



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Meeting Date: June 27, 2026

Time: 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Location: First Presbyterian Church, 6174 W Jefferson St., Spirit Lake, ID

Attendance: Paul Sturm, Dustin Thiers, Jerry Peterson, Dan Beha, Margie Wilke, Tim King, Galen Beem, Tod Kiblen, Jane Clark, Ed Niblock, Justin Morrison, Ron Largent

By Zoom: N/A

Absent: Don Finney, Kurt Peterson, Rob Brewster

Advisors: N/A

Joint Meeting with the Spirit Lake Community Coalition (SLCC)

SLCC Members & Guests in Attendance: Mona Stafford, Becky DeMers, Max Liese, Scotty Allin, Mayor Charlene Phipps, Paul Hastings

Introductions from both organizations took place.

Paul Sturm provided an overview of the SLPOA, explaining that it was incorporated in 1973 and operates as a 501c3 non-profit organization focusing on water quality and the lake's health. The SLPOA strategic plan was developed in 2022 under president Karen Cowen, which includes three main goals addressing environmental conservation, recreational balance, and educational initiatives. The SLPOA has an ongoing effort to be included in a small waterways coalition with other lakes in the area. Paul described the Brickle Creek restoration and livestock watering project which aims to restore the stream and watershed by diverting the creek and building up silt to raise the water table. The project involves collaboration with various organizations including the Kalispell tribe, US Fish & Wildlife, and Idaho Fish & Game. The plan is to use beaver dam analogs to redirect the stream flow. Jerry Peterson performs the water quality sampling which includes measuring dissolved, oxygen, temperature, and visibility. The SLPOA also organizes and funds a lake cleanup every 3 to 5 years and provides education efforts on wake boats, algal blooms and invasive species. Anyone can join the SLPOA as it is not limited to lakefront property owners and welcomes anyone interested in the lake's quality and conservation.

Mona Stafford and Becky DeMers of the Spirit Lake Community Coalition (SLCC) discussed how the SLCC evolved from previous failed attempts at community building, eventually creating a program with support from the Innovia Foundation. The Innovia Foundation provides coaching and helps provide funding to bring the community together. One of the upcoming events is a long table event scheduled for October 7th in Spirit Lake to host 50 Innovia Foundation donors visiting from across the US to see Spirit Lake's community building efforts firsthand. The event in Spirit Lake is anticipated to last 2-3 hours. The concept of a long table event is to set out tables for the community to get together and keep adding tables as more community members attend. The SLCC explained it would like to practice a long table event with the SLPOA potentially after the annual summer meeting.

The SLCC discussed Spirit Lake's efforts to revitalize the downtown area including a walkable downtown area emphasizing the need to attract visitors and residents alike, suggesting ideas such as replacing the city's flagpole and installing a welcome archway. These two ideas could be funded entirely through private grants and business donations and gifted to the city. The proposal has received support from local businesses, City Hall, and engineering work is currently underway. Several successful community improvement initiatives including the police department renovation, Friendship Park, and the post office landscape which were all completed through donated materials and volunteer efforts. The group discussed ways to acknowledge donors potentially to include bricks with names at crosswalks or roadway corners. Estimated costs are \$140,000 and \$50,000 for the arch and flagpole, respectively. Members addressed the

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importance of managing growth for the community, emphasizing the need to balance tourism with preserving the town's character while ensuring financial sustainability.

Tourism development ideas included a potential Founders Day event focused on the city's logging history and promoting activities like paddleboarding and kayaking. Also working with neighboring towns along the Highway 54 corridor to promote the area collectively. Ideas for funding included implementing fees for larger boats and discussion touched on the possibility of adding gas pumps on the lake, though concerns were raised about the environmental impacts.

Mayor Charlene Phipps explained the city is exploring the possibility of taking over the Main Street boat launch area and what would be involved in doing so. It was noted that Kootenai County Commissioners had reduced the area of impact from a mile to 1/8th mile, limiting local jurisdiction over development decisions.

To conclude the meeting, the SLCC asked the SLPOA to consider a letter of support for the arch and consider a longest table event after the SLPOA annual meeting.

Regular Board of Directors Meeting

Call to Order: Paul Sturm 11:08 AM

Discussion of Meeting with SLCC

Paul Sturm will draft a letter of support for the arch emphasizing the SLPOA shows support for the city. It was discussed that the long table idea after the SLPOA annual meeting would be a challenge due to a full morning of meetings/presentations and potential weather concerns and was not supported after the SLPOA annual meeting.

A small waterways general meeting is scheduled for July 30th at an unknown time. Jerry Peterson and Tim King expressed interest in being involved. A Large Wakes focused group meeting will be held in July sometime prior to the small waterways meeting. Ron Largent will be involved.

Approve Board Meeting Minutes from April 18, 2026

The April 18, 2026 meeting minutes were approved.

Treasures Report

Jerry Peterson provided a balance sheet and income statement for the treasurer's report. \$2,769.31 is in checking and \$44,887.95 is in savings for a total of \$47,657.26 in the bank. \$9,954.60 of dues income has been collected for the year with \$4,642.41 of other income which is donations over and above the \$40 dues amount has also been collected. \$1,500 has been received from a 2026 HIP Grant which is for plantings on Brickle Creek (\$1,000 for plants and \$500 for equipment). A total income of \$16,342 for the year to date. Total expenses include \$96.70 from PayPal fees, \$804.60 for APLOS accounting expense, \$824.87 for 1 – 6 page newsletter, \$966 for insurance, \$565.51 for dues invoice mailing, \$69.04 for water quality monitoring expenses, and \$36.50 for text communication expenses which has resulted in a net income of \$12,303.78.

A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Dan Beha. Galen Beem seconded. There was no more discussion. Motion carried.

Member Workshop Planning Discussion

Paul Sturm reported that the member survey showed 70% positive response for holding a members issues workshop, which would involve splitting participants into small groups for targeted discussions. The group

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discussed logistics including whether to offer the zoom option, timing around Labor Day and school and the need to get members to sign up at the upcoming annual meeting.

Brickle Creek Update

There has been no progress or update from US Fish and Wildlife regarding the Brickle Creek survey.

Newsletter

Next newsletter will go out in mid-July covering lake level, water quality, and fire safety topics.

Lake Level

Water quality is great with 7.5 meters of visibility! However, the lake is approximately 2 feet lower than normal. The lake is dropping about ½ inch per day. Plans are being made to address identified leaks in the millpond in October or November when water levels allow access. A permit will be obtained from the Department of Lands if needed. Potential repair methods included flocking to seal the leaks (granular 2 part mixture that forms a slimy mat that lays over the hole).

The group discussed concerns about unauthorized use of private docks and will include a brief article in the newsletter and a post on Facebook and potentially signage at the launches.

Annual Meeting

Presenters and topics include an update from the Mayor and including the SLCC video, Inland Empire Paper, Panhandle Health, milfoil video. Paul Sturm will follow up with Brittnay & Brian with US Fish & Wildlife.

Other Topics

Inland Empire Paper has a free permit for walking and biking on IEP land. \$10 permit for vehicles.

Next Meeting Date: July 25, 2026 at 10am at the Spirit Lake Museum and/or Zoom

Adjourn Business Meeting

The meeting ended at 12:00 PM.