

**BOARD OF UTAH STATE PARKS AND RECREATION MEETING
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
SOLDIER HOLLOW CONFERENCE ROOM
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**

AUGUST 17, 2007

Present:

Scott Parson, Chair	Karl Bentley, Vice Chair	Bill Bleak	
Eli Anderson	Lois Bulloch	Gael Hill	Glenn
Greenhalgh	Irene Hansen	Mary Tullius	Mark Forbes
Deena Loyola	Bruce Hamilton		
Jay Christianson			

Visitors:

Ivan Djambov, Legislative Fiscal Analyst

Chair Parson welcomed board members and staff to the Utah State Parks and Recreation Board meeting. He asked that we take a few moments to remember the miners and their families that are involved in the mining incident in Emery County. Chair Parson asked Director Mary Tullius to update board members on the Department's involvement in the incident. Director Tullius reported that the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM), which oversees much of the permitting, has not been involved in this incident, but the state will have more oversight in the future. DOGM Director John Baza has been very involved. The Department has had a leadership team member on site each day. The Department has been very supportive of the rescue efforts and of the miners' families. Huntington State Park staff remains in contact the Emery County Sheriff with an offer of their services.

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

MS. IRENE HANSEN MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA. MR. ELI ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Parson asked board members for review and approval of the June 14, 2007 board meeting minutes.

MR. GLENN GREENHALGH MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 14, 2007 BOARD MEETING. MS. LOIS BULLOCH SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Parson asked Director Tullius for several updates from the last board meeting. He asked about the OHV and PWC education online registration. There are some problems with the payment portal system that must be resolved before new programs can be added. We are working with Utah Interactive to take care of this problem.

Chair Parson asked for an update on the NRPA Gold Medal Award. The final award will be presented September 26 in Indianapolis, Indiana. We will show the Gold Medal nomination DVD during the lunch break.

The white paper for This Is The Place Heritage Park is not yet complete. We are waiting for information from the BLM, which was received yesterday. The white paper will be presented at the next board meeting.

Chair Parson asked about the letter from board members to the Governor regarding SITLA. Director Tullius said park staffers are speaking with SITLA regarding land acquisition at Yuba. SITLA is discussing this internally and we are in a holding pattern to give them review time.

There was discussion regarding the \$1 donation that the Board suggested be asked for at the entrance of each park, which would go toward preservation and maintenance. Director Tullius said she has queried other states about this idea. One issue is the difficulty in accounting for this money unless it is built into the fee schedule. She said she would

like to more aggressively promote our donation program, which is already in place. Money collected goes back to the individual parks and they spend it on needed projects. This will be discussed further during the fee schedule review.

Vice-Chair Karl Bentley mentioned he saw an article regarding a new Mormon Battalion visitor center at This Is The Place Heritage Park. He questioned how this would affect State Parks. Director Tullius is not aware of this. Public Affairs Coordinator Deena Loyola will look for the article for review.

Director Tullius told board members they have been given an envelope with information from This Is The Place Heritage Park. It includes several passes and additional information on the park. She said Representative Ralph Becker had requested a state audit of This Is The Place. He is working with Legislative Fiscal Analyst Ivan Djambov to complete a mission review. Director Tullius met with Ellis Ivory, Bob Reeder, Robyn Pearson, and Matt Dahl last week. The amendment has not been signed yet because This Is The Place is not comfortable with the word "curation" appearing in the agreement. They have requested that State Parks remove all of its artifacts so they are not responsible for curation. Director Tullius has a meeting with Ellis Ivory to discuss this. Director Tullius said she is going to ask that they revisit that suggestion. It was suggested that \$100,000 of the money State Parks gives to This Is The Place be used to hire a curator. Board members agreed that Director Tullius would discuss this option with Ellis Ivory.

Director Tullius asked Mr. Ivan Djambov if he would like to say anything about the review he is preparing. He likes the suggestion that we work with This Is The Place on curation. He will also make a recommendation for future operations.

Director's Report

Director Tullius said the budget year has just ended. We ended up approximately \$1 million ahead of what we were appropriated. This amount will go back into non-lapsing funds, for a program we call "Reinvestment in State Parks." We also stayed within our expense budget. All Parks employees worked very hard to meet this goal. There was a revenue incentive program developed, which she explained to board members. Division leadership met and reviewed the budget for this fiscal year. She reviewed new positions established this year. There was also an increase in seasonal time for some of the parks, especially at heritage parks.

Director Tullius also discussed plans for the \$2 million we received for capital development. A list was made of all capital development, infrastructure, renovation, paving, and roofing project needs. The list, which is not complete, is at \$129 million. We decided to take \$2 million and address the most critical projects, which are mostly infrastructure needs. Director Tullius said the project DNR submitted to DFCM for capital development is the Bear Lake Marina. She gave board members handouts regarding this project, which will also be handed out to the Building Board when they tour Bear Lake next week. Concerns were raised over the amount of money being put into this project. It was suggested that we include Eastside development with this project. Director Tullius said she is willing to add this to the project request. Chair Parson suggested we auction off available boat slips and then we would know what they are really worth. Chair Parson asked that this board have some input on prioritizing the requests next year.

Director Tullius noted that we have not received any money from the Building Board since 2001, which was for construction of the Utah Field House. We were not scheduled to receive any additional money until 2010 because they have a five-year plan.

Northwest Region Manager Jay Christianson reported on the many changes in the Bear Lake area and demand for development there.

Of the \$3 million received in FY07, we put \$2 million into a new campground at Palisade. The project is scheduled for completion in October. We will build the cabins ourselves, as they were pulled out of the project due to the cost.

Director Tullius mentioned the long list of legislation we will be working on this year. One item is maintenance of state parks access roads. We are trying to get the amount increased and also add more state park roads. The most contentious legislation is a request to increase the OHV fund amount. We would like to have the cap removed from this fund. We are doing more research to be completely prepared to run this legislation.

The Northwest and Southeast regions combined meetings this week at Palisade. Thanks to Jay and Tim for putting this together. Next Saturday is the 20th Anniversary at Fremont Indian State Park. The Governor will be visiting Dead Horse Point on August 30 during his rural Utah tour. Director Tullius will give the tour schedule to Vice-Chair Karl Bentley.

Deputy Director Mark Forbes said highlights of the Business Administration section are included in the board packet. He said they are actively looking into a donation process. Vice-Chair Karl Bentley questioned the risk management issues that are included in his report. Mr. Forbes replied that we are covered on these issues through Risk Management, but that we must balance our services in regard to this.

Deputy Director Bruce Hamilton said money available at the end of the fiscal year was used to purchase much needed equipment, such as the small utility vehicles known as mules. Utah State Parks will host the Rocky Mountain State Park Executive Conference in April/May 2008. It will be held at the Courtyard Marriott in St. George. Board members will be invited to attend this conference. Quagga mussels have been found in Lake Powell. While this is a Division of Wildlife Resources issue, we are very much involved in this. We are now in a containment mode, rather than prevention. We have had a typical summer, with many accidents and fatalities. Our people handle these situations very professionally. Board members asked if we have had more than usual and Mr. Hamilton said it appears to be a normal season in terms of injuries, rescues, and fatalities.

Fee Schedule Review and Approval

Deputy Director Forbes handed out a Summary of Park Fee Changes for board members to review. Our overall fee schedule has not been changed for more than two years. Mr. Forbes reviewed the background on fee proposals and referenced the document included in the board packet. Mr. Forbes reviewed each section of the proposed fee schedule, which were then reviewed and discussed by board members. There was discussion regarding collecting an extra fee to put into the maintenance fund.

MR. ELI ANDERSON MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE FEE SCHEDULE AS MODIFIED. VICE-CHAIR KARL BENTLEY SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The approved fee schedule, as modified, is attached to these minutes.

MR. ELI ANDERSON MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD SUPPORTS STAFFS' PRIORITIZATION OF DFCM PROJECTS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ADDING THE BEAR LAKE SYSTEM PROJECT. MS. IRENE HANSEN SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MR. ELI ANDERSON MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD ENCOURAGES SENATOR HILYARD TO INCLUDE IN HIS APPROPRIATIONS LEGISLATION, AN ADDITION OF \$1.00 PER FOOT OF BOAT MOORING RENTAL TO BE DEDICATED FOR DOCK IMPROVEMENT, MAINTENANCE, AND PRESERVATION THROUGHOUT THE PARKS.

MR. GLENN GREENHALGH MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD MAKE AN ADDITION TO THE PREVIOUS MOTION ACCEPTING THE FEE SCHEDULE, THAT WE INCLUDE A \$1.00 PER FOOT BOAT MOORING RENTAL FEE AT JORDANELLE. MR. ELI ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CHAIR PARSON ENCOURAGES STAFF TO LOOK INTO POSSIBILITIES OF HOW TO MORE PROACTIVELY ASK FOR A \$1.00 DONATION AT THE ENTRANCE STATION AND RECORD IT ON THE VISITOR'S RECEIPT.

Upcoming Board Meeting

VICE-CHAIR KARL BENTLEY MADE A MOTION THAT THE STATE PARKS BOARD CONVENE INTO A CLOSED SESSION TO START THE NEXT BOARD MEETING FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING REAL ESTATE AND CONTRACT STRATEGY AND LITIGATION ISSUES, PURSUANT TO THE CONTRACT EXEMPTION AT UTAH CODE ANNOTATED 52-4-5 (1A). MR. BILL BLEAK SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The October 5 meeting was rescheduled to December 11 and 12 in St. George. The meeting will be held on the first day with a tour of area parks on December 12.

CHAIR PARSON ADJOURNED THIS PUBLIC MEETING.