

UTAH STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING  
CONFERENCE CALL

DECEMBER 21, 2006

Present:

Scott Parson, Chair	Karl Bentley, Vice Chair	Gael Hill	
Irene Hansen	Lois Bulloch	Eli Anderson	
Bill Bleak	Mary Tullius	Steve Roberts	Bruce Hamilton
Glenn Greenhalgh	Wendy Griffith		

Visitors:

Ivan Djambov, Legislative Analyst

Chair Parson welcomed board members and staff to the State Parks and Recreation Board conference call.

Chair Parson was congratulated on his promotion as President of Staker Parson.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Parson asked board members for review and approval of the October 20, 2006 board meeting minutes.

MS. LOIS BULLOCH MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 20, 2006, BOARD MEETING. VICE-CHAIR KARL BENTLEY SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Parson asked board members for review and approval of the board agenda.

VICE-CHAIR KARL BENTLEY MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA. MR. BILL BLEAK SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Budget Review

Director Mary Tullius reviewed the document regarding our budget requests and what is included in the Governor's budget.

A. Golf Course Bond Payoff

Cancelled - Governor's Office said this is against their policy and sets a precedent.

B. State Parks Maintenance

< Amount: \$1.1 million (60% GF \$780,000; 20% Boating \$160,000; 20% OHV \$160,000) (On-going)

Governor's Budget Recommendation - GF \$300,000, Boating \$160,000, OHV \$160,000 Ongoing

\$ \$300,000 for Infrastructure Repairs

~ Need: Infrastructure repairs of water, sewer, electrical services take funds from other park projects. There is no mechanism through DFCM to cover these unexpected costs (except for emergency repairs of health and safety issues), therefore it takes funds away from planned projects.

\$ \$560,000 for maintenance CE

~ \$170,000 WMSP-Soldier Hollow (park, 72 holes of golf, winter facility)

~ \$20,000 Palisade to operate new campground

~ \$370,000 to be distributed among parks

\$ \$240,000 4 journey maintenance positions + CE each (SE & NE region crews, 1 at WMSP, ½

Rockport, ½ TBD)

\$ Need: \* USP has responsibility for the second highest amount of fixed assets at well over \$300 million. \* This will be good for 5 years given no new parks. \* Need to take care of what we have. \* Are bound by DFCM maintenance regulations and all parks must have a rating of 90% to keep delegation authority. If we lose that, DFCM comes in and takes over maintenance and their cost is conservatively 30% higher than ours. Not to mention, maintenance in SP is done by all park employees. \* Example: DFCM gave Utah Lake a lower than 90% rating because of an old rest room that needed to be replaced. It has taken two years for us to find the \$200,000 to replace that restroom. \* Maintenance costs will increase with cabins and yurt development.

C. This Is The Place Heritage Park (Pass through)

< Amount: \$100,000 (GF) (On-going) Make them whole from budget cuts in 2000 and 2002.

Governor's Budget Recommendation - GF \$100,000 Ongoing

This would take the funds back up to what it was previously.

D. Utah's Own Promotion (County Economic Development Partnership Initiative)

< Amount: \$118,000 (\$68,000 Park Fees Restricted & \$50,000 GF) (One-time)

Governor's Budget Recommendation - GF \$0, Park Restricted \$68,000, One-time

< Need: Sustain partnerships with local communities where parks are key economic engines

E. Non-motorized Trails Grant Program (Pass through)

< Amount: \$500,000 (GF) (On-going)

Governor's Budget Recommendation - GF \$250,000, Ongoing

< Need: Governor has committed his support to various non-motorized groups.

F. Capital Renovation & Development (Yurts and Cabins)

< Amount: \$10 million (GF) (One-time)

Governor's Budget Recommendation

- GF \$2,700,000, One-time (\$2,500,000 State Parks, \$200,000 West Desert property - OHV trail)

- GF \$2,500,000, One-time Bear Lake Marina expansion (engineering, planning, some material)

- GF \$20,000,000, One-time Tabby Mountain purchase (DNR)

< Need: \$80 million in needs. Big projects include renovation at (STICK WITH 5 YEAR PLAN) Wasatch Mtn., Coral Pink, Otter Creek, Antelope Island, Bear Lake. Also, new development i.e., cabins, yurts to create new revenue stream.

There was discussion regarding the purchase of the Tabby Mountain property. This is a 28,000 acre piece of property. The Governor was taken on a tour in September and was very excited about this and would like to preserve it. This property is currently owned by SITLA. The challenge for DNR is that they would

need to come up with another \$20,000,000 for the purchase of this property. There are other divisions (Wildlife and Forestry, Fire, and State Lands) that are also interested in this purchase. It is ultimately the decision of the SITLA board to sell this property.

G. Off Highway Vehicle Capital Projects

< Amount: \$1.1 million (OHV Restricted Fund) (One-time)

Governor's Budget Recommendation - \$0

- \$150,000 Utah Historic Trails Center in Cedar Valley

- \$150,000 Sand Hollow maintenance bldg

- \$400,000 Coral Pink group use campground

- \$400,000 Yuba group use campground

This information may have been too late, but we're not sure. Director Tullius will ask DNR Director Mike Styler to present this to our sub-appropriations committee.

H. Automated Entry System

< Amount \$150,000 (Park Restricted Fees) (One-time)

Governor's Budget Recommendation - Parks Restricted \$150,000 One-time

- Test projects in various State Parks

Director Tullius said these will be tested in four to six parks. These will allow us to collect fees in areas that can't always be staffed. Bill Bleak made a suggestion that we look into the possibility of visitors being able to go online and pay for services and print something similar to a boarding pass prior to visiting the park. Eli Anderson asked what would prohibit people from photocopying this and letting others use it also. Lois Bulloch suggested it be set up to only be scanned one time.

SUPPLEMENTAL REQUESTS

A. Park Projects

< Amount: \$282,000 (Park Fees Restricted) (One-time)

Governor's Budget Recommendation - Parks Restricted \$282,000 One-time

< Need: Incentive program for parks to exceed revenue and stay within budget

< \$225,600 goes to park projects and \$56,400 to 4111 Capital Outlay

B. Palisade Campground Development (OHV Partnership)

< Amount: \$200,000 Palisade campground project match

Governor's Budget Recommendation - OHV Restricted \$200,000, One-time

Legislation Needs

A. Boat Registration Increase

Sen. Waddoups,

< Need: Registration fee has not been increased since 1987

Boating restricted account is decreasing and must be sustained

Steve Roberts said this is actually a boating amendment. This eliminates the restriction on how much our Board can assess as a fee in the statute. It has been \$10 since 1987. Senator Waddoups has already agreed to run this bill.

B. Cap removed on OHV Gas Tax

Rep. Kevin Garn

- < Need: Needs are greater than funds going into account.
  - Funds for OHV needs are being diverted to other areas.
  - Source of funding is diminishing and needs to be sustained.
- < Problem: Takes funding away from UDOT B & C roads.

This is being called the OHV Administration bill. Representative Kevin Garn has agreed to take this bill on. This bill removes the gas tax limitation.

C. Boating Fund formula recalculated to more appropriate ratio

Cancelled due to data indicating Utah is high not low

- < Need: Needs are greater than funds going into account.
  - Funds for boaters needs are being diverted to other areas.
  - Source of funding is diminishing and needs to be sustained.
- < Problem: Takes funding away from UDOT.

We will probably not go forward with this. This does not require statute anyway, it is only a negotiation with the Tax Commission.

D. OHV Registration Increase

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- < Need: OHV account is decreasing and must be sustained
- < Lead:
- < Legislators:
- < Problems: Must demonstrate benefits of the program and tie to fee increase
  - Registration fees need to be increased to keep up with depleting fund

Steve Roberts mentioned there is another OHV amendment that is being sponsored by Representative Brad Dee. We have worked on this for two years. This bill will provide adult supervision of children on ATV's. This bill has already been filed and we reviewed the final draft of this. We support this bill.

Another bill that will probably come forward is a repeat of the senior pass free park entrance by Representative Sheryl Allen. This came up last year and we were able to defeat it in the committee. In order to make this bill pass, AARP would need to support this and they don't at this time. They prefer discounts rather than free items.

There are also two OHV bills that will be sponsored by Representative Mike Noel. The first one we take no position on which is a check-off on the OHV registration form to have money go towards organizations that support OHV use. The problem with this is that there is only one organization (USA All) that qualifies because of the conditions in the bill. We oppose the second bill, which has to do with taking away the statute that says you can cite an OHV that is in transport. This would create a problem for us because the only way we could cite them for no registration is if we catch them on the trail, which is very difficult.

The last one Steve is aware of is one sponsored by Representative Kory Holdaway, which we have worked with for the last several months. Representative Holdaway is concerned that the oldest trail system in the state has not been completed, which is the Jordan River Parkway. This would be a one-time funding of \$250,000.

Gael Hill asked about the bill numbers. Steve said the bills have not been numbered yet. Once they have been numbered, they can be accessed on the legislative website. A copy of the bills and numbers will be sent to the

Board members once they're numbered.

Chair Parson asked if there was anybody from the public in attendance for comments. Nobody from the public is present.

Director Tullius mentioned that in the email that was sent to the Board members, there was information included on Escalante issues. Letters were sent to various individuals in the Escalante area that included information on the grant process.

Director Tullius also mentioned that we have been working on org charts and they have been sent to the Board members for their review. She is very pleased that Deputy Director Mark Forbes has taken the initiative to make changes to accommodate marketing. We are conducting marketing research and have assigned staff to handle marketing.

Gael Hill thanked Mary for her hard work on the grant process information. She has received positive feedback from those that received the information. It has really helped them to understand the process.

**MS. LOIS BULLOCH MADE A MOTION THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED. MR. BILL BLEAK SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**