



GM Minutes April 3, 2019

12pm Ponderosa Conference Room

- **Call to Order:**

President, Ashley Steinbruecker, called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

- **Minutes:**

Cleo Castellanos read the minutes and made a motion to approve as written. Danny Lund 2nd the motion. All were in favor and minutes were approved as written.

- **Guests:**

Ben Ballard, Real Estate Manager for PotlachDeltic Timber Company in Idaho; Gus Garbe, Lead Ranger at Dworshak and Colten Shimer, new Ranger at Dworshak; Cindy Miller, new agent for The Real Estaters; and Tye Barnette with Tye Barnett Remodeling.

- **Announcements:**

- LCSC Outreach Center will be putting on a Writer Workshop April 11th-25th. The cost is \$20 and is on Thursday 5:30-6:30pm. There is additional information on the flyers and on our website.
- CMPLF luncheon supporting the Orofino Library on April 13th, 2019. \$25 a ticket and there are a few flyers here up front you can take.
- Lolo Trail Muzzleloader Club Spring Fling is May 4th, 2019. Cost is \$7 per person; more info can be found on their flyer up front and on our website under events.
- Pickin' on the Clearwater – Lewis & Clark Bluegrass Organization 6th Annual Camp & Jam will be May 30th-June 2nd. More information is provided on the flyer and on our website.
- Volunteers needed for Court Appointed Special Advocates 2nd Judicial District. CASA advocates for the best interest of the Children who have been abused, neglected, and abandoned. We are the voice of the children. There is a flier upfront with a phone number you can call to volunteer.
- April is Child Abuse Prevention Month.
- Clearwater River Jet Boat Race of 2019 has been approved. They are now looking for event sponsors. We have a few copies of their sponsorship packages here up front if you'd like to take one.
- Clearwater Valley Hospital – Doc Talk on April 24th at 6 p.m. with Dr. Lima at the Orofino Health Center discussing Diabetes Prevention and Awareness.

- CVH - Blood Drive will take place on April 25th at the Orofino Health Center and will be in the classroom, not on the bus.
- **Drawing for Free Lunch:** Our lucky winner for the free lunch drawing was Connie Robison.



- **Executive Director Report: Tessa Mullinix**

MEMEBERSHIP INFO:

We have 95 paid members so far and 2nd invoices have been sent out.

RE-LOCATION PACKETS:

I sent out only one this last month to Olympia, Washington.

COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP UPDATE – April 27th

Planning is underway and we are in the middle of confirming all events taking place as well as making our calls to individuals, organizations and businesses confirming their area of clean-up and how many will be joining us for lunch at the park.

CHAMBER AUCTION – May 3rd

Items and sponsors are being collected and contacted. So far we have P1FCU, US Bank, Atkinson Distributing, Clearwater Valley Hospital, Nightforce, Inland Cellular and Clearwater County Land Title partnering with Township Development Company as our event/Table Sponsors.

If there are any businesses or individuals that want to donate, you can pick up a form here today and make arrangements with Tessa or call the chamber office at 208-476-4335. We hope to have items displayed at Banner Bank by end of next week.

I am currently working on buying vacation packages with money that has been donated for the event and will advertise in the newspaper and online.

Some items that have already come in as donations are: BSU Football tickets, WSU Football tickets, a night's stay at the Grove Hotel in Boise along with 2 Idaho steelhead Hockey Tickets. We also have a plane ride, a helicopter ride and a night's stay at the Best Western Lodge at River's Edge. We also have many other vacation packages we are currently working on that will be up for bid at the event.

Tickets are being sold at P1FCU, Banner Bank, LCCU & the Chamber office. I have tickets here today that you can purchase. Each ticket includes one catered dinner by Fiesta En Jalisco and a free drink.

Letter of Support for Jet Boat races:

At our last GM meeting, it was voted on and approved to write a letter of support for the jet boat races put on by our Clearwater Jet Boat Club. This letter was written and picked up by Chris Barger.

EVENTS – Community Calendar

I sent out a message through iContact about our community events calendar. I had a few businesses respond, and I was able to add their events to our calendar on our website. Remember, if you have an event, please let me know by email or phone call and I will get it added to our community calendar as soon as possible.

ROTARY GUEST SPEAKER

I was asked to be a guest speaker at the Rotary meeting two weeks ago on behalf of the chamber. It went very well and I was given a lot of feedback from them that was very beneficial for me, as the Executive Director for the Chamber of Commerce.

NCITA/ITC

I attended an NCITA Board meeting two weeks ago in Pendleton and we were able to go over budgets for the 2019-2020 Grant Application as well as moving forward improving the NCITA Website.

WEBCAMS

I contacted Hayden Zywina two weeks ago, and as soon as he can break away from school we are going to meet and go over webcam options for Orofino.

VENDOR TRAINING:

The Chamber recently established a contract with the Correctional Institute and all vendors that use inmate labor are required to attend a vendor training class every year. I plan to attend this meeting with ICIO tomorrow, April 4th.

- **Committee Reports**

- **CCED – Chris St. Germaine’s Report:**
 - **Update from Chris:**

On my way out the driveway this morning I saw the first crocus of the season. Even a die-hard snow lover like me appreciates the burst of color from spring flowers. In Clearwater County the flowers of our economic development efforts are also budding; in March we worked with six folks looking to start up new businesses. One start up is already bringing in revenue, two are set to go in government contracting. If you or you know someone interested in being their own boss, we are holding a Business Boot Camp – April 18 at Orofino LCSC Outreach Center (call 476-5731 to register).

In our business retention-expansion program we are excited to see dirt moving at Miller Marine – as they work to grow and expand services for fishing & water based recreation. Additional BRE work is supporting four additional business expansion projects.

Project development work in March should yield infrastructure-community & workforce development wins in April – May (but we never count grant \$ until it’s awarded)... efforts in consideration include: Orofino Skate Park, Orofino Business Center expansion, High 5 Idaho – Community Transformation. In Elk River we are looking forward to ground breaking for the new fire station!

The efforts to fill the place of Shopko continue as we work with Capital Growth – property owners in targeting suitable replacements. We are listening to all ideas and want to see a rapid reuse/redevelopment effort. Contact us at the office 208-476-9829 or by email ecodev@clearwatercounty.org.

- **Legislative Committee**
- **Welcoming’s**
None

- **Special Events:**

- Community Clean up
 - April 27th



- Annual Chamber Auction
 - Friday, May 3rd, 2019



- Maniac Dam Race
 - Saturday, June 1st, 2019



- **New Business:**
None

- **Guest Speaker:**

Paul Pence, Natural Resource Manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was the guest speaker at the regularly scheduled Chamber of Commerce meeting held April 3. Pence shared he had addressed the chamber for the first time, 21 years ago. Pence said that he has witnessed many of the changes which have taken place at Dworshak, some were more exciting than others. He recalls those first years as rather contentious times; the City of Orofino had just sued the Corps of Engineers for the water drawdown.

Today, Chamber members heard the latest news regarding recreation and volunteers, water levels, trail developments, the Youth Conservation Corps or (YCC), the Ahsahka Timber Sale, the nutrient program and elk management at Dworshak Reservoir as well as a campground concessions business opportunity at Dent campground.

Beginning with the basic dimensions of the reservoir to give one an idea of just how big the reservoir is, Pence reminded chamber members that the reservoir was 54 miles long, had 184 miles of shoreline, 17,000 acres of water, 30,000 acres of land,

The Corps manages a portion of that land, 9,000 acres in the Grandad area specifically for Elk mitigation or habitat.

The Corps owns and funds the Dworshak National Hatchery. Fish and Wildlife Services and the Nez Perce Tribe run it.

Dworshak offers a wide range of recreational opportunities to include, fishing, camping, hiking, boating, hunting, and horse riding.

Water levels

Despite all those February snow storms this year, water levels are 89 percent of normal on the North Fork of the Clearwater. The reservoir is rising slowly; we are not expecting any major flush or drawdowns.

Trail developments

Currently established at Dworshak State Park, is the 10 mile Big Eddy Trail which leads to the Big Eddy Recreation Area north of Dworshak Dam. After crossing a small peninsula, this trail predominantly follows the reservoir's shoreline.

Another hike can be accessed south of Dworshak Dam. Merry's Bay Trail winds along the south shoreline of Dworshak Reservoir for 0.8 miles.

The Canyon Creek Trail is a suitable option for families. At just one mile roundtrip, this trail begins near Canyon Creek Camp-ground and wanders near the south shoreline.

Additional work was invested in the Canyon Creek trail to make it a great horse trail as well.

Crews with the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) helped to replace one of the bridges on Canyon Creek, under the supervision of Bart Jones.

Another trail begins near the Wells Bench Road. At 2.5 miles one-way, the Cold Springs Trail leads to the Cold Springs Group Camp while following the reservoir's shoreline. Each of the trails mentioned above offer outstanding vistas of the reservoir, and fishing opportunities abound along the shore.

Phase 1 of Elk Creek Meadows trail is complete, with Phase 2 and 3 to come. Other trails to be developed in the near future are Evans Creek and Magnus Bay ATV trails.

Volunteers

The audience learned that volunteers have contributed 78,000 hours of time equivalent to \$1.8 million in services in the past 11 years at Dworshak.

Pence asked chamber members if they had ever managed volunteers, and noted that it was a lot different from managing employees. "They can leave at any time, and they don't always show up. It's so important to make them feel like part of

the team and given valuable work, in order to keep them. We've been so fortunate in the volunteers who return year after year to help."

Timber sales

"Present timber sales are unlike the early days when they were first filling the reservoir," Pence explained, "We don't cut trees to produce 2x4's, we cut trees for forest health, wildlife habitat, and fuels reduction."

The area near Eureka Ridge is heavily stocked with trees and needs to be thinned, to better protect the many homes and residents who live there. "We try to remove the tree species which would have naturally been taken out every seven to 25 years by unrestrained wildfires."

Pence explained how the ponderosa pine ecosystems have changed dramatically in the past century largely due to the curtailment of natural fire.

The Ahsahka Timber sale for 2019-2020 is in progress at Merry's Bay. Pence noted that hikers should watch for signs posted regarding trails being temporarily closed for active logging. The logging site and roads will be cleaned up and the area replanted once they are finished.

Nutrient program

"Anyone here remember the days of blue-green algae?" asked Pence. Hands were raised. There were quite a few in the audience who did.

"We have successfully come out of a pilot project for aquatic restoration," said Pence. "The water behind the dam is no longer visited by spawning salmon or steelhead, resulting in a loss of marine derived nutrients."

Pence noted that the water in lakes and reservoirs were different, especially deep reservoirs where nutrients remain on the bottom, resulting in an imbalance of nitrogen and phosphorous in the water.

At Dworshak, low concentrations of nitrogen fertilizer are added once a week to the reservoir in spring, summer and fall. Adding fertilizer nutrients has a positive impact on the aquatic species food chain. It reverses the steady decline in nutrients and improves the nutrient-poor reservoir environment.

Elk management

Following the construction of the dam, Wildlife biologist Dick Moore oversaw the restoration of the elk habitat. The harvest and burning of thousands acres surrounding the reservoir provided great browsing for the elk, but the plant that was especially favored by elk was the Red Stem Ceanothus. Though the seeds live anywhere from 300 to 500 years in the soil, elk were eating the new growth before the young plants could go to seed.

New plants were fenced off, several acres at a time for a period of five years or so, allowing plants to mature and stabilize. Once plants are sufficiently established, three sides of the fence are moved to enclose a new section of ground.

"We strive to make Dworshak State Park the best resource for any given water level so we can enjoy it all year long. We love having special events like the car show, the Maniac Fun Run, and the fishing tournaments and are always looking at other events.

We have decreased costs through in-house labor, volunteers, and the Youth Conservation Corps.

We have a quality resource with clean, well-kept facilities, and last but not least strong community relations."

- **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 p.m.