

## Priest River Watershed Group Steering Committee Meeting Notes

October 19, 2023 from 3:30 – 5:30 pm

West Bonner County Library

Members Present: Erin Plue (TU); Sean Stash (boating); Jennifer Ekstrom (ICL); Paul Sieracki (IETF); Amy Anderson (SCA); Pam Duquette (PR); Allan Songstad (PL); Kyle Maki (IWF); Hank Jones (fishing guide); Better Gardner (PR).

The group reviewed the PRWG accomplishments over the last 10 months and shared some of the highlights of the September field trip. The meeting was mainly comprised of a lengthy group discussion and brainstorm on next steps. It was agreed that moving into a more “action” phase of the PRWG is desired and that development of a strategic plan would benefit the group moving forward. Listed below are the decisions made and action items moving forward.

- The whole steering committee will continue to meet on a monthly basis with the reoccurring meeting date on the **first Thursday of each month at 4:30 – 6:30 pm at the West Bonner County Library**. This pattern will start on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>.
- It is understood that the Kalispel Tribe will continue working on developing Watershed Assessments for the Lower Priest Basin and will report to the PRWG on developments as this progresses.
- Erin will try to line up an info session for November. She will put together a press release to share with Betty and others to distribute to the media and other stakeholders.
- The group decided to move forward with hiring a facilitator/coordinator to guide a strategic planning process, facilitate meetings, and help to coordinate members. Erin will share the RFP language for the Scope of Work for this position next week for the members to review and make suggestions on. Erin will then float the RFP.
- If you know of any consultants, University programs, or any individuals with skills for filling the above position, please share contact info with Erin so she can share the RFP with these people.
- The intended goal for the December meeting is to learn from and about other Watershed Groups and to share some existing strategic plan templates to review to discuss a best fit for the PRWG. Hank committed to helping to secure speakers for this meeting.
- Erin notified the group that Liz Johnson-Gebhardt had resigned from the PRWG Steering Committee. This brings the voting membership down to 13 voting members and a quorum required down to 10. This is a minor decrease from 78% required with 14 members and now it's 76%. This is still above  $\frac{3}{4}$ 's membership participation for the a quorum.

These are a summary of actions decided upon. There was significant conversation that shaped this plan moving forward. Feel free to reach out to Erin if you have questions about details of the conversation. There will be time at the beginning of the December meeting to review next steps.