

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

JUNE 13, 2008

Present:

Scott Parson, Chair	Karl Bentley, Vice Chair	Lois Bulloch	Marty
Ott Irene Hansen	Bill Bleak		
Joe Hull	Mary Tullius	Mark Forbes	Bruce Hamilton
Susan Zarekarizi	Wendy Griffith		
Jim Harland			

Visitors:

Darin Bird, DNR Deputy Director

Chair Parson welcomed board members and staff to the Utah State Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

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

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.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Parson asked board members for review and approval of the March 14, 2008 board meeting minutes.

MS. LOIS BULLOCH MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 14, 2008 BOARD MEETING. VICE-CHAIR KARL BENTLEY SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Board Member Reports

Chair Parson asked the board members to report what has happened in the parks in their respective areas.

Board Member Joe Hull mentioned that he has been involved in the Antelope Island RMP. He said it seems to be going very well. He has also been involved with the parking lot plan at Monte Cristo. There have been a lot of issues there and they are working closely with the Weber County Sheriff's Office. There are also federal partners involved in the plan, which has worked out very well. He mentioned that there may be an issue with somebody loading or unloading their ATV from a toy-hauler into or out of a truck inside the parks.

Board Member Lois Bulloch mentioned the WRI toured the state parks in her area. She said we receive good press regarding the accidents at the state parks, regarding our personnel handling the situation. We are very lucky to have the personnel we do. Iron Mission State Park Museum is considering a name change. That will be in the works for a while before it is brought before the board. There are several items at Iron Mission that the name doesn't reflect.

Board Member Bill Bleak mentioned he tried to make some phone calls to the parks to find out what had been going on, but wasn't able to reach anybody. Director Tullius mentioned that Rockport State Park has a new trailhead. They were scheduled to have a ribbon-cutting ceremony last weekend, but it was cancelled due to the weather.

Board Member Irene Hansen said with the tour held in her area yesterday, there is not a lot for her to report. She said the park managers do a great job working with the community. Director Tullius complimented Irene Hansen on the great job she does working with the parks in her area.

Vice-Chair Karl Bentley said he has visited Green River State Park several times, for both business and pleasure.

He mentioned he happened to be there when they had the golf course being surveyed by the USGA. He said the course is in great shape. He has also visited Huntington and Scofield. He said the trees going into Madsen Bay look great. He said he sent some of his family members to Goblin Valley and they had a great experience. He is planning a trip to Edge of the Cedars this summer. Scofield has a triathlon coming up in the near future. It will be a great partnership.

Board Members Marty Ott and Lois Bulloch will be going on a tour of the parks in the Southwest Region in the near future.

Chair Parson said he was at Wasatch Mountain State Park last week and there were a lot of visitors there. There were a few events going on that day, including National Trails Day, Free Fishing Day, and the kick-off of Rockin' Utah.

Director's Report

Director Mary Tullius mentioned that board members have been receiving the weekly reports to inform them of what is going on in the parks. She reported that administration held information sharing meetings with park and program managers to discuss several issues, including Vision 2010, budget and facility issues, interpretation, and what's working in the parks and what's not working. A list of action items was put together and administration will review these and take care of the issues. Ms. Tullius said we have had a lot of challenges with the budget this year. Because of the weather this spring, we are behind on revenue so far. We have asked every park and program manager to stay within their budget for this year. We have also had issues with fixed costs. Motorpool has increased dramatically, as have gas and propane costs. We are trying to deal with those issues the best we can. All of our computer services are centralized now, so our costs for that will also increase. The park renovation campaign has been put on hold, but we will begin working on that again. A brochure will be designed for legislators. Chair Parson would like to hold a conference call to discuss the campaign to get the parks, the Friends Group, and the Board members involved in this. There will also be a Power Point presentation put together. The Bear Lake Marina project is still on Senator Hillyard's agenda. We have decided that we need to move on with a different project, the Wasatch Mountain State Park campground renovation. This campground needs a lot of work. Chair Parson asked if there are any alternatives to funding new campgrounds or renovations if the funding is not provided through the legislature. We may need to look at different ways to manage the campgrounds, such as downsizing and only having a few sites available. Ms. Tullius said we will receive \$1 million in July and we do everything we can to stretch that money. Our region crews do a great job at assisting with all of our projects and save us a lot of money with the work they do. Chair Parson suggested we take pictures to show which projects have been completed. Board Member Irene Hansen suggested that the cap needs to be increased on projects that the region crews can do versus going through DFCM. The \$100,000 cap has been in place for several years and because of inflation costs, she feels it needs to be increased. The board would need to initiate that request through the legislature. We need to find out what regulates the projects our region crews do.

MR. JOE HULL MADE A MOTION THAT STAFF INVESTIGATE WHEN THE \$100,000 CAP WAS PUT IN AND EQUATE THAT TO NOW DOLLARS AND THEN PURSUE LEGISLATION TO BRING IT UP TO INFLATION COSTS. MS. IRENE HANSEN SECONDED THE MOTION, WITH THE CAVEAT THAT ANY LEADERSHIP HAS TO COME FROM THE BOARD AND NOT PUT THE STAFF IN A VULNERABLE POSITION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Director Tullius said staff is looking into projects that need to be completed at Bear Lake. They will then take the suggestions back to Senator Hillyard to let him know there will be some things done there. The cost of those improvements will be around \$2 or \$3 million. The hope is that there is a shorter list that will be funded through a special appropriation. We have been focusing on increasing leadership skills. We hired a person from the University of Utah to do some training. We developed a partnership through NPS, at Zion and Canyonlands National Parks, with the teacher-ranger-teacher program. A handout regarding the Balanced Scorecard was given to the board members. She explained what this program is. We are working with SUU and USU to recruit park ranger and park naturalists. SUU has just developed a 4-year program. Pages 9-31 in the board packet have the highlights of what is going on in the parks.

Deputy Director Mark Forbes reviewed the items in his report (Pages 9-11) of the board packet.

Deputy Director Bruce Hamilton reviewed the items in his report (Pages 13-26) of the board packet.

Chair Parson asked for an explanation of the silent auction at Jordanelle. He also commended staff for the programs they have been holding at Camp Floyd.

Boating Rule Amendments

Deputy Director Bruce Hamilton reviewed the boating rule amendment proposal included in the board packet.

VICE-CHAIR KARL BENTLEY MADE A MOTION THAT THE CORRECTIONS PRESENTED IN THE FOLLOWING BOATING RULES: R651-215-9 (2), R651-219-3, R651-206-3(3)(i), AND R651-206-3(5)(e)(ii) BE APPROVED. MR. JOE HULL SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

State Parks Miscellaneous Fee Changes

Deputy Director Mark Forbes reviewed the proposed fee changes included on page 49 in the board packet.

MS. IRENE HANSEN MADE A MOTION THAT THE FEE PROPOSALS FOR LODGING, BUILDING RENTAL, AND PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE PASSES BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. MS. LOIS BULLOCH SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Alteration of State Parks Passes

Deputy Director Mark Forbes reviewed the situation with the alteration of State Parks annual passes. This is happening a lot more often than it has in the past. The way it is set up now when people are caught doing this, their pass is confiscated. We would like to have the board consider imposing a fine for this also. The board would ask the staff to make the passes as "unalterable" as possible.

MR. BILL BLEAK MADE A MOTION THAT THE AMENDMENT TO R651-617-1 TO INCLUDE ALTERATION OF ANNUAL PARK PASSES BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. MR. MARTY OTT SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Friends of Utah State Parks Update

Board member Marty Ott presented an update on the Friends of Utah State Parks. The mission of Friends of Utah State Parks is to preserve, protect, promote, advocate and educate about the cultural heritage, history, natural resources, and funding needs of Utah State Parks. At the meeting held on April 16, permanent officers were elected. Dan McConkie was elected President, Lynn Pett as Vice President, Steve Roberts will remain as Treasurer and Robin Watson was elected secretary. There are four different levels of membership -- Individual \$25; Family \$40, Student \$15 and Corporation/Organization \$75. As a perk, Friends members will receive a 20 percent discount on merchandise in State Park gift/book stores. They are currently working on a Strategic Plan to guide them through 2008 and into 2009. Four sub-committees have been established including: Membership, Legislative (and other elected officials activities), Public Relations and Funding. Steve Roberts will complete the application for 501-c-3, sub-section H, tax-exempt status through the IRS. The 501-c-3 tax-exempt status allows a tax-deduction for contributions made to the Friends of Utah State Parks. Sub-section H, will allow the group to lobby the legislature on behalf of Utah State Parks.

Board members made suggestions on whom to invite to become members of this group (vendors, people who submit written comments, etc.) There was also discussion about possibly having Cabela's include a postcard in the catalogs they send out. There was a suggestion that somebody be brought into this group that is skilled in fundraising.

October Board Meeting

It was decided that the next board meeting be held October 8-10 in the Southeast Region. Chair Parson suggested that we discuss updating Vision 2010 and the lobbying effort for the upcoming legislative session.

Upcoming Board Meeting

MR. MARTY OTT 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.

Chair Parson thanked everybody for their participation in the meeting and the meeting was adjourned.