

**BOARD OF UTAH STATE PARKS AND RECREATION MEETING
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
TONAQUINT NATURE CENTER
ST. GEORGE, UTAH**

DECEMBER 11, 2007

Present:

Scott Parson, Chair	Karl Bentley, Vice Chair	Bill Bleak
Eli Anderson	Lois Bulloch	Joe Hull
Mary Tullius	Mark Forbes	Bruce Hamilton
Deena Loyola	Larry Gray	Laura Melling
Susan Zarekarizi	Rock Smith	Fred Hayes

Visitors:

Matt Dahl	Ellis Ivory	Clare Ramsay
Bryce Taylor	Dave Regan	Melanie Boone-Reznick
Mark Austin	Emilee Lott-Woolsey	Vickie Schulkoski
Jean Bramble	Erica Walz	Nick Reznick
Bill Wolverton	Nathan Waggoner	August Bernard
Brandon Loomis		

Chair Parson welcomed board members and staff to the Utah State Parks and Recreation Board meeting. He excused board members Gael Hill and Irene Hansen.

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

MR. JOE HULL MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA. MS. LOIS BULLOCH SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Parson asked board members for review and approval of the August 17, 2007 board meeting minutes.

MS. LOIS BULLOCH MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 17, 2007 BOARD MEETING. MR. KARL BENTLEY SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Director's Report

Director Mary Tullius referred the board members to the Development section report included in the board packet. She gave each board member a handout of her comments presented at the Employee Development School that was held in Provo last week. She discussed the events of EDS. It was very well attended. An awards banquet was held one of the evenings during EDS where employees were recognized for their accomplishments. She also mentioned that Governor Huntsman visited Dead Horse Point a few months ago. The visit went very well and the Governor and his staff were very impressed with the park and the area. During this visit, she discussed our successes and our challenges. She let him know that we are doing everything we can to increase revenue, but we need the Legislature's help to maintain our parks.

Deputy Director Bruce Hamilton mentioned that we have been working with the Division of Wildlife Resources on fishing tournament rules. We feel this will benefit State Parks, as well as Wildlife Resources. We will be hosting the Rocky Mountain State Parks Executive Conference in April of next year. This will be held in St. George and board members are invited and encouraged to attend. The second annual Managers' Academy will be held in January. The first academy turned out to be very rewarding. There have been a number of new employees hired, which are listed in the board packet. There are also four staff members retiring this month, all with a significant number of years (Randy Lindsey, Lee Gyllenskog, Lyle Gingery, and Mark Jensen). The region and park reports are included in the packet.

Deputy Director Mark Forbes mentioned the marketing plan has been completed. It is a good solid plan. The reservation report is included in the board packet. This report indicates an increase in the percentage of reservations made over the past year. The board asked how many reservations are made online. Reservations reports it is about 33%. The Statewide Friends Group has been created. There is more detailed information for the Business Administration and Support Services included in the packet.

Chair Scott Parson

Chair Parson would like to have a list of bullet points for all board members to have as we approach the legislative session.

Chair Parson asked the visitors in attendance to introduce themselves. The visitors are listed in these minutes.

Visitor Bryce Taylor said he was in attendance today to suggest that State Parks give seniors a break on the campground fees in the parks and also on fees during the week. He feels it would encourage seniors to use the parks during the week and leave it for the families on the weekends. Chair Parson said as the board members review the fees, they would take this option into consideration. He did say that seniors receive a discount on the annual pass and also entrance fees for day use. Director Tullius said we can also look at discounts when planning promotions.

Visitor Dave Regan also attended to comment on reduced fees for seniors.

This Is The Place Heritage Park

Chair Parson thanked Ellis Ivory and Matt Dahl from This Is The Place Heritage Park for attending this board meeting. Director Tullius asked Planner Rock Smith to review the report he was asked to prepare on This Is the Place Heritage Park. Mr. Smith reviewed the current issues of This Is the Place. He included a CD with his report, which contains supporting documents. There was a review of land issues, easements, development, and history of ownership. The board members asked that Mr. Smith review the document and make a few modifications in language and then review it with the appropriate people. Rock Smith reviewed the document prepared by Ivan Djambov.

Director Tullius reviewed the agreement between TITP and USP and commented that the AG's office has been involved. Mr. Ellis Ivory mentioned that the second page is not needed, because the language is redundant. The paragraph on page three regarding maintenance of TITP should be removed. Ellis Ivory referred to their attorney and expressed some concern over "curation" and "maintenance." He feels the board of This Is The Place will approve the agreement. Regarding paragraph five – State Parks will maintain it and This Is The Place will do what they can within the framework. Mr. Ivory said they may have to go to the legislature to request more money for operation and maintenance of the park. There was discussion regarding the burial vault. Board members recommended adding language to the agreement to exclude this area.

Mr. Ellis Ivory said he has been talking with a few members of the LDS church regarding a curator. He said they will hire a part-time curator if they cannot get one through the church. They need to negotiate "museum curation." The last "physical" planning effort occurred in 1999. Planning efforts continue, including a 10-year plan – operational and use plans. One plan objective is to get more people up there, for them to have a good experience and to tell others to do it. They had 130,000 visitors this year and hope to have more next year.

Chair Matt Dahl discussed the stabilization, improvement of their product, and exposure of the park. He discussed the previous years' visitation. Their last presentation was at the board meeting in October 2006. He said they will develop an exit survey next year. He said the trains have been successful in the park. They will be joining with the Days of '47, moving Family Fun Days from Wheeler Farm. They have held a lot of corporate events at the park. Chair Parson thanked Rock Smith for the work he has done on this. He feels the white paper covers the concerns he had. He felt it shows what the State Parks Board's responsibilities are. Director Tullius thanked Rock Smith, Susan Zarekarizi, Karen Krieger, and Edie Trimmer for all of their research and work on this document. She also thanked the Board for requesting the document.

VICE-CHAIR KARL BENTLEY MADE A MOTION THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WHITE PAPER BE TABLED UNTIL IT CAN BE REVISITED WITH DIRECTOR TULLIUS, ROCK SMITH, ELLIS IVORY, AND MATT DAHL. MR. BILL BLEAK SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Advisory Council Members

Deputy Director Bruce Hamilton presented the information regarding the appointment of a new member on the Boating Advisory Council. The Boating Advisory Council recommends that Troy Mann be approved to fill the Marine Dealer position.

MR. JOE HULL MADE A MOTION THAT TROY MANN BE APPROVED TO FILL THE MARINE DEALER POSITION ON THE BOATING ADVISORY COUNCIL. MR. ELI ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Bruce Hamilton presented the information regarding the reappointment of Paulette Welch for a second term as the Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation Association Representative on the Boating Advisory Council.

MR. BILL BLEAK MADE A MOTION THAT PAULETTE WELCH BE REAPPOINTED FOR A SECOND TERM ON THE BOATING ADVISORY COUNCIL. MR. JOE HULL SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

OHV Coordinator Fred Hayes presented the information regarding the reappointment of Doug Page as the Snowmobile representative and John Borg as the Member-at-Large on the OHV Advisory Council. Both individuals have completed their first term and wish to be reappointed.

MR. JOE HULL MADE A MOTION THAT DOUG PAGE BE REAPPOINTED AS THE SNOWMOBILE REPRESENTATIVE AND JOHN BORG BE REAPPOINTED AS THE MEMBER-AT-LARGE ON THE OHV ADVISORY COUNCIL. MR. KARL BENTLEY SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

OHV Grant Approval

Chair Parson asked the visitors present for this issue to introduce themselves. These visitors are listed in the Visitors section of these minutes.

OHV Program Coordinator Fred Hayes reviewed the OHV grant process. He gave some information on how the grant applications are submitted, reviewed, and granted. He then presented the six projects that have been recommended by the OHV Advisory Council for the 2007 grants. He reviewed each project. Mr. Hayes mentioned that he included the projects that were not funded in the board packet. He said some of those projects may be requested again at some time in the future.

Chair Parson opened the floor for public comments. The concerns noted included silt problems, dangerous conditions, lack of law enforcement officers, impact on infrastructure, tax money going toward global environs, democratic process not being followed, noise disturbance, ATV promotion for Escalante, trail designation, and loss of peace and solitude. There were also community members that feel it would be a great thing for the community and very inviting for visitors. Garfield County noted that they strongly support the trailhead. There was some comment that it was presented as a trailhead rather than a staging area; OHV Coordinator Fred Hayes says the OHV Advisory Council feels that these are the same thing. The Advisory Council voted on this project as a trailhead that citizens would ride in and out of, and if that was not the intent, it would need to be taken back to the OHV Advisory Council.

After listening to the comments, the board members asked some questions, which included whether or not there is a current city ordinance allowing a route from the proposed trailhead to trails. There would need to be a crossing signed and marked from the trailhead across and access through the county's maintenance yard. Chair Parson also said he has some reservation giving the same community money when they haven't maintained the city park for which they were given LWCF money. Board member Bill Bleak doesn't feel like this decision should be made by the State Parks Board, but at the community level.

Director Tullius said there is a concern regarding the LWCF money that was appropriated before. We have a responsibility to the National Park Service to ensure that projects are cared for as they were applied for and granted. She wants some level of assurance that dispensing OHV funds on this project when there are still concerns, from our attorney or whatever that process may be, is okay. We are responsible for these funds and need to make sure what we do is legal.

MR. ELI ANDERSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE OHV GRANT PROJECTS 1-5 THAT WERE RECOMMENDED BY THE OHV ADVISORY COUNCIL. MR. BILL BLEAK SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

It was recommended by an Escalante citizen that this issue be tabled and have the city of Escalante review the request further. The request can be resubmitted in May if they choose. It was also suggested that the board members go look at the area that is being discussed.

MR. JOE HULL MADE A MOTION TO TABLE PROJECT #6 AT THIS TIME. MR. KARL BENTLEY SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY; HOWEVER, MS. LOIS BULLOCH ABSTAINED, AS SHE WAS NOT PRESENT FOR THE ENTIRE DISCUSSION.

State Trails and Pathways Grant Approval

Deputy Director Hamilton presented the 2008 State Trails and Pathways Grant projects that are included in the board packet. There were twenty-eight projects submitted for approval and the Utah Recreational Trails Advisory Council felt the four presented were the strongest. These four projects total \$300,000.

MR. JOE HULL MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE TRAILS AND PATHWAYS PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS AS PRESENTED. MR. KARL BENTLEY SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Projects

Deputy Director Hamilton presented the Recreational Trails Program projects that are included in the board packet. These are not required to be approved by the State Parks Board.

Firearms Rule Change

Deputy Director Hamilton presented the Firearms rule change. State Parks would like the presented rule change to be approved to bring the division into compliance with state law while continuing to strive towards protecting park visitors.

MS. LOIS BULLOCH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FIREARMS RULE WORDING CHANGE AS PRESENTED IN THE BOARD PACKET. MR. JOE HULL SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Boating Program Rule Change

Deputy Director Bruce Hamilton presented the rule to zone Cutler Reservoir. This reservoir is in Cache County. We will help with signage and DWR will be responsible for placing the signs and maintaining them.

MS. LOIS BULLOCH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RULE TO ZONE CUTLER RESERVOIR AS PRESENTED. MR. ELI ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

State Fiscal Assistance Program Rule Change

Deputy Director Bruce Hamilton presented the State Fiscal Assistance Program proposed rule change. He mentioned this is nothing but a housekeeping change to the rule to change the wording.

MR. BILL BLEAK MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE STATE FISCAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PROPOSED RULE CHANGE AS PRESENTED. MR. ELI ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Fee Schedule Amendment Approval

Deputy Director Mark Forbes presented the Fee Schedule Amendments. He gave everybody a handout to replace what was included in the board packet. After the board reviewed and approved the fee schedule, staff noticed there were a couple of items left off. There is only one group use area at Rockport; there is a change at Fremont Indian; Kodachrome Arches Group Use Area was changed to \$65; and, Starvation Group Use Area will not change.

MR. JOE HULL MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FEE SCHEDULE AMENDMENTS AS PRESENTED. MR. KARL BENTLEY SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Vision 2010 Update

Planner Rock Smith presented the update on Vision 2010. He reviewed the goals and the steps taken to reach these goals. Chair Parson asked Deena and Division leadership what they were most proud of. Deena said she was excited over each park and program coming together to hold events to make the division successful. Deputy Director Mark Forbes said he felt like everybody worked together to reallocate funds and make others successful. Director Mary Tullius said the 50th Anniversary helped everybody get on board with promotion. She said we also reinvested operating money back into park budgets. Board Member Lois Bulloch suggested we have one project each year, such as the 50th Anniversary events this year. Mary asked Rock Smith what grade he would give us for implementing 2010. He said a B or B+. He said people tend to go beyond what is expected of them. Chair Parson said this is the best example he has ever seen of a strategic plan—it has been an outstanding project. He doesn't feel like there is anywhere in Utah that is close to what we have done. Chair Parson suggested that we walk through the process we went through to implement Vision 2010.

2008 Legislative Session

Deputy Director Mark Forbes reviewed the Legislation for 2008 General Session that is included in the board packet. There have been some changes since this was included in the board packet. The changes include the last two items on the horse sense bill; they will be broken out. He discussed the OHV gas tax cap issue that will be raised during the upcoming legislative session. Director Tullius has been conversing with DNR Director Mike Styler about this. The other item that will be raised is that our restricted fund bank accounts be changed to interest bearing accounts.

Budget Review

Director Tullius reviewed the budget that was just announced yesterday. They include a 3% cost of living increase, 2% discretionary salary increase (this will be addressed at the Department level and positions that are below a certain level will be adjusted), and a health insurance rate adjustment which will cover the cost of insurance increases for employees. The Governor's budget includes \$250,000 of our restricted funds for park infrastructure repairs, which will be ongoing. There is also \$1.5 million one-time money requested. There was also a request for program money for the Jordan River OHV Park. This includes some operational funds for the next year. Money was also requested for Wasatch Mountain to add 3 positions and a little bit of current expense. We asked for \$1.5 million to go back into partnership projects with the Forest Service. There was \$100,000 requested for pass-through money for This Is The Place Heritage Park. There was \$12 million requested for Bear Lake State Park as our capital improvement project.

Chair Parson said because staff must support the Governor's budget, he would like the Board to discuss how to go about asking for funds that were not included in the requests. It was suggested that the request not be done in front of an audience, but rather talking to individual legislators. Chair Parson will have a conversation with Representative Ben Ferry. He asked Mary to prepare a spreadsheet of what was requested, what DNR requested, and what the Governor included. He would also like a list of the capital needs. Board Member Joe Hull said he would go with Scott Parson to talk to some of the legislators if he wants him to.

There was discussion on the Bear Lake project. Mary would invite board members to help in coming up with ideas for this.

There is also an issue with ongoing funding for capital needs. Chair Parson is wondering if we could do the same thing that is done with gas tax—for boating and OHV. He challenged the board to come up with ways to establish an ongoing source of funds.

Capital Improvement Review

Mary Tullius reviewed the capital needs with the Board. The total amount needed is a little over \$154 million, which includes \$2.5 million for infrastructure, \$5.5 million for restrooms, \$95.3 million for AR&I, \$4.7 million for housing, \$14.4 million for paving, \$1.3 million for roofing, and \$30.4 million for new construction.

Balanced Scorecard

Director Tullius explained to the board members what the balanced scorecard is. Two years ago, Governor Huntsman began this initiative. He had all the directors come together for training and that has since evolved. The Governor would like the balanced scorecard to include his four initiatives, which are: economic revitalization, education,

quality of life, and governance. GOPB is recommending that we revisit our balanced scorecard and include that in our budget requests. Chair Parson suggested that we include our steps in the Vision 2010 implementation plan.

Donation Process

Director Tullius, Mark, and Bruce discussed the donation process at the parks. There are some principles we need to go by when coming up with a donation program. They are: what is the money going for, specifically? Is it going to slow the process at the visitor center when asking for donations? What is the image we're portraying when asking for the donations? One of the thoughts is that people would be more likely to make a donation after a good experience, so maybe on the way out would be the time to ask for it. Chair Parson suggested that the next time the Board does fees, they purposely set the fee at an odd amount that includes a donation and then if visitors want the money back, they can request it. If this donation program doesn't come together, Chair Parson said the Board will need to take a hard look at making a significant fee increase.

Statewide Friends Group

Chair Parson discussed the Statewide Friends Group. This group has been formed, but there is still a lot of work to do. Director Tullius said if anybody has ideas of people to be involved in this group, pass on the information. The group is working on a website. Chair Parson would like to try to include this group in the legislative process.

2008 Board Meetings:

The schedule for 2008 board meetings will tentatively be scheduled for March 14th in Salt Lake City (meeting only), mid to late June in the Uintah Basin area (meeting and tour), and three days in October in the Southeast area. If needed, we can hold conference calls between meetings.

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.

MR. JOE HULL MADE A MOTION THAT THIS PUBLIC MEETING BE ADJOURNED.