

CITY OF BONNERS FERRY



Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative (KVRI)

By-Laws

Amended February 2007

Article I. Mission/Goals

Section 1. The purpose of the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative is to develop partnerships and a collaborative approach in focusing on resource issues; build connectivity between the local community and state and federal agencies; bring key players to the table to provide a proactive forum for the community to work together in natural resource planning; provide a conduit/forum for information sharing and exchange; serve as a sounding board for community involvement.

In this fashion, the Initiative intends to work to restore and enhance our resources and foster community involvement/development.

Section 2. The Mission of the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative is to act as a locally based effort to improve coordination, integration, and implementation of existing local, state and federal programs that can effectively maintain, enhance, and restore the social, cultural, economic, and natural resource bases in our community.

Section 3. The Initiative is empowered/recognized through a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, the City of Bonners Ferry, and Boundary County (June 4, 2001). The Initiative membership was approved on October 16, 22, and 23, 2001 by the JPA parties. The appointment of members followed.

The parties to the JPA have worked together to develop a community approach for addressing resource issues. It is their hope that this historic and new effort will guide how we, as a community, respond to issues and opportunities. Personnel have been employed by the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho to serve as a coordinator/facilitator for this community process.

Article II. Initiative Members

Section 1. The Initiative membership is comprised of individuals from the various interest areas of the Kootenai Valley community. Representation for membership, agency participation, and other interests to be involved in the Initiative was developed by parties of the Joint Powers Agreement.

Section 2. The members are appointed jointly by the partners of the JPA. Each member is encouraged to suggest an alternate from his/her community interest area to act in his/her behalf. Alternates shall be approved by the partners of the JPA. Members and alternates shall serve a two-year term and may be re-appointed. Members may be removed for non-attendance at three (3) consecutive regularly scheduled meetings at the discretion of the JPA parties, with their replacement to be appointed from the same interest area for the remainder of the current member's term. The partners of the JPA may select the Member's alternate as the replacement or may select another individual from the same interest area. JPA parties will fill membership vacancies within 60 days of notification of vacancy or removal of a Member.

Section 3. As an arm of the JPA, the Initiative will be co-chaired by the three designees of those respective powers on a rotating basis. A facilitator and note taker are also provided through the JPA (by the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho).

Section 4. The Chairperson may call and adjourn meetings of the Initiative as deemed appropriate.

Section 5. Sub-committees will be formed as required to research and develop issues and provide guidance and recommendations for consideration/action. Involvement and participation by committee members, agencies, organizations and others for the purpose of technical planning, implementation and other assistance will be encouraged as deemed necessary to achieve the goals of the Initiative.

Section 6. The By-laws may be amended by agreement of the members of the Initiative and with the approval of the partners of the JPA.

Article III. Meetings

Section 1. The Initiative shall meet regularly in public session. Meeting dates shall be set at the conclusion of each meeting. Special meetings may be called as necessary. Advance public notice of the meetings shall be done by posting the meeting notice at the facility where the meeting is to be held no less than 48 hours prior to the meeting. Meeting notices will also be provided to the local weekly newspaper with the request to publish as a public service announcement in the issue/publication prior to the scheduled meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the meeting facilitator to make such notices.

Section 2. The agenda will include recognition of minutes from the previous meeting; reports on work completed or in progress; and action items for consideration.

Section 3. One more than half of the membership (six minimum; 2 members of the Joint Powers Agreement, 4 members) shall constitute a quorum. Members will be permitted to submit written proxies for voting to the Chairman, or allow designated alternates to vote on their behalf.

Section 4. Conduct of the meeting shall be in accordance with customary "Robert's Rules of Order" and administered under the direction of the Chairperson. Motions should be made and seconded by members or their acting alternates. Consensus shall be reached or the matter shall be tabled for further/future discussion until consensus can be achieved. The membership may determine to utilize mediation as a means for reaching a decision when consensus is not achieved and a decision must be reached.

Section 5. Decisions made by the members will be consistent with the broad policies of the partner organizations and agencies whenever possible. No decision shall be binding on any partner organization.

Section 6. Each meeting agenda will provide for public participation. The Chairperson may require advance notice of requests for appearances before the group and limit the time available, within reason, and topics for such participation.

Section 7. Minutes/notes will be kept of all meetings. The Chairperson shall certify the minutes after their approval by the membership.

The following is a list of committee representation:

JPA Partners

- Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
- Boundary County
- City of Bonners Ferry

Landowner (Industrial)

Business/Industry

Conservationist/Environmentalist

Soil Conservation District/Ag landowner

Corporate Agriculture/landowner

U.S. Forest Service - Idaho Panhandle National Forest

Idaho Fish & Game Commission

Social/cultural/historical

Agency participants:

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

NRCS - Natural Resources Conservation Service

U of I - Boundary County Extension Service

Idaho Office of Species Conservation

Idaho Department of Lands

Idaho Soil Conservation Commission/Department of Agriculture

Idaho Department of Fish & Game

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Idaho Department of Transportation

U.S. Bureau of Land Management

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

U.S. Geological Survey

Idaho Water Resources Department

The JPA partners and the Initiative members may invite the participation of other agencies as appropriate to achieve the goals of the Initiative.

Consensus:

Consensus should be thought of as a package agreement - often a package of compromises - that each party can live with. Reaching consensus is part of a collaborative process where decision makers are no longer advocates of one rigid position, but are cooperative negotiators. The focus is on solving a mutual problem.

Majority rules allows just two choices: yea or nay, you either like it or you don't, and unless a decision is unanimous, there will be winners - and losers who often return to fight another day.

Consensus opens an important third option: Can you live with it? This choice allows a party to essentially say, "I don't like it, but I won't stand in the way of an agreement". The objective is to keep trying until everyone is at least to the "I can live with it" stage.