



**BREN Coordinating Team Meeting minutes**  
**July 12, 2016, 9:00 a.m.**  
**Garden City Library, Small Conference Room**

***Next meeting – September 13, 2016 at the Meridian City Hall***

Present: Phil Bandy, Tim Breuer, Tamsen Binggeli, Kati Carberry, Tom Chelstrom, Christy Meyer, Liz Paul, Derek Risso, Julie Scanlin, Christy Meyer, Mike Homza (guest) from Stream Line Design, Megan Dixon (guest) from the College of Idaho, Nicole Baird-Spencer (guest) from City of Eagle Planning

Not present: Mike Dimmick, Becky Yzaguirre, Bill Carr, Mike Somerville

**9:05 Welcome, Introductions and Approval of Minutes**

- May minutes approved by consensus

**9:10 Plan for upcoming BREN election**

- Our Coordinating Team election is this September; 6 members up for reelection. Mike Somerville is stepping down, but is very supportive of BREN and wants to stay involved. Phil Bandy has agreed to run the election this year. Chel can provide all of the documents and templates from last year. Election schedule:
  - August 1<sup>st</sup> - Announce seats up for election and post application
  - Sept 19<sup>th</sup> – Post list of candidates and voting mechanism
  - Sept 26<sup>th</sup> – Announce election results

**9:30 Guest Speaker, City of Eagle Planner, Nicole Baird-Spencer**

- Nichole Baird-Spencer is the lead developer for the new Eagle Comprehensive Plan.
- Phil is on the City of Eagle Comprehensive Planning Committee representing BREN.
- The plan update is termed the “Eagle is HOME project”. Eagle’s population has grown 130% since 2000, when the last comprehensive plan was adopted; an update is long overdue.
- There will likely be changes in how zoning is defined, allowing for more dense/mixed-use areas in areas where currently low density residential, for example.

- Also, parks currently make up 4% of the land area, and the new goal is 10%. Current maps also do not show parking and public access.
- There is support for improving buffers and riparian areas adjacent to the river; this would require emphasis in the comprehensive plan with underlying policies.
- Yes, Eagle would like to have more authority and tools to deal with environmental issues (such as the presence of an Eagle Nest near proposed development) – the comprehensive plan could provide guidance, specificity and durability.
- The plan could include ways to incentivize property owners to do ecological enhancement beyond just floodway protection.
- CT ideas:
  - The City of Eagle needs an ordinance prohibiting motorized use of the river.
  - The City needs to provide developed access for recreational use of the river including off Linder Road; off Eagle Road through the Laguna Point development; at the northwest side of Eagle Road in the southwest channel; and at Westover Lake Subdivision.
  - Developed access will decrease riparian and bank damage
  - Consider adding an easement to increase the greenbelt buffer.

**9:50 CT Project: Support BREN's seat on the Eagle Comprehensive Plan advisory committee**

- What do we see as successful and how can we best convey our recommendations? Create a Platform that includes Recreation, Habitat, and Floodplain. Update ordinances to include recommendations that we are making.
- We could talk to the Mayor about a proclamation.
- Conservation easements should no longer allow land management to be turned over to the sub-development. Right now the City of Eagle could fine HOA violations, but often choose not to; this could be made mandatory. Current HOA conservation agreements can be turned back to the City.
- There should be a ban on riprap. Bioengineered bank stabilization should be used instead.
- Parks and pathway groups should interact with planning and zoning.
- Focus on good development vs. any development. Focus on good pathways and access vs. no access or all access.
- We could present our ideas through the concept of Green Infrastructure, which includes natural areas, parks, cultural resources, important recreational areas and viewsheds. These areas are mapped and corridors/connections made between them. These maps make it is easy to see where growth should occur and where it should not be allowed.
- We should document the economic benefits of the Boise River. There are a lot of figures to support this.
- Coordinating Team members are to send their ideas to Phil to compile.

### **10:15 Outreach update including opportunities to volunteer to help with the BASH**

- Thursday July 21, 11:30am-1:30pm, “Boise River Fish Survey”, URS Building Executive Dining Room, 720 Park Blvd, 83712
- Wednesday August 3, 9:00am-1:00pm, Riparian enhancement volunteer project at the Idaho Shakespeare Festival, 5657 E. Warm Springs Ave, Boise, ID, 83716
- Wednesday August 10, (times not set), Idaho Environmental Forum (IEF) annual Boise River conference and float, Barber Park, 4049 S Eckert Rd, Boise, ID 83716
- Wednesday August 17, 5:30-7:00pm, Instream Habitat Project stakeholder engagement event, Barber Park (meeting near Eckert Bridge), 4049 S Eckert Rd, Boise, ID 83716
- Saturday October 1, morning, location TBD, BREN group for Boise Watershed Watch – they would like BREN to do a site towards Caldwell.
- Saturday October 8, 2:00-5:00pm, Boise River BASH, Garden City Library, 6015 N. Glenwood Street
  - Jennifer Stevens is out of town. Kati is trying to get Bruce Reichert to speak. Derek will also ask Chris Walser, Fisheries Biologist, from the College of Idaho. Another idea is someone from the Ridge to Rivers.

### **10:25 Website update**

- We have hired Michael Bishop of Act Up Media to create our new website
- The mock ups are beautiful and simple; the site should be up in a few weeks
- Tamsen will inquire about the upload limit on documents, size and total amount
- We will have a “Reports” page that will allow users to search documents associated with keywords, date, author and title.
- The “Boise River” page can house the water trail information and other links associated with the river (i.e. water levels).

### **10:35 Fundraising and Sponsorship work**

- Current BREN Funds - \$4,252.51
- All money comes from sponsorships from last year; all of the grants we applied for have not been funded thus far.
- Therefore, is it very important we obtain BREN sponsors
- Please use the letter template and BREN accomplishments document, and update the spreadsheet when you have contacted a potential sponsor
- Sponsors can give via the “donate” button on our website or via check. Whitney can help them through the process.
- Whitney will make sure to send a letter/receipt to all sponsors

### **10:50 Member and public comment time**

- The Mayor of Boise has appointed a committee for the Clean Water and Open Space Levy – we should send welcome letters along with a copy of the Boise River Enhancement Plan. Tim will attend meeting with Liz Paul with Sara Arkle from the City to offer BREN’s assistance.

- Liz has been working on a 319 non-point source pollution abatement grant utilizing green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) with the Riverside Hotel and the Ada Soil and Water Conservation District. Total project cost is \$355,600; \$198,000 will be provided by 319 funds and \$150,000 is the required match, in which the Riverside Hotel is providing \$100,000 annually. Derek is knowledgeable with GSI and willing to help with this project. BREN is willing to provide \$1,500 of matching in-kind donations.
- Megan Dixon said thanks for sponsoring her students' presentation in May. There was a great turnout with a very diverse group.
- Tim was contacted by Treasure Valley Partnership, wanted someone to talk about pathways on the river. They have the ability to touch a lot of people. Mayors and representatives of cities. Have Mayor of Caldwell talk. If anyone wants to come they are welcome.
- Derek, Tamsen and Tim gave a presentation on BREN and the Boise River Enhancement Plan at the River Management Symposium - River Management Society (RMS) and the Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals (SORP) in May. There were a lot of agency folks from all over the country that attended and the presentation was well received. Gary Grimm gave a presentation on the Boise River Water Trail. Liz Paul led a bike ride along the Greenbelt. Derek used an online presentation format called Slate; Derek will forward the link to the Coordinating Team.
- Tamsen will send out a link to the ESRI Green Infrastructure app, booklet and presentation for those interested in learning more.
- The City of Boise is writing the Ann Morrison Park Master Plan and are in the process of taking public comment.