

Bear Lake Regional Commission

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Minutes Bear Lake Regional Commission Garden City, UT Aug 30, 2023

Those in attendance:

Bradley Jensen - Board Chairman, Bear Lake County Commissioner
Sim Weston - Board Vice Chairman, Rich County Commissioner
Mike Leonhardt - Mayor of Garden City
Roy Bunderson- Mayor of Bloomington
Ron Jensen - Recreation
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

Excused:

Burdette Weston - Board Secretary Mayor of Laketown
Dan Fisher, City Council of Montpelier

Chairman Bradley Jensen conducted the August 30th, 2023 meeting of the Bear Lake Regional Commission, the meeting started at 7:40pm. following the Convention and Visitors Bureau meeting.

Approval of Agenda

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

- **Ron Jensen motioned to approve the agenda with an amendment to include a lakebed rules discussion.**
Albert Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried.

Audit Engagement Letter

- **Mike Leonhardt made a motion for Chairman Commissioner Brad Jensen to sign the Audit Engagement Letter with Gary H Teuscher for the 2023 fiscal year end audit.**
Albert Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried.

BLRC 50 Year Recap and Staff Report

The Regional Commission was organized 50 years ago and to commemorate the years of service to the Bear Lake Valley, the Commission reviewed its history, with Ken Brown giving a brief summary of some of the accomplishments and projects done in the early years. Ken has been part of the organization from the start and has served on the board most of those 50 years since.



Early in 1973 Governors, Cecil Andrus from Idaho and Calvin Rampton from Utah felt that the local entities would best serve this region due to their background and knowledge of the area and they established and committed to fund the Bear Lake Regional Commission to provide long-term direction and guidance in addressing the needs and problems of the Bear Lake area, to preserve and promote Bear Lake's environment and the Bear Lake Basin resources. Rich County Commissioner Grant Lamborn was the first Chairman of the Board.

Mitch followed up with more history, projects, accomplishments and some of the challenges the Commission has dealt with through the years.



Lake Bed Rules Discussion

There was discussion on the progress of rulemaking that will govern activities on the exposed lakebed in Idaho. Mitch Poulsen sits on that committee and provides input from the Bear Lake Regional Commission's perspective. Existing rules in Utah help to provide a framework for the entire lake. Garden City holds a lease with the State of Utah on the lakebed in the Garden City area from 200 North to Bluewater Beach. Mayor Mike Leonhardt explained the rules and the transportation guidelines that are set up on the Utah side. Mike explained that in Utah when the lake is low it is permissible to travel down but you must park 100 feet off the lakebed, and horizontal traffic is very limited. This year the State of Utah through the Department of Natural Resources has provided a law enforcement agent to help enforce these restrictions. Another difference between the states of Utah and Idaho is, Utah's Park Rangers are all State Law enforcement officers, Idaho's are not.

Mayor Mike pointed out some of the issues they have had regarding the enforcement of these rules on the leased area Garden City is responsible for. Property owners above the high-water mark along that leased area can come into the city and get a permit to use a tractor to take their boats from their property down to the water. Garden City provides people to help monitor parking and travel on the beach and trash pickup. Two years ago, due to lack of City employees to provide these services they had to keep the beach access closed. Mitch will get a copy of the Garden City Lease from Mike and send it to Brad and Roy.

Bear Lake County is working with the State of Idaho to do two things.

1. to create the ability between the State and the County to regulate the Sovern Lands below the high-water mark.
2. to create the rules that will be used by the County on the Sovern Lands. (This part will include public input)

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were reviewed and approved.

- **Mike Leonhardt made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 26th meeting.**
Ron Jensen 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.


- **Mike Leonhardt made a motion to accept and approve payment of the August 2023 bills and payroll for the Bear Lake Regional Commission**
Albert Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried.

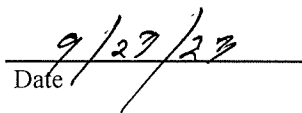
Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting ended at 9:05 p.m.

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

Minutes Approved:


Chairman


Date 9/27/23