

The special council meeting of March 23, 2005 was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Mayor Darrell Kerby. Present for the meeting were Mayor Kerby, Council President Mick Mellett, Council Members Jim Burkholder, Russ Docherty, and Leslie Falcon, and Deputy Clerk Tammy Stemmene. Also present were Patty Perry and Sue Ireland representing the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho.

The purpose of the special meeting was to authorize and endorse the Kootenai River/Kootenay Lake Burbot Conservation Strategy.

Mayor Darrell Kerby introduced Sue Ireland, Fish Wildlife Program Director from the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho. Sue said they were here today to ask the Council to endorse the Burbot Conservation Strategy and to give a briefing of burbot restoration in the Kootenai Basin using Agency, Tribal, and community collaboration to develop and implement a conservation strategy. She explained what burbot (ling) species are. They are a coldwater species from the cod family that is native to the Kootenai Basin. Native burbot in the Kootenai River were historically abundant and provided an important subsistence fishery for the Kootenai Tribe. They continued to do so until after the formation of Lake Koochanusa and the start of operations at Libby Dam caused the fishery to collapse. Sue went on to explain the monitoring that has been done through Idaho Fish and Game since 1993. The monitoring has not found evidence of successful spawning or recruitment in Idaho. In 1998 a committee of scientists was formed to identify and develop conservation strategies to help alleviate threats to the species. Some of the agencies indicated that they could not provide special protections for burbot unless the population was listed as endangered. An ongoing effort has been taking place to recover the burbot species. In August 2004, the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative (KVRI) Burbot Subcommittee completed the Conservation Strategy and the process of developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by the policy representatives. From September 2004 to February 2005, a MOU (an agreement among the participants to formalize their commitment to implement the Conservation Strategy with their respective authorities and responsibilities) was successfully negotiated by the participants.

Jim Burkholder moved to authorize and endorse the Kootenai River/Kootenay Lake Burbot Conservation Strategy. Mick Mellett seconded the motion. The motion passed – Mick Mellett “yes”, Russ Docherty “yes”, Leslie Falcon “yes”, Jim Burkholder “yes”.

The meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

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Mayor, Darrell Kerby

Attest:

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Tamera Stemmene, Deputy City Clerk