

## **Wind River Visitors Council (WRVC) Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, September 22, 2022**

**Room 116, Intertribal Education & Community Center Building (CWC), Riverton**

**PRESENT:** Randy Lahr – Dubois; Hal Herron – Riverton; Helen Gordon – Hudson; Frank Welty – Dubois; Julie Buller – Riverton; Owen Sweeney – Lander; Krista Lobera – Lander; Kip Post – County; Joel Highsmith – Shoshoni; Cy Lee – County (Arrived at 10:19 a.m.)

**ABSENT:** None

**WRVC STAFF:** Helen Wilson, Melanie Hoefle

**GUESTS:** Gary Weisz – Shoshoni; Mayor Richard Gard – Riverton; Samuel Tower – WYRiverton Chamber of Commerce; Ryan Preston – Riverton; Janet Winslow – Riverton; Jennifer Marshall Weydeveld – Dubois (via Zoom)

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Randy Lahr called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. A quorum was present.

**REVIEW & APPROVE AGENDA:** A request was made by Helen Gordon to remove item number 9-C on the Agenda, discussion about the budget approval process, as this will fall under the tasks of the budget committee. Hal Herron moved, and Helen Gordon seconded to approve the revised Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

### **OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS:**

- A. Kip Post took his oath of office in front of the Board of Directors.
- B. Krista Lobera took her oath on August 3, 2022. The oath was witnessed by Randy Lahr and Owen Sweeney.

**APPROVAL OF JULY 28, 2022 MINUTES:** Hal Herron moved, and Helen Gordon seconded to approve the Minutes as submitted. Frank Welty abstained from the vote. Motion carried unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Helen Gordon presented the Treasurer's Report.

- A. The Board asked questions about health insurance, telephone expenses and retirement, which appear in the Statement of Activities section of the Financial Report. Helen Gordon and Helen Wilson will review.
- B. Hal Heron moved, and Owen Sweeney seconded to approve the Financial Report. Motion carried unanimously.

**TAD REPORT (Lander):**

A. Owen Sweeney presented Lander's annual TAD report.

**SUPPORT FREMONT COUNTY TOURISM COALITION (PAC)—REPORT FROM RYAN PRESTON:** Ryan Preston gave a presentation about the Support Fremont County Tourism Coalition (the WRVC's PAC.) Marketing efforts include display ads, radio ads and social media marketing. Ryan will also be speaking on a radio show (Let's Talk Fremont) on WyoToday.

**WRVC SECRETARY RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Joel Highsmith moved and Kip Post seconded to nominate Julie Buller for Secretary. Helen Gordon moved to nominate Hal Herron and cease further nominations, and Owen Sweeney seconded. Motions carried unanimously.

The nominated candidates discussed the reasons that they think they would fit the position of the WRVC Secretary, and a discussion took place.

The Board took a vote between the two candidates. Helen Gordon, Randy Lahr, Cy Lee, Owen Sweeney and Frank Welty voted for Hal Herron. Joel Highsmith and Kip Post voted for Julie Buller. Julie Buller, Hal Herron and Krista Lobera did not vote. Hal Herron received the majority of the votes and is the WRVC Secretary.

**COMMITTEE FORMATION:**

- A. Helen Gordon discussed creating/reviewing the Scope of Work and putting out a Request for Proposals for accounting and/or bookkeeping services.
- B. The Board formed a Budget Committee to develop the 2023/2024 Joint Powers Budget. Helen Gordon, Hal Herron, Kip Post and Owen Sweeney will work with Helen Wilson on the budget.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Helen Wilson presented the Director's Report.

- A. Helen discussed ongoing marketing efforts for the Wind River Indian Reservation, including the addition of 10 Northern Arapaho sites to the Wind River Indian Reservation Audio Tour (TravelStorys). She also plans to attend the AIANTA Conference with two Northern Arapaho Economic Development Commission Members who have been working on the tour. The conference takes place from October 24 to 27.
- B. Helen talked about the Continental Divide Trail Gateway Community Designation Ceremony for Lander-South Pass City. It was a huge success with members of the community, City Council, County Commissioners and thru hikers present.
- C. Helen discussed the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) Wyoming Outdoor Recreation Grant and the organizations that have received WRVC assistance in applying.

D. Helen presented the media that has featured Wind River Country.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Julie Buller talked about the amount of tourists the Wyoming Backcountry Discovery Routes has brought in. (The WRVC was a sponsor of the new route.) She also introduced Samuel Tower, the new Executive Director for the WYRiverton Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center. Janet Winslow talked about county-wide efforts for walking tours in each community. Helen explained that the Fremont County Museum in Lander just completed a tour and that she hopes that walking tours will also be developed in Dubois and Riverton. Janet also expressed that she has some questions about TAD funding. Helen suggested that she review the question and answer section on the WRVC's website and encouraged her to reach out if she still has questions and/or concerns.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Melanie Hoefle.