



**BREN Coordinating Team Meeting minutes  
September 13, 2016, 9:00 a.m.  
Meridian City Hall, Conference Room B**

***Next meeting – November 8, 2016 at Ecosystem Sciences office***

Present: Phil Bandy, Tim Breuer, Tamsen Binggeli, Tom Chelstrom, Mike Dimmick, Liz Paul, Derek Risso, Whitney Byrd, Mike Homza (guest), and Jim Nunley (guest)

Not present: Becky Yzaguirre, Bill Carr, Kati Carberry, Christy Meyer, Julie Scanlin, and Mike Somerville

**9:15 Welcome and Introductions**

- At the start of the meeting we did not have a quorum; July minutes were not approved.

**9:20 Update on website**

- Our new website is [www.boiseriverenhancement.org](http://www.boiseriverenhancement.org) (no longer at .net)
- An email was sent to members to update password when prompted.
- The new website features our sponsors and prompts guests to join and support BREN.
- The new website gives members access to post to the forum and add events

**9:30 Update on BREN Election**

- Phil Bandy is running the election
- The ballot needs to be finalized, election items added to the website and Survey Monkey set up prior to Monday, September 19th, at which time Whitney will send out an email to BREN members to vote.

**9:40 CT Project: Support BREN's seat on the Eagle Comprehensive Plan advisory committee**

- At our last meeting we determined that BREN should create a platform that includes recreation, habitat and floodplain recommendations for the Eagle Comprehensive Plan committee
- Christy Meyer was not able to attend but provided the following notes to add to this discussion:

- Most importantly – maintain existing habitat – riparian revegetation, off channel habitat (sloughs, alcoves, and side channels), instream complexity (wood, boulders). It is much easier to protect currently functioning habitat than it is to create new habitat.
- Restoration should focus on
  - Riparian revegetation
  - Increased river channel complexity (i.e. connect floodplains, large wood structures in stream, side channel excavation)
  - Winter flow restoration
  - Ag Best Management Practices on any remaining agricultural land.
- Encourage smart placement of pathways – we do not need a path on both sides of the river or to every island.
- Eagle just finished their Park Comprehensive Plan
- Chel shows a map and discusses the need for improved recreation management along the river.
  - Within area of Eagle there are over a dozen frequently used volunteer river access trails; none are marked or maintained for recreation.
  - A few planned and maintained access points are better than many volunteer access points.
  - Established access points are needed in both north and south channels.
  - Eagle Island State Park doesn't provide any river access
- The City of Eagle will continue to grow and more and more people will want to access the river. We need to plan for that. Access should be available, managed, and maintained.
- Additional issues to be addressed:
  - Include what happens when development occurs? There needs to be set requirements; even playing field.
  - Include recommendations that conservations easements be managed by the city or land trust rather than managed by HOAs.
  - Include recommendations that bioengineered bank stabilization should be used instead of rip rap.
- Work with Comp Plan Steering Committee; Continue to work with Mike Aho and Mike Williams
- Other partners:
  - Work with irrigators on portages
  - Involve flood district, just finished strategic plan
  - Bring in FACTS - Becky volunteered to join in on those meetings. Chel has gone in the past
- Overall, BREN's platform will focus primarily on planning for river recreation (floating, fishing, pathways, access, etc.) as this will lead to benefits to riparian habitat and floodplain function. Recommendations on development, easements, restoration, and other issues will take a less prominent role.
- ***Phil will write up a summary of BREN's platform and send to the CT for review.***

### **10:30 BREN Market Research Study**

- The Anchor Subcommittee was tasked to perform a market research study on local environmental non-profits to identify where BREN fits in and how BREN can distinguish itself from other nonprofits.
- For this study, 20 local environmental nonprofits were surveyed – looking at program activities, funding sources, personnel and marketing.
- To improve BREN’s presence and success we recommend the following:
  - Engage in activities that result in on-the-ground projects, research and data acquisition (i.e. monitoring) to add value and set BREN apart from other nonprofits
  - Expand the Boise River BASH fundraising event or consider having an additional event/campaign
  - Continue to pursue year-round sponsors and grants
  - Identify services that we could get paid for and advertise them
  - Consider hiring an employee when BREN reaches around \$50,000/year in revenue
  - Communicate with our members via news updates, blogs and social media
  - Develop a tagline that can be used to market our organization

### **10:45 Boise River BASH**

- ***Everyone needs to come!***
- We need more sponsors! Follow-up if needed.
- Volunteers of the Year Awards (email Tamsen to add)
  - John Heimer
  - Karlin Dennis, Boise High student that implemented riparian enhancement project
  - Roger Rosentreter
  - Rob Tiedemann
  - Ken Miracle
  - Kathy Peter
  - Idaho River Sports
  - Lynda Johnson, The Riverside Hotel

### **10:55 Riverside Hotel Project opportunity**

- The Riverside Hotel is installing green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) on their property to reduce stormwater runoff into the Boise River. They are also enhancing the riparian habitat along approximately 700 feet of the greenbelt adjacent to their property.
- BREN is hosting an event next Tuesday (Show and Tell)

- Roger Rosentreter will be speaking about the riparian enhancement effort. Roger provided expertise on the current condition of the vegetation, removal of invasive and the type, location and timing of vegetation planting.
- BREN would like to follow up with a volunteer effort (planned for November) to do some of the planting/stewardship

**11:05 Member and public comment time**

- Star is talking about putting a boat launch River N above Star Bridge. Chel- Star does not have non-motorized ordinance, which could be a problem in the future with new boat launch.
- There is a ribbon cutting for new section of Greenbelt between Riverside hotel and Americana on Friday, September 16th.