



KANE COUNTY PUBLIC LANDS DEPARTMENT

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MINUTES

Resource Interagency Meeting

February 16, 2022

Conducting: Bart Battista

Attending: Taylor Glover, KC Public Lands
Clayton Cutler, KC Public Lands
Bart Battista, KC Resource Committee
Mike Noel, KC Resource Committee
Tony Wright, KC Resource Committee
Andy Gant, Commissioner
Byard Kershaw, KC Resource Committee, Randy Beckstrand, BLM
Spencer Rollo, Kane County Fire Warden

Absent: Matt Jenkins, Forest Service. Camille Johnson, Office of Tourism.
Kelly Stowell, KC Resource Committee

9:00 AM: **Call to order:** Bart Battista
Invocation: Tony wright
Pledge of Allegiance: Mike Noel

Agency Updates:

Randy Beckstrand:

He wanted to remind everyone about the travel management plans that they are still working on. He brought up the Wave walk-in lottery and it will be moved online to the daily lottery on rec.gov website. It should go live in March but no solid date is set yet. He addressed The Wave geo fence issues. Tony asked if he could explain the process in a little more detail. Randy said the biggest difference will be that it will free up some staff. The BLM has been directed to move a lot of these types of things online. It eventually will streamline the process.

Taylor talked a little bit about how many permits as well. There was a lot of discussion on the wave and how the permitting has been working. Lance asked if the people that put in and didn't draw, did they still have to pay the fee.

They talked about the in person training and how it is important to our community here. The in person training is very important to a lot of people. Taylor mentioned the search and rescue and that is a big thing to make sure that the hikers are trained. There was a lot of discussion about how the website will work.

Randy gave some updates on a few mastication projects the BLM is working on.

He wanted to talk a little bit about the East Zion non-motorized trails partnership. He said that the MOU has been signed and that Kelly Stowell should be bringing that to the Commission for approval soon.

Mike brought up the comment letter that the committee was going to submit about the 30x30 initiative.

Matt Jenkins-(Phone) He gave an update on a few Forest Service projects. Talked about some sewage treatment plans, and updates that will happen at the Phantom Ranch. On the North Rim they are doing some public comment on a highway project for the North Kiabab parking lot, updating some signage and some other things. He updated the snowpack levels on the North Rim. He said that Bison had been relocated from the Kiabab. Camille from the phone wanted to know about the progress on the opening of the Grand Canyon. She asked if Commissioner Gant would reach out to the congressional staff about this.

Billy Schott-GLNRA Superintendent: He wanted to talk about the drought and low water conditions at Lake Powell. It's at 3530 elevation. The last time it was this low in 1967, for comparison the Dam was completed in 1965. They plan to lose about 5-10 ft. in the next few weeks. That will get the water elevation below the 3525 for several weeks in March and April. There is limited access to Lake Powell right now and it is effecting the local economy and it has environmental impacts as well. Some of the gateway communities, including Kanab has a revenue of about 8 million that will be greatly affected along with some 5000 jobs will be impacted. He said that right now they have about 15 significant projects that are underway right now to help with the drought impacts. They have to do with infrastructure including the drinking wells. They are working with an engineering firm right now to improve or put in new ramp infrastructure out there. They are looking into long term solutions with a lot of these projects because it is near impossible to chase the water so to speak. They want to have things in place for the long term. He mentioned that they are removing the dangling rope marina for the year. They have no way to access dangling rope right now. They are looking for funds for some of these projects as well.

Mike asked about the Colorado River Compact. He asked if they are doing some of those water releases that doesn't go through the turbines. Mr. Schott said that it is all handled by the Bureau of Reclamation, and that they have recommended to them not to release that. But they do have to do some of these "high flow events" because of the good it does to the Grand Canyon, but that it is not "extra" water. It is water that is released according the compact, but that they just release the water differently to create these high flow events. It is being held back to protect Lake Powell right now.

He wanted to make clear that the water that is being released is not anymore. Mike said that he has read a letter from the compact about releasing more water and or restricting water to California and wanted to know if that is correct. He said he doesn't want to answer for the BR on water release levels and restrictions but that it will make a difference.

Taylor talked about dangling rope marina, he mentioned that the county would be willing to help in any way to get dangling rope up and running again. It was mostly a public safety issue. Mostly they are looking for funds. The dangling rope project will be on hold for now, until they see what they can get from the US Government. Some disaster relief things. They are looking for some funds from the disaster relief. This is the first time he is aware that this type of funds would be used for this water things.

Commissioner Gant spoke to the assistance that they may need. The County is willing to help in any way that that they can.

Spencer Rollo: He talked about some of the East Zion. They are trying to get more people up in to there. East Zion is a higher risk up there for fires. But that they are trying to get more visitors up there. He talked a little bit about Deer Springs and the Shared Stewardship project. He said that they are currently trying to get a project on the private land side and that they have everything in place to start the project. They have even put it out to bid already, but they did get shut down by the local government. Bart asked what the cause for the shutdown was. Spencer said that he hasn't yet got an explanation as to why. Andy asked who shut them down, he said it was the county attorney. So he said that he will get with Andy after the meeting. Mike wanted to let him know that if they are doing any projects and if they want to get the word out, he said that the water conservancy would put out a notice on the water bill to the residents in Duck Creek. He finished up on talking a little bit about the Shared Stewardship project and where they got some of that funding.

Taylor Glover – Talked about the 30x30 comment letter and how we will make some revisions because there are a few harsh words in that right now. Bart said lets clean it up a little bit as well. So the consensus was to make a few changes to the letter for now. Bart talked about the East Zion and how they wanted to remove a few trails and that we request a letter from the park.

Mike Noel- He talked a little bit about the cove reservoir update and how it is going so far. That a few resources have backed out in being some cooperating partners with the water conservancy in this project. He said that when you have a major flood, there will be no impact on the fish. Right now the irrigators use some water that also have no effect on the fish. He is saying that they have to get through the EIS to get this reservoir going.

Lance wanted to know why the Jackson Flat is actually getting more water right now.

Mike wanted to mention that Washington County is a partner in the Cove Reservoir.

Bart said that the water update is an important one and it should be on the agenda.

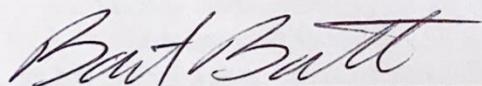
The Amangiri project out in Johnson Canyon will require more tanks out there in Johnson.

Byard mentioned about the letter that he had written to the BLM about the grazing. He asked if Clayton could send that out to everyone.

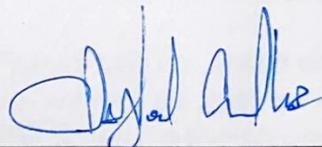
Mike wanted to tell Byard how he has appreciated everything that Byard has done in regards to keeping up with those issues about grazing.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting, motion was seconded.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:44 am.



Bart Battista- Resource Committee -Chair



Clayton Cutler- KCPLD