

Bear Lake Regional Commission

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Minutes Bear Lake Regional Commission Garden City, UT March 29, 2023

Those in attendance:

Bradley Jensen - Board Chairman, Bear Lake County Commissioner
Burdette Weston - Board Secretary, Mayor of Laketown
Mike Leonhardt - Mayor of Garden City
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

Also in attendance:

Lewis Chandler - Bear Lake Watch
Bill Cox - Rich County Commissioner
Andrew Stokes- Idaho State Parks Manager

Excused: Sim Weston - Board Vice Chairman, Rich County Commissioner

Ron Jensen - Recreation
Dan Fisher - City Council of Montpelier
Roy Bunderson- Mayor of Bloomington
Tami Leonhardt - B L Convention & Visitors Bureau

Chairman Bradley Jensen conducted the March 29, 2023, meeting of the Bear Lake Regional Commission, the meeting started at 7:10 pm.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Jensen asked for an approval of the agenda, The agenda was reviewed, and approved.

- **Ken Brown motioned to approve the agenda.**
Burdette Weston seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Andrew Stokes/ Idaho Parks Improvement Projects update

Andy Stokes Gave an update on the Idaho State Parks.

- With a Gross Revenue update. The 2022 end of season revenue was at \$957,425.
- Discussion of upgrades to the campground sites. (Electrical, water and clearing of brush)
- New Reservation system has been successful. Helped to decrease back up lines. Reduced cash handling by 80%.
- They have remodeled and added more Bear Lake related merchandise to the Gift Shop and set consistent winter hours.

- Snowmobile and OHV permits are sold at the St Charles Visitors Center and at Trail head parking lots. Funds collected go to the Tri County Snowmobile Committee.
- They have been partnering with Idaho Fish and Game to store feed and help with the feed program on the east side.
- They have 4 full time staff and will add another if the budget passes the legislature.
- Idaho recommended 95 million for State Parks to supplement the current budget. (It came out of committee with a do pass recommendation).
- Receive a Boat Ramp Grant of \$420,000 funded by Parks and Recreation.
Have put in for a \$180,000 grant funded by Waterway Improvement Fund Grant, which has not been granted yet.
- MOU with IDL, County and IDPR
- Stewardship vs Enforcement
- IDL and State Park Management Strategy

ID State Parks Letter of support

- **Mike Leonhardt made a motion to ratify the signature for a support letter for an infrastructure upgrade grant for ID State Parks
Albert Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Aquatic Invasive Species Contract (AIS) between BLRC & the Utah

This signature is for Utah Division of Wildlife Resources to be able to bill for expenses and services rendered in the 2022 year. The MOU between Idaho State Department of Agriculture and the Bear Lake Regional Commission was signed back on July 27, 2022, for this funding for the 2022 year. The contracts for the 2023 year will be available for signing in the next couple of months.

- **Albert Johnson motioned to ratify the signature of the AIS cooperative agreement between Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and the Bear Lake Regional Commission for the 2022 funding year.
Ken Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Discussion of proposed lake preservation legislation

Idaho Senate Bill 1112 – Purpose-will add Bear Lake to existing Idaho Code that preserves the lakes and water of Idaho. It recognizes Bear Lake's unique qualities to the people of the State while acknowledging its current uses for irrigation storage, power generation, flood control, and recreation. This Bill was sent to the Governor's office and Lewis Chandler confirmed that it was signed earlier this afternoon.

Similar proposed legislation S.B. 280 in Utah did not make it out of committee before the session ended, so Dave Cottle asked it to be pulled from a vote. Commissioner Cox briefly joined the discussion about the status of this proposed legislation. It may come up again next legislative session.

Another Idaho Bill, No. 1073, relates to Planning and Zoning, and amending section 67-6509 of the Idaho code, regarding areas of city impact in Idaho. If passed this will require changes, new ordinances and provisions to the Bear Lake Planning and Zoning codes which will require some serious time and attention from Mitch Poulsen as the county P&Z Administrator.

2023 Bear Lake Regional Commission Work Plan

Workplan is consistent with previous years. A copy of the Work Plan is available at the Regional Commission Office.

- **Albert Johnson motioned to approve & sign the 2023 BLRC Work Plan
Burdette Weston seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Staff Report

At a recent meeting of the Bear River Quality Task Force meeting, two presentations given that address Bear Lake were:

1. Carp removal project on the Bear River National Wildlife Refuge.
2. A proposal by Trout Unlimited to reconnect North Eden Creek on the East side of the lake, which will allow Bonneville Cutthroat Trout to move up into native spawning habitat.

We Submitted a grant proposal to the Utah Office of Recreation for \$560,000 thousand dollars to help with the bike path from Gus Rich Point down to Rendezvous Beach.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were reviewed and approved.

- **Albert Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 25th meeting, and the confirmation of cancelation of the February meeting.
Burdette Weston 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.

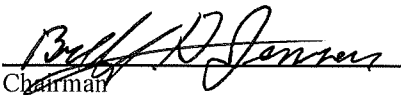
- **Albert Johnson made a motion to accept and approve payment of the March 2023 bills and payroll for the Bear Lake Regional Commission, along with the ratifying of the February bills.
Burdette Weston seconded the motion, motion carried.**

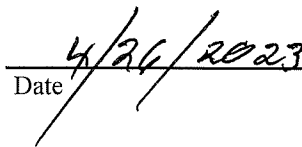
Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting ended at 8:34 p.m.

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

Minutes Approved:


Chairman


Date