 6:00 am to 11:00 pm on weekends, with 6 to 7 people, from May 27th to September 18th with additional staff during the busiest time of the day to keep lines short. In contrast they had 13 in 2021 so roughly half the staff.

This past year at the Overlook they did 18,555 inspections with 581 of those from mussel positive waters, with 117 decontaminations. In 2021 they did 22,415 inspections, with 230 decontaminations. At the marina they did 3,211 inspections and 4 decontaminations.

This year they will be able to offer an increase in seasonal staff pay. Compensation will start at \$14.55 and up depending on experience, and transportation from Logan will be provided.

Within the next year or two UDOT has agreed to widen and pave the easement on both sides of the road by the Otter Creek Road, creating a snowplow turn around in the winter and in the summers the DWR will be able to use it as an AIS inspection station area instead of the Sage Creek Junction.

Operations Lieutenant, Bruce Johnson said the new State Coordinator will be Casey Silva and Bruce will get her contact information to Mitch.

The AIS contract is not available to sign and will be rolled onto next month's agenda.

Dave Cottle/ Bear Lake Watch- Proposed Bear Lake Legislation

This is a follow-up to the resolutions that were passed by both States in 2019, for both states to come together to establish joint expectations for the lake, which has to do with preservation of certain lakes for health and recreation uses. This new proposed legislation in both states would help to define those expectations. This new legislation would amend Idaho's Chapter 43, Title 67, to include a new section known as Section 67-4313, Idaho code. Almost every body of water in Idaho is included in the original legislation except Bear Lake, so this new legislation would include Bear Lake, recognize its current uses for irrigation and power storage. This is not attempting to change the way Bear Lake is used or water rights. This version has significantly more language than previous iterations that serves to identify a broad mission to protect and preserve Bear Lake as a waterbody beneficial to the citizens of Idaho. Senator Harris is proposing this legislation in Idaho and Senator Wilson is working on similar legislation in Utah.

Mitch Poulsen pointed out that the Regional Commission is better suited to be the lead agency than the State Parks, in coordinating and producing a plan to implement this legislation. Several board members expressed their opinions, reasons, and support for the coordinating agency to be the Regional Commission.

Motion to support proposed legislation Section 67-4313, Idaho code.

- **Roy Bunderson motioned to support proposed legislation Section 67-4313, Idaho code. Albert Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Valley Office Copier Contract

Updating the copier lease will provide the Regional Commission with an approximate savings of \$2000 a year on copying costs and update the equipment.

- **Ken Brown motioned to set up the new Copier contract. Burdette Weston seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Election of Officers

A unanimous decision was made to suspend the election rules and install Commissioner Bradley Jensen as Chairman rotating from Utah to an Idaho representative for this upcoming year, with Commissioner Sim Weston as Vice Chairman and install Mayor Burdette Weston as secretary/treasurer.

- **Ken Brown made a motion to suspend election rules and install Commissioner Bradley Jensen as board Chairman and Commissioner Sim Weston as Vice Chairman with Burdette Weston as secretary/treasurer. Dan Fisher as alternate primarily for the signing of checks when necessary.
Roy Bunderson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Staff Report

- Rich County short-term rental permit applications are ramping up for yearly renewals.
- Bear Lake's Planning and Zoning is busy with Subdivision applications.
- We are continuing to work on funding sources. Such as continuing working with the States on the Quagga Mussel program.
- Submitted a grant to update Rich County's Development Code. This also will include the City of Laketown, City of Randolph and City of Woodruff. Which will dovetail with their newly adopted General Plans. The Consultant that did the General Plan for Rich County has offered Bear Lake County the opportunity to update its Comprehensive Plan as well with the commitment of a reduced group rate. Bear Lake has not at this time decided to update their Comprehensive Plan (General Plan). Roy Bunderson suggested readdressing that with Bear Lake County and suggesting the use of recently announced Covid Grant Funds to cover the cost. Roy also points out the synergy of using one agency to write these documents would help to coordinate both counties on a similar trajectory and combining and doing it all at once may save some costs. Roy Albert and Mitch will get on the Bear Lake County Commission's upcoming agenda to bring this opportunity in front of the Commissioners.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were reviewed and approved.

- **Burdette Weston made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 26th meeting, and the confirmation of cancelation of the Nov & December meetings.
Albert Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried.**

Bills & Payroll

The bills and payroll for the Bear Lake Regional Commission were reviewed, a motion was made to approve them.

- **Ken Brown made a motion to accept and approve payment of the January 2023 bills and payroll for the Bear Lake Regional Commission, along with the ratifying of the November & December bills.
Albert Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried.**

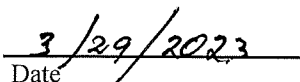
Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting ended at 8:41 p.m.

- **Ken Brown motioned to adjourn the meeting of the Bear Lake Regional Commission
Burdette Weston seconded the motion, motion carried.**

Minutes Approved:


Chairman


Date 3/29/2023