The Boise City Open Space and Clean Water Advisory Committee (Committee) met Thursday, February 7, 2019 in the Boise Depot Meeting Station. Boise City Members Present: Council Member Elaine Clegg; Rob Lockward, Boise City Legal; Chloe Sallabanks, Clerk.

I. \textbf{CALL TO ORDER:}

Committee Vice Chair Stacey Donohue called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. \textbf{ATTENDANCE:}

\begin{itemize}
  \item[A.] Roll Call
  \begin{itemize}
    \item Present: Peter Pengilly, Matt Cryer, Jeremy Maxand, Stacey Donohue, Michelle Meyers, Scott Raeber and Kathryn Elliott
    \item Absent: Katy Jibben and Brooke Green
  \end{itemize}
\end{itemize}

III. \textbf{IN THE MATTER OF NEW BUSINESS}

\begin{itemize}
  \item[A.] \textbf{Minutes – January 3, 2019}
  \begin{itemize}
    \item \textbf{MOTION:} Committee moved to recommend approval of the January 3, 2019 Open Space and Clean Water Advisory Committee Minutes to Boise City Council.
    \item \textbf{RESULT:} APPROVED
    \item \textbf{MOVER:} J. Maxand
    \item \textbf{SECOND:} S. Raeber
    \item \textbf{AYES:} Unanimous
    \item \textbf{ABSENT:} K. Jibben and B. Green
  \end{itemize}
  \item[B.] \textbf{2018 Improvement Projects – Boise City Council Update}
  \begin{itemize}
    \item Summary: The department presented the committee’s improvement project recommendation to Boise City Council on January 29 and February 5. City Council approved the committee’s recommendation to fund Idaho Transportation Department’s wildlife overpass project on Highway 21.
    \item E. Clegg noted the deliberation City Council had about funding improvement projects outside of Boise City limits and its ultimate decision that the correct internal review process was followed. Council Members expressed interest in spending the funds on well-qualified projects, and wished to seek out more applicants on a year-round basis.
  \end{itemize}
\end{itemize}
No motion necessary as the item was informational.

C. Presentation - Idaho Fish & Game Fisheries Specialist

Summary: Art Butts, Restoration and Conservation Coordinator for the Idaho Fish & Game Department (IDFG), presented on the Lower Boise River Fisheries.

The Lower Boise River was described as the area from Lucky Peak Dam to the Snake River (about 64 miles of river) and stretched between Barber Dam and Middleton. Historically, the Lower Boise River was known as a prolific fishery with good water quality for salmon, steelhead, lamprey and other salmonid fish. The river quality degraded in the 1960s from pollutants, slaughter house waste and shutdown water flows. A 1974 IDFG survey found that only six (6) percent of fish were game fish, with few Wild Trout. The Clean Water Act of 1977 had a positive effect on the Boise River; water temperature evened out and sediment flows were reduced.

A. Butts explained the Boise River functioned differently than a natural river. Dry fly-type insect species were absent in the Lower Boise River, which could alter aquatic insect habitat and behavior.

IDFG monitors trout with a triennial recapture process. Trout are marked with a hole-punch in the fin, then are monitored on their return passes. There was a dramatic increase in wild Rainbow Trout density between 1994 and 2010 that had since stabilized. A raft survey that was completed in 2015 and 2016 tagged wild trout to better evaluate angler use and harvest rates. The raft survey method searches larger regions (Highway 21 Bridge to Middleton) and marks fish with tags. The 2016 survey found eighty-four (84) percent of the species composition was wild Rainbow Trout, fourteen (14) percent was wild Brown Trout and two (2) percent was hatchery Rainbow Trout. The harvest rates on wild Rainbow Trout were low.

IDFG analyzes fry (baby fish) to learn where fish species are being produced. Most of the Brown and Rainbow Trout were being produced in tributaries and side channel habitats; IDFG studied the relationship between river flows and hatching times. A. Butts emphasized the importance of flow management for fish population health.

He explained hatchery stocking and stated that about 32,000 catchable Rainbow Trout are stocked annually. Steelhead stocking was highly popular in the Lower Boise River.

The group discussed the Barber Dam mitigation effort and bank establishment projects.

A. Butts described some areas for improvement along the Lower Boise River. Channels and encroachment issues were common in the region and effected things like water temperatures and fish populations.
S. Donohue questioned if IDFG was concerned about diversion dams creating a loss in fish populations, to which A. Butts answered Idaho State Law required each diversion to be screened which reinforced fish habitats.

J. Maxand questioned what kinds of improvement projects should be the most important for the committee to consider. A. Butts stated that side channels and high-water flows forced a lot of sediment to move which could create dry side channels. An opportunity to force water through those dry channels would benefit the overall flow of the river and could create winter habitat for trout. A. Butts felt it was important to spread the word that development along the river should be minimized, as wildlife habitat is heavily affected.

The committee discussed the presentation and shared questions with A. Butts.

No motion necessary as the item was informational.

V. **IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

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<td>S. Raeber</td>
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<td>SECONDER:</td>
<td>K. Elliott</td>
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Katy Jibben, Chair