



**BENTON COUNTY PARK BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

June 14, 2022, 6:00 p.m.  
Benton County Administration Building

**Board Members Present**

Dave McNeal, Vice Chair  
Karla Brown, Secretary  
Robin Emmingham, Member  
Kit McBurney, Member  
Sarah Funk, Member  
Yessica Rosas, Member

**Benton County Employees**

Adam Fyall  
Peggy Brown  
Juan Manzo  
Robert Blain

**Board Members Absent**

Laauli Faamausili, Chair (excused)

**Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call**

Vice Chair, Dave McNeal, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Review & Approval of Agenda**

The June 14, 2022 amended agenda was approved as submitted.

**Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of April 12, 2022 were approved as submitted.

## Monthly Reports to the Board

### Chair's Report

There was no report at this time. However, Chairman Faamausili is looking to move forward with ongoing projects.

### Committee/Subcommittee Reports

There were no significant reports at this time. It was reported that there has been limited committee and subcommittee activity due to needing approval to move forward from other entities.

### Staff Reports

Juan Manzo: Mr. Manzo informed the board that the restroom at Two Rivers is in terrible shape. He will give more attention to the restroom issue during the meeting.

Adam Fyall: Mr. Fyall informed the board that Mr. Beckwith, Beckwith Consulting, will be coming to Tri-Cities on Wednesday, June 15, 2022 to tour the county parks. He also mentioned that the law enforcement range at the shooting facility will go out to the bid process. He informed the board that the county hired a new construction manager that would be able to help with some of the upcoming projects.

## Business

- **Higgins Field Pump:**

Dick McGrew, MAA, informed the board the bearings in the irrigation pump at Higgins Field is going out causing low pressure which doesn't allow any watering at the facility. The lack of water has hindered usage of the facility for some events. Since the county is substantially invested in the club, MAA was hoping that the county would be willing to help financially to replace the pump. Member Brown motioned to approve the irrigation pump replacement at Higgins Field. Member Funk seconded the motion and upon vote it carried unanimously.

- **Comprehensive Parks Plan:**

As Adam mentioned at the outset, Tom Beckwith and his assistant will be touring all the

county parks on Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. By visiting the parks, Mr. Beckwith hopes to get a good lay of the land as well as photos of the parks and a thorough assessment of all the properties and their needs. The "kick off" meeting for the Comprehensive Parks Plan is scheduled for Tuesday, May 28, 2022 at the Administration Building beginning at 6:30 pm. The chief topic will be prioritizing park projects.

- **Horse Camp at Horn Rapids:**

Guest, Sean McKenna, (RRR) spoke with the board about upgrading the Horse Camp at Horn Rapids by installing a corral system so riders would have a place to put their horses. The idea is to use recycled material-steel, cable, and posts set in concrete to build a 15'x30' structure and keep the corral as low maintenance as possible. The estimated cost would be between \$1,600-\$1,800 for one camp area corral. If the corral was a success, then build more as needed. Rattlesnake Ridge Riders would contribute monetarily as well as the labor along with monies contributed by the county. The board liked the idea of the corral but would like the Benton County Risk Manager to check the safety issues of the corral design. The board would like to discuss this matter further at a future meeting.

- **Two Rivers Park-observation/discussion:**

Benton County staff and Member Emmingham agree that the restroom at Two Rivers is in rough condition, especially given the time of the year. The door jambs are broken, and the building has been severely vandalized. The issue with the restroom remains with the permitting. Robert Blain mentioned that we're still waiting on the Shoreline permits. He hopes to have them by the end of the summer. The building as it sits now is in a flood zone. The elevation needs to be raised by two feet. The permits from the Corps of Engineers will take longer. Member Emmingham proposed to close the current restroom and add portable facilities to the park with an extra service day to empty the portable toilets. The board would like to research this option further. The nature trail also needs work. It's overgrown and needs to be cleaned up. The plan is to hold the July park board meeting at Two Rivers.

## **Public Comments/Poll of the Board/Adjournment**

### **Public Comment:**

Cindy Faith (PSR) asked if the Comprehensive Park Plan included plans for Hover Park, more than just the parking lot. She wants the park to be enjoyable for everyone, not just the horse riders.

Mickie Chamness (NPS) mentioned that there are no local field trips scheduled, but field trips to the Blue Mountains are scheduled into July. If it's ok with the Noxious Weed Control Board, the Native Plant Society Chapter would like to document the use of Battalion on cheatgrass and its impact on native plants.

Dan Chappel (RRR) wanted to let everyone know that Linda Smith didn't make the meeting due to an injury. The Prize Ride event didn't go as well as hoped. There weren't as many attendees as in the past. There were additional expenses that weren't anticipated.

Michael Seelinger wanted to introduce the AirSoft activity and what they do. AirSoft is kind of like playing paint ball, but with plastic BB-type pellets instead of paint. For the most part, bio-degradable pellets are used at the park. Being safety conscious is a big part of the group's game play. The group also contributed to the latest clean-up at Hover. The board would like AirSoft to come and do a presentation at a future meeting, possibly acquiring another park partner.

#### **Poll of the Board:**

Robin Emmingham hopes this meeting is a beginning of a new relationship with AirSoft. He wanted to thank Adam for putting Two Rivers on the agenda. He's looking forward to getting the restroom issue resolved. He's enjoying the section of the nature trail that the county has kept up.

Karla Brown enjoyed the meeting. She wanted to thank everyone for their hard work. She wanted to thank everyone for approving the motion to replace the pump at Higgins Field.

Sarah Funk enjoyed the good meeting. She appreciated all the guests and park partners. She's looking forward to the "Kick Off" tour.

Kit McBurney enjoys all the park partners. She hopes that vandalism at the parks will be a topic of discussion on the tour with Mr. Beckwith.

Yessica Rosas is looking forward to new park partners.

Dave McNeal sees a lot of opportunity with the park plan to gain more park partners. He mentioned that a dog retriever group was out at Horn Rapids working with their dogs. We could look at different diverse groups to add as park partners.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.

**A special meeting** will be held on the fourth Tuesday in June at the Administration Building.