

# Final Draft

## LOWER KOOTENAI RIVER RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### BY-LAWS

#### Article I. Mission/Goals

**Section 1.** The purpose of the Lower Kootenai Basin Resource Advisory Committee (insert new name when determined) is to develop partnerships and a collaborative approach in focusing on resource issues; build connectivity between the local community and state & 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 & exchange; serve as a sounding board for community involvement.

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

**Section 2.** The Mission of the Lower Kootenai River Resource Advisory Committee 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 of our community.

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

The parties to the JPA have worked together to develop a community approach for working together to address 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 has been employed by the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho to serve as a coordinator/facilitator for this community process.

#### Article II. Committee Members

**Section 1.** The Committee membership is comprised of private citizens/landowners, local governments, federal and state agencies, an environmental advocacy group, an Indian Nation, and representatives of business and industry within the area.

**Section 2.** The Committee members are appointed jointly by the partners of the JPA. Each Committee member is encouraged to select an alternate will be empowered to act in his/her behalf, and will provide (written) notification of selection to the JPA parties through the Committee facilitator prior to meetings. Committee members shall serve a two-year term and may be re-appointed. Committee members may be removed from the 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. JPA parties will fill Committee member vacancies within 60 days of notification of vacancy.

**Section 3.** As an arm of the JPA, the Committee will be co-chaired by the three designees of those respective powers. 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 Committee as deemed appropriate.

**Section 5.** Sub-committees will be formed as deemed necessary to research & develop issues and provide guidance and recommendations for Committee consideration/action.

**Section 6.** The By-laws may be amended by agreement of the Committee.

### Article III. Committee Meetings

**Section 1.** The Committee shall meet regularly in public session. Meeting dates shall be set at the conclusion of each meeting. Special meetings may be called as necessary.

**Section 2.** Notice will be given in advance of meetings.

**Section 3.** The agenda will include recognition of minutes from the previous meeting; reports on work completed or in progress; and action items for Committee consideration.

**Section 4.** One more than half of the Committee membership (seven of eleven) 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 5.** 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 Committee 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 Committee may determine to utilize mediation as a means for reaching a decision when consensus is not achieved & a decision must be reached.

**Section 6.** Decisions made by the Committee 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 7.** Each meeting of the Committee will provide for public participation. The Chairperson may require advance notice of requests for appearances before the Committee and limit the time available, within reason, and topics for such participation.

**Section 8.** Advance public notice of the meetings shall be done by posting the meeting notice at the facility where the meeting is to be held 48 hours prior to the meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the meeting facilitator to make such notices.

**Section 9.** Minutes/notes will be kept of all meetings. The Chairperson shall certify the minutes after Committee approval.

4/15/2002

**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 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.

