

Minutes of the Iron County Watershed Coalition

February 12, 2026, 4:00 pm Conference Rm., Petrucelli Law Office

"ICWC works to ensure the highest possible water quality in Iron County lakes, streams and wetlands by educating and engaging our communities in projects that will restore and preserve our watersheds for future generations."

Call to Order at 4:00

Attending: Bette Premo, Rich Sloat, Maggie Scheffer, Doug Felger, Dodi Felger, Jim Fogarty, Dorien Howe, Dave Martwick, Aerran Riley, Ria Riley.

Approval of February meeting minutes: motion from Dave; Dodi 2nd;; motion to accept passed.

Approval of Treasurer's report: Motion from: Jim ; Rich 2nd; motion passed.

Approval of Agenda: Motion from: ; 2nd: ; motion passed.

Maggie summarized last evening's County Board of Commissioners meeting. Comments describing ICWC's projects in 30 years were made by Maggie at the end of the meeting.

Old Business:

- Ria and Aerran's proposal for postponement of county timber harvest for EIS.

Rich suggested advocating for protecting 66 acres rather than the whole timber harvest plan. Ria's intent in drafting the proposal was for it to include all 122 acres, thereby representing a negotiable proposal. The proposed EIS is more useful from an ecologist point of view if it includes the full acreage rather than being restricted to 66 acres. Preferable to collect data from a full 120 acres for EIS.

Bette points out the need to make a very good case for what's in it for them (delaying the harvest for an EIS). Preliminary contacts need to be made to identify partners. After submitting it to the county, allow 60 days for the county to respond. Appeal for the timber harvest to be placed on a moratorium while collection of data is arranged.

Need to obtain monetary contribution of outdoor recreation to the economy of Iron County and have an assessment of the value of recreational activities at the site. EIS can cost a variable amount, depending on partners' ability to waive expenses that may already be in their budget. Cost sharing would have to be negotiated. Private firms could be costly. It will be in our favor if the commissioners are assured none of the expenses will fall to the county.

Oversight committee should include Jen Johnson Fisheries; Roger LaBine, LVD; USFS forest supervisor for O.N.F.

Motion to approve the Proposal as a concept to refine and submit to the board of commissioners by March. Jim moved; Doug 2nd; motion passed. Ria and Aerran will prepare the final draft of the proposal. Bette will request to be on the agenda for the March 10 meeting to present the proposal.

- Direction of FOIA:

submit request for information regarding Cooks Run after the county's 60 day response period lapses, that is their response to our proposal for EIS. Request should specify documents concerning Cooks Run since 2015.

- Petition language for ballot referendum:

language cannot prevent the county from governing. Requires 15-20% of voters of the last gubernatorial election as signatories on the petition. Signatures will have to be submitted to the county clerk a month prior to the referendum appearing on the ballot. The language for the referendum and petition will be drafted by both Rileys and Rich, and will specify that the residents of Iron County will vote on designating Cooks Run Park as a site for recreational opportunities, environmental education projects, and scientific study.

- Other approaches to increase public awareness of Cooks Run:

Bette spoke with Seth Waters who is interested in advocating for protecting Cooks Run. As a fishing guide, Seth has an active presence on social media and YouTube.

Rich suggested GoFundMe as a way to gain support, but the group agreed it doesn't match our purposes at this time.

Bette will establish a facebook page by next month for ICWC for raising awareness of developments.

Ria suggested a [Change.org](https://www.change.org) petition version of a survey to share widely and use level of response as a persuasion tool.

On instagram, appeal to Gander News and Protect the Porkies to spread

information on Cooks Run.

Use local media to the extent possible.

- Selected dates and designated responsibilities for actions chosen.
- ICWC website: \$3000 for Marla (North Country Website and Design) services to build our website. Annual fee is \$400 thereafter. Jim moved to accept Marla's services; Rich 2nd. Motion passed. Doug will follow-up with Marla and provide our logo and a check.

New Business:

- Parks and Rec. vacancy and law changes: Tabled
- Parks and Rec 5 year plan: Tabled
- River Clean up: Is there a need? So little trash was collected last year that it doesn't seem to warrant another clean-up this year.
- Brochure: update with new information; QR code; List of projects, etc.

Meeting adjourned at:

motion from Dave, 2nd from Rich. Motion passed.

Next meeting:

March 3rd. 4:00, same venue.